



Heart to Heart

September 17, 2021 (#443)

THE THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WEEK runs from Sunday, October 3rd to Saturday, October 9th. Established by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, this year's celebration seeks to build understanding, connection and trust about the organization's mission and contribution to the pandemic response in Canada. Through stories, reflection and prayer, the week also seeks to foster healing, and to advance Catholic health care's commitment to social justice and the values of inclusiveness and compassion in the spirit of reconciliation. In the Diocese of Hamilton, St. Joseph's Health System embodies these fundamental values! How blessed are we! This year, more than ever, we must celebrate the importance of healthcare in our community.

ST. JOSEPH HEALTHCARE IN HAMILTON holds its 24th Annual Fundraiser Gala tomorrow evening – virtually: *A Mid-September Mixer*. The fourth wave of the pandemic has necessitated a virtual celebration again this year. The evening is a mix of fine food, friendship and entertainment. Over the years, the gala has raised over \$6M for patient care and research at St. Joe's. Last year – the first virtual gala – raised a remarkable \$365K to support emergency mental health care, the robotic surgery program and raised funds for six infant vital signs monitors! Interested in last minute tickets, contact mark@stjoesfoundation.ca. It will be an evening to remember!

THE ANNUAL COLLECTION for *The Needs of the Church in Canada* takes place NEXT weekend, September 25/26. Among other things, the collection assists our Diocese and the Dioceses across Canada to support the work of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and pastoral projects in northern Dioceses. Promotional information has been sent to our parishes. Please be generous.

THE ONTARIO STATE BOARD of the *Knights of Columbus* holds its first “in person” meeting since the start of the pandemic in Niagara Falls tonight. The meeting continues through Saturday and concludes on Sunday. Recently elected Ontario State Deputy Marcel Lemmen, who hails from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Stoney Creek, is a son of the Diocese of Hamilton! We honour the many good works of the Knights of Columbus Councils in our Diocese and throughout Ontario.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA held their annual convention – virtually - in August this year and elected a new National Council. Last year, the 100th Anniversary meeting was cancelled because of the pandemic. Shari Guinta, from St. Michael Parish in Waterloo, was elected President-elect! She will be President in two years. We are proud of her long membership in the League and for her generosity in serving at the League's highest levels. Frances Lovering, also from the Hamilton Diocese, was the *second* National President in the 101 year history of the League. Shari follows in big footsteps!

THE ANNUAL FESTITALIA MASS IS CELEBRATED at *St. Anthony of Padua Parish* in Hamilton on Sunday, at 11:00 a.m. Thanks to Father Francesco Cucchi, Pastor, for welcoming the Festitalia Community which, during the month of September, celebrates the many facets of Italian culture, including the faith. My personal thanks for his coaching in the proper Italian pronunciation of the parts of the Mass!

INTERESTED IN SCIENCE? So are the Jesuits! Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, is the Director of the Vatican Observatory. On Thursday, October 14th, at 7:30 p.m. EST, he will conduct an interactive webinar on the work of a number of Jesuit scientists through history, and how their work was influenced by the Spirituality of St. Ignatius. It promises to be very informative. No charge. Register [here](#).

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI