



## Heart to Heart

September 24, 2021 (#444)

**THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** is September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a federal statutory holiday enacted by Parliament on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, of this year. Commemoration of the painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Masses will be offered in our Parishes to pray that the truth of residential schools be heard and for healing and reconciliation.

**“CARE FOR CREATION: SEVEN YEAR PLAN** – a Diocesan and Parish Response to *Laudato Si’!*” In concert with other members of the *Social Affairs Commission of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario*, Sarah Guinta, Coordinator of our Office for Justice and Peace, has developed a program that will help the Diocese respond to the “cry of the earth and cry of the poor” which Pope Francis highlighted in his historical encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, published five years ago. The program will be promoted at meetings of the Deaneries and implemented in the Parishes as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

**ST. JEROME’S UNIVERSITY** begins the *Lectures in Catholic Experience* series for another year. Tonight at 7:30 p.m., the first lecture is offered on ZOOM. Dr. Michael E. O’Sullivan, Professor of History at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, will speak on “*Apocalypse and Salvation: Faith in Catholic Miracles in Twentieth-Century Germany*”. More information on tonight’s lecture and a ZOOM link is available here <https://www.sju.ca/LCE> All are welcome.

**THE ANNUAL PLENARY ASSEMBLY** of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops took place this week on ZOOM. Responses to COVID-19 restrictions and to Indigenous concerns relative to residential schools were high on the agenda. An apology will be offered on behalf of the Bishops of Canada and a commitment made to raise funds that will help in the healing and reconciliation process. These will be published on the CCCB website and our website. Check them out.

**THE STAFF OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON** will gather tonight in the garden at Ardree to enjoy a meal together. The past year-and-a-half has been a very challenging year for the Catholic Cemeteries because of COVID-19 restrictions. The Bereavement Authority of Ontario has established protocols for funeral homes and cemeteries to assure the safety of all during the pandemic. It has been a challenge to enforce the restrictions at a time that is so profoundly emotional for those who have lost loved ones. Thank you to the personnel who serve at our cemeteries for your gracious and heart-felt respect for the dead and for your caring assistance to the grieving.

**THE NEW HOLY FAMILY CEMETERY** on Lower Base Line Road in Milton will be blessed during a Liturgy of the Word at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Several burials have already taken place in the cemetery and it will soon be fitted for cremations. Sincere thanks to Arthur Smith, Director of Catholic Cemeteries, and to John O’Brien, Episcopal Delegate for Cemeteries and Insurance. The new cemetery is now open to provide an appropriate resting place for loved ones.

**SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>** is the 148<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Bishop John Farrell (1873), First Bishop of Hamilton. Earlier this year a ledger stone was placed on his grave at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington, outlining his significant service as Bishop of the Diocese and the growth of the Diocese under his pastoral care. The Diocese was established on February 29, 1856, and Bishop Farrell was consecrated its first Bishop on May 11<sup>th</sup>, that same year. May he rest in peace.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI