



Heart to Heart

January 14, 2022 (#456)

IN HIS APOSTOLIC LETTER, *APERUIT ILLIS*, Pope Francis instituted the *Sunday of the Word of God*, to be celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. So, *next* Sunday we celebrate *Bible Sunday* in the Diocese of Hamilton. This annual celebration provides the opportunity on one Sunday of the liturgical year to renew our efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and to encourage a regular dialogue with the living Word. Given the restrictions of pandemic life, the Diocese has prepared a variety of digital resources (both for adults and children) for this year's celebration with specific focus on the Gospel of St. Luke (Year C). Please [visit the Diocesan webpage for Bible Sunday](#) to discover more and remember: #TheBibleSpeaks #WeListen!

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO DEACON CARLOS DIAZ who was ordained Deacon on December 28th, at a ceremony presided by Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton. The celebration took place at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph where Deacon Carlos is completing a Pastoral Year under the direction of Father Ian Duffy, Rector of the Basilica. Deacon Carlos returns to the seminary in the Fall to complete his studies for the Priesthood. We wish him well!

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is celebrated around the world from January 18th to 25th. The Week of Prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires. Pastors and parishioners will find helpful suggestions at the following [link](#). Especially recommended are the Eight Days of Prayer which contains daily Scripture readings, reflections, discussion questions and prayers. We pray to the Lord!

A PARISHIONER OF ST. BENEDICT PARISH, MILTON, is a professional photographer. With the help of "drone technology", [this video](#) was created of the newest parish church in the Diocese. It shows both the outside during the construction and inside the church during the recent Christmas season. The video shows off the stunning beauty of the new church. Enjoy the visit! Thanks to Father Jim Petrie, Pastor, for sending the video along – and for overseeing the build!

THE DIOCESAN PARTNERSHIP WITH DAYTON UNIVERSITY begins a new path as we embark on a Diocesan-specific study entitled: *To Inform, Encourage and Heal: A Canadian Response in Light of the Residential School Crisis*. This study, developed by our own Diocesan team, aims to create a safe space and structure for Catholics with a desire to learn and dialogue about the realities of the history of Residential Schools and to discuss our shared responsibilities for reconciliation. The first round of participants, a trial cohort, begins their study on Monday, January 17th. Pray for them, and for our Diocesan facilitators who will accompany the learning.

WELL-FORMED AND CAPABLE MINISTERS are essential to celebrating our liturgies well. As we continue to rebuild post-COVID ministries, more than 175 ministers of the Word and Extraordinary ministers of Communion completed their formation during October and November in COVID-safe in-person sessions. The Liturgy Office was pleased to send mandates to Pastors of each successful minister during the month of December. Future sessions are paused until we can safely gather in-person. The Diocese is fortunate to have dedicated parishioners serving in all ministries. Thank you!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI