



Heart to Heart

February 22, 2019 (#354)

THIS IS DAY TWO of the gathering of Presidents of Episcopal Conferences from around the world with other leaders in the Church at the invitation of Pope Francis. The session is called *The Protection of Minors in the Church* and is taking place in the Synod Hall in The Vatican. Bishop Lionel Gendron, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, is the Canadian representative attending the event. The days are filled with time for prayer, several designated speakers, and group sharing. They began yesterday with a statement by the Holy Father, and will be closed on Sunday with his final address. We pray that the Holy Spirit will move the minds and hearts of the participants, bring healing to those who have suffered, and lead to better ways of dealing with these horrors.

DON'T FORGET REEL JUSTICE – The Film Festival co-sponsored by our Bishop Farrell Library and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP). The featured film is called *After the Storm: Building the Pope Francis Village*, and is about the remarkable efforts to rebuild a Philippine community after the devastation of the November 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest tropical cyclones ever! The film begins at 7:00 p.m. at St. Raphael Parish, Burlington tonight, Friday, February 22nd! See you there!

TRUSTEES FROM OUR SEVEN SCHOOL BOARDS will come to Ardree for a dinner and a chat – next Wednesday and Thursday evening. It will be an opportunity to thank them for their service to Catholic education and the Catholic community. The School Board Trustees give an impressive amount of time to attend regular Board meetings, committee meetings, and special events throughout the school year. They are an important component of the Catholic education reality in Ontario.

LENT BEGINS ON MARCH 6th with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Lent has a dual purpose. It helps Catechumens prepare for celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil and it invites those who are baptized, through penance and prayer, to prepare to renew their promise of baptismal faith at Easter. During Lent, the “Alleluia” is not sung until the believing community, having undergone the Lenten conversion, is ready to sing this chant with renewed meaning at the Easter vigil!

THE RITE OF ELECTION is an important part of the Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults – (RCIA) This year the Rite of Election will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph next Sunday, March 3rd, at 1:30 p.m., and the following Sunday, March 10th, (First Sunday of Lent), at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, also beginning at 1:30 p.m.. All Catechumens, those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil are asked to participate in one of the ceremonies. Please contact Anna Petter at the Diocesan Liturgy Office with the names of those who will be attending from your parish.

PRIESTS ARE REMINDED OF THE LENTEN PRAYER DAYS scheduled at the Cathedral Basilica on March 12th, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Waterloo, on March 13th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Father Xavier Seubert, Professor at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, New York, will be the preacher in each place. Priests are reminded of the courtesy of registering for one of these dates. You may register by contacting Brianne Foote at the Chancery Office.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI