



## Heart to Heart

March 13, 2020 (#395)

**COVID-19 UPDATED DIRECTIVES** have been sent to all Parishes and posted on our [Diocesan Website](#) today. These guidelines are effective immediately.

**POPE FRANCIS HAS WRITTEN A PRAYER TO OUR LADY, HEALTH OF THE SICK**, to implore her protection during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. The Pope wanted to entrust the City of Rome, all of Italy, and “the entire world to the protection of the Mother of God, as a sign of salvation and hope” during the ongoing coronavirus emergency. In his prayer, Pope Francis calls Mary “Health of the Sick”, adding that she kept her faith firm as she stood near the Cross as Jesus suffered. An English translation of the prayer is available [here](#).

**ARCHBISHOP ARTHUR ROCHE**, Secretary for the Congregation of Divine Worship, has informed us that Pope Francis has granted the permission to “crown the statue” of the *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, above the main altar of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. The design of the crown is in the early stages of creation. Late last year, the Basilica was declared the Shrine of Our Lady in the Diocese of Hamilton.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO)** announced the appointment of a new General Secretary earlier this week. Mr. Brian Beal, currently the Director of Education of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, will begin his new duties with the ACBO on September 1, 2020. He will replace Mr. Roger Lawler, whose resignation is effective on October 9, 2020, providing a transition period for an effective transfer of responsibilities. Mr. Beal will be the 7<sup>th</sup> General Secretary of the ACBO. We congratulate him on his appointment and thank him for his service!

**THE ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** made a full report to the ACBO at their Spring Plenary. Linda Dollard, President of the Regional Council, provided information about the good works of the 5,000 members of SSVP in Ontario. There are 325 Conferences and 41 Councils who are dedicated to respond to the needs of the poor in our Parish communities. A recent “call” for “ten good men” to assist with delivery of furniture and other goods, was met with a commitment from twelve good men who committed a few hours of service each week! Consider becoming a SSVP member – good for your heart, good for your soul!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN DR. MOIRA MCQUEEN**, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, who is the recipient of the *2019 Christian Culture Award Gold Medal!* The Award is granted to individuals who are recognized as outstanding exponents of Christian ideals, and is chosen by Assumption University’s (Windsor, Ontario) Board of Governors. The award will be presented on March 26<sup>th</sup>, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, Windsor! A deserving recipient indeed!

**CARDINAL LEONARDO SANDRI**, Prefect for the Congregation for Eastern Churches, has written to all Diocesan Bishops concerning the *Good Friday collection “for the Holy Land”*. The collection was established in 1974 by Pope Saint Paul VI as a way for the Church to invite parishioners in other parts of the world to express solidarity with the ecclesial communities of the Middle East. The funds collected on Good Friday are the main source of material support for Christian Life in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

**TODAY IS THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS.** We pray that God will grant him continued good health, much joy, and the consolation that comes with the awareness of God’s supportive presence in his life and ministry!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI