



Heart to Heart

February 9, 2018 (#314)

THE ANNUAL BISHOP'S CHARITY DINNER DANCE takes place tomorrow evening at Carmen's Banquet Centre, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in the Hamilton area and coordinated by a team of Knights under the direction of Corrado Ciapanna and Robert Chwalyk. Thanks to all who have purchased tickets for the event which is celebrating its 33rd Anniversary this year. Fortunately my mother will be my special guest!!! See you there!

THE RITE OF ELECTION FOR CATECHUMENS preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil will take place at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, this Sunday, February 11th, and at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, next Sunday, February 18th, both beginning at 1:30 p.m. It is a deeply moving celebration and marks the final intense period of preparation prior to receiving the Sacraments. We are grateful for RCIA Teams, and we pray for the "Elect"!

THE ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF THE SICK is Sunday, February 11th! Begun by Saint John Paul II, people around the world are encouraged to pray on this day for the sick and for those who work hard to ease the sufferings of the sick. We pray to the Lord!

POPE FRANCIS HAS CALLED CATHOLICS and all men and women of good-will to join him in a special *Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace* for the worn-torn people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of South Sudan. He made the appeal following his Sunday Angelus in St. Peter's Square last Sunday. "I invite all the faithful to take part in a special Day of Prayer and Fasting on Friday, February 23rd, the First Week of Lent."

GOOD NEWS FOR HOLY FAMILY PARISH, NEW HAMBURG! With the guidance and support of Father Stephen Gilbert and their Refugee Committee, the Parish has been approved to sponsor a Syrian family of 4 under the BVOR Program. Husband, wife and the two young children are expected to arrive in Canada within 6 to 12 weeks. Exciting times as they plan for the journey ahead! Thanks to our Refugee Office for assuring the documents are submitted correctly.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT RECENTLY RAISED THE AGE OF PROTECTION from 16 to 18 years old! This means that young people aged 16 or 17 who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect are now eligible to receive the full range of protection services that have always been available to children from the ages of 0-15. Hamilton is one of only two cities in Ontario that has a dedicated Catholic Children's Aid Society. Anyone who has concerns about the safety and well-being of a 16 or 17 year-old is encouraged to contact the CCASH at 905-525-2012 (after hours 905-522-8053) and speak with someone who has the skills to determine what might be happening and what to do about it. Check out their website (www.hamiltonccas.on.ca) for more information!

THANKS TO BISHOP ANTHONY TONNOS for celebrating confirmation at St. Matthew Parish, Oakville tomorrow afternoon. I will celebrate at Sacred Heart Parish, Guelph, and St. John the Baptist/Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kitchener, this week. I will be at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Hamilton, tonight with Father Jeff Oehring. We pray for the young people presenting themselves and for those who prepared them.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI