



DEACON PETER GITTENS UNDERWENT HIP-REPLACEMENT SURGERY on Tuesday this week. He was carried by the prayers of the Chancery, the entire cadre of Deacons in our Diocese, and his family and friends. It is a joy to report that the long-awaited surgery went very well, and he will return home today! We expect to see him doing the two-step when he returns to the office!

ASIAN PARISHIONERS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE ARE CELEBRATING Chinese Lunar New Year these days. The celebrations began last weekend for parishioners of Vietnamese Martyrs Community in Kitchener-Waterloo. This year is the year of the GOAT. We wish our Asian and Chinese brothers and sisters a Happy New Year!

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORED DINNER DANCE in support of the Bishop's Charities takes place tomorrow night (Saturday) at Carmen's Banquet Centre. This is the 30th year for this event. Sincere thanks to Mr. Fred Miscio who has been the Organizer-in-Chief for every one of the dinners – a remarkable commitment! The dinners have raised well over a million dollars in support of many charitable works in the Diocese and beyond. It is expected that about 850 people will gather for tomorrow's event – joyfully dancing the night away!

THE PRIESTS' LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER TAKES PLACE NEXT WEEK, first at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, on Tuesday, beginning at 10 a.m.; then at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Waterloo, on Wednesday, also beginning at 10 a.m. Priests are reminded to notify the Parish of their intention to attend if you have not already done so via the e-mail response form that was sent to you. It helps with determining how much food to prepare for lunch.

THIS IS A BUSY WEEKEND FOR THOSE DISCERNING CALLS to Priesthood or Consecrated Life. Father Kuzma leads the Discernment Group for Men and Women at St. Michael's Church in Waterloo from 9 a.m. to noon tomorrow. And in the evening St. Anthony Daniel's Parish in Kitchener is having an Andrew Dinner for Men seeking to learn more about the Priesthood. Thanks to Father Michael King and Father Brad Markus for hosting!

THE LAY SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY presents a Lenten Retreat Day on Saturday, March 7, 2015. Father Charles Anang, Assistant Professor in Systematic Theology, leads the event which has the theme, *Ascent to the Pure Love of God*. It begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. and costs \$40.00 (including lunch). Contact ioftsas@rogers.com to register.

PRIESTS FOR LIFE CANADA ARE HOSTING THEIR THIRD CLERGY PRO-LIFE SYMPOSIUM at St. Theresa's Parish in Ottawa, on the topic of *Life and Family*. The two-day event (April 13th to 15th, 2015) will feature, Dr. Patricia Murphy, from St. Augustine's Seminary, our own Mrs. Teresa Hartnett, and Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau and President of the CCCB. Information will be sent to Priests and Deacons from our Communications Office. Contact www.priestsforlifecanada.com for more information.

THE RITE OF ELECTION TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Catechumens, their Sponsors, and RCIA Teams from across the Diocese will gather to "sign in" as a final step in their journey to the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Join us for this deeply moving celebration, and if you cannot join us, pray for them in your Parishes and at home!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI