



Heart to Heart

November 19, 2021 (#451)

WELCOME TO GERALD CYPRIEN CARDINAL LACROIX, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, who will confer Papal Honours on 1 Priest and 14 Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton at a ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday afternoon, Feast of Christ the King. The honours were to have been conferred last year, and were postponed to earlier this year, and postponed again to Sunday! Congratulations to the honourees: Reverend Monsignor Martin Valley (*Chaplain of His Holiness*), Chancellor for Temporal Affairs, James Long (*Knight Commander – with star – of Saint Gregory the Great*), Vince Varga and Allan Beaupre (*Knights of St. Gregory the Great*), Dao Hoang Pham, Barbara Dollack, Sharon Fazari, Martha Fauteux, and Marcel Levesque (*Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross*), Dominic Tersigni, Mario Bilich, Ankica Juraj, Martin Seregelyes, Rocco Valeri and Josie Cruz (*Benemerenti Medal*). All have contributed to the life of the Diocese and their Parishes in significant ways. Profound thanks and warm congratulations!

WE BID FAREWELL TO DOMINIC FELIX on Wednesday evening. He was the last member of the Steier Group, which facilitated the successful *One Heart, One Soul Campaign*, to stay with us to the end. His wife Kimberley joined him for his last day with us and for a fine dinner at which we expressed gratitude for his unrelenting commitment to support our Parishes throughout the campaign. His reassurance and gentle encouragement assured that Parishes are better off now than they were when we began in 2019! Our own Francis Doyle will tend to the ongoing work of the campaign which continues until all pledges have been received.

A LONGER PREPARATION TIME HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED for the Diocesan consultation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops. Since the Vatican recently announced that responses from the national Conferences are only required by August 15, 2022, the Canadian Conference has proposed that responses from the four Regions be received in Ottawa by the end of May. The Diocesan consultation will continue, therefore, until March 31, 2022. Notice has been sent to the Parishes, informing them of this change.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY celebrates another Official Key Ceremony in Hamilton next Wednesday. Two families will be in their own homes in time for Advent! Deacon Tom Vert, from St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Hamilton, facilitated the transfer of the property from the Diocese for the “build”. Members of the families contributed many hours to the construction project! It is a big step forward in their lives!

LAST WEEK LAMA AND HER FAMILY, including her parents, attended their citizenship ceremony and officially became Canadian citizens. They were in tears throughout the ceremony. The two older children have two jobs each, maintain an “A” average, and are very personable. The *Refugee Committee Support Team* leader from St. Michael Parish, Waterloo, joined the family for the online ceremony. Father Jamroz describes the *Parish Refugee Sponsorship Program* as “a wonderful gift to our community”! Indeed it is! They are waiting for a long list of newcomers. Sponsored newcomers can apply for citizenship after living in Canada for three years and meeting certain requirements, including English language ability and a citizenship exam.

FATHER JIM PETRIE is celebrating the end of 17 Confirmation ceremonies this Fall at St. Benedict Parish, Milton, during which over 600 young people were Confirmed! He will now focus his time on the final preparations for the celebration of the Dedication of the church NEXT Sunday, November 28th – one year later than originally scheduled! From the outset, the Parish becomes one of the largest Parishes in the Diocese. We pray for all of the young people being Confirmed this Fall – and we pray for Father Petrie!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI