



Heart to Heart

June 4, 2021 (#438)

THE SHOCKING DISCOVERY OF 215 UNMARKED CHILDREN'S GRAVES at the former Kamloops Residential School has shaken and upset the country. Wounds are reopened and we suffer with our Indigenous brothers and sisters who experienced this dark chapter in our history. Silent memorials have sprung up across the country, including at some of our churches. They remind us to pray for rest for those who were lost, and for healing for those who remain. Statements from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate are included on the Diocesan [website](#). Statements from Cardinal Thomas Collins ([Toronto](#)) and Archbishop Michael Miller ([Vancouver](#)) are included here.

THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE has been “travelling” virtually during these pandemic months, thanks to the good work of Bridget Ker, Coordinator. She has presented to 15,000 to 17,000 students “providing an inspiring message of hope and transformation. Her presentations are engaging, lively and allow the student’s voice to be heard through her ability to engage with their questions. Many parents and grandparents, at home with the students, were also able to share in the message by hearing and seeing what was happening”. A good news story indeed!

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ANTHONY TONNOS who celebrated the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination on May 27th. The Diocese of Hamilton has benefitted from more than half of those years, most of them served as Bishop of the Diocese. May God grant good health and much happiness to this good and faithful servant!

NEXT FRIDAY, JUNE 11th, IS THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS. It is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In our time, the image of the Sacred Heart in the home has become a sign that the love of Jesus rules over the family. Pope Leo XIII consecrated the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1899. We pray for Priests, that we may strive to love as Jesus loved!

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM continues this weekend “virtually”. Mr. David Dayler is speaking to 1st Year Candidates on Adult Faith Formation. Father Adrian Lee, Judicial Vicar, will speak about the Canonical Norms on Marriage. Despite the challenges of the pandemic restrictions, the year of preparation continued successfully. All look forward to resuming formation “in person” in September.

STUDENTS IN THE FIRST YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM offered by the Diocese, in conjunction with Dayton University, concludes its two year program this week with their final course. Thank you for your dedication to this experience and for your service to the young people in the Diocese. Congratulations on the successful completion of the program!

THE OPENING OF OUR CHURCHES IS IMMINENT! We are awaiting the announcement from Premier Doug Ford that our churches will be reopened in Stage 1 of the process, at least to the 15% of capacity – with certain pandemic restrictions: hand sanitizing, mask wearing, etc. At Stage 2, we expect an even larger percentage of church capacity. We all yearn for the return to robust liturgical celebrations with the faith community. It has been a very long journey – and we continue, one step at a time.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI