



Heart to Heart

October 8, 2021 (#446)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, KITCHENER marked the 60th Anniversary of the construction of its church with a special Mass of Thanksgiving. A procession outdoors followed, where a new and animated statue of the Saint joyfully praising God for creation has been erected! Timothy Schmaltz, the world-renowned artist who created the statue, was present for the blessing. Many Priests from the Congregation of the Resurrection, who have pastored the Parish from its establishment, were present for the gathering. Again, we offer our thanks and our congratulations.

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR REFUGEES has received news from the Federal Government that our community of sponsored refugees are finally ready to travel to Canada. Our first arrival of the year took place on September 28th. No quarantine period was required because Canada recognized the vaccinations that had been received in Iraq. October will be an exciting month for long-awaited family reunifications. Families are scheduled to arrive October 7th, 8th, 26th, and 28th. Thanks to Father Brian Quigley, M.C.C.J., (St. Anne Parish, Kitchener) and Father Pawel Jamroz (St. Michael Parish, Waterloo) and their refugee committees for their support in planning for two upcoming arrivals.

WELCOME TO THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF CHRIST THE KING, Sr. Zofia Dycsko, MChR, and Sr. Katarzyna Zaremba, MChR, the Provincial's Delegate for North America. Sr. Zofia arrived recently from Poland to serve at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Hamilton, with Father Michal Kruszewski, C.R., Pastor, and Father Lech Wycichowski, C.R., Associate. Sr. Katarzyna is currently visiting local religious houses of the Sisters. We look forward to meeting you and we pray for blessings on your ministry.

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY will be officially opened by Pope Francis at a Mass celebrated at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Sunday. NEXT Sunday, it will be opened at Masses celebrated in Dioceses around the world. We will inaugurate the Synod at the 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The committee charged with coordinating the involvement of parishioners is already at work developing an effective process for participation. A report of the responses from the Diocese will be sent to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario for inclusion in the report from the Ontario Region. The responses from the Ontario Region will be sent to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for inclusion in the Canadian response, which in turn will be sent to the Synod Committee in the Vatican.

THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPAL BOARD will meet next week with the Diocesan Finance Committee in a strategic planning process for the future. The full-day meeting will be an opportunity to discuss fully insights and opportunities moving forward. We ask for prayers that we will be gifted and guided by the Holy Spirit!

BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS the festive dinner we planned to have for Priests of the Diocese to celebrate the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Wayne Lobsinger and to honour Priests who are celebrating 25th and 50th Jubilees of Priestly Ordination has been cancelled. We live in hope to gather for a dinner following the Mass of Chrism in 2022!

MONDAY IS THANKSGIVING DAY IN CANADA. It is fitting for God's people to offer public thanks for all the gifts we have received. The bountiful produce of the earth is a visible sign of the many blessings God wants to shower on us through Christ. Our God also wants us to share the goods of the earth with all people! Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI