



Heart to Heart

April 12, 2019 (#361)

HOLY WEEK BEGINS WITH THE PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS! Holy Week precedes the great Feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday! It includes the last days of Lent and the beginning of the Easter Triduum (Thursday of the Lord's Supper, Friday of the Passion, and Holy Saturday). The Easter celebrations begin in the darkness of Saturday evening with the Easter Vigil – “the mother of all vigils”, according to St. Augustine! May these holiest of days draw us all closer to the Lord and to one another!

A PAUSE IN THE CELEBRATIONS OF CONFIRMATION over Holy Week! We pick up again during Easter week with celebrations at St. John the Baptist Parish, Hamilton, St. Basil Parish, Brantford, and St. James Parish, Oakville. A blessed time for the Confirmandi – and for the Church celebrating the Risen Lord!

THE MASS OF CHRISM is celebrated on Monday evening in the Diocese of Hamilton. It begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, and is presided over by the Bishop and concelebrated by Priests from all parts of the Diocese. More than any other Mass in the liturgical year, it is a sign of the unity and communion of the Priests with their Bishop. The celebration fosters the relationship of the Bishop with the liturgical life of the Parishes. At this Mass, the Priests renew their Priestly promises. A special thank you to Father David Wynen, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, and to the team who worked with him to assure that all is well prepared for the event!

FOUR SEMINARIANS HAVE BEEN CALLED TO THE ORDER OF DEACON for the Diocese of Hamilton. Paul Edmondstone, Pawel Stankiewicz, Hayden Starczala, and Francisco Sordo were recommended by their seminary formators, and approved by the Diocesan Episcopal Board. They will be ordained at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on June 20, 2019. We are grateful for their commitment to serve the Diocese and look forward to conferring the Sacrament on them! Mark your calendars!

RECENTLY ORDAINED PRIESTS (ordained 6 years and under – 2013-2019) are invited to a *Symposium for the Recently Ordained* sponsored by the Commission for Priests of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. The Symposium will take place from November 4th to November 8th, 2019, at Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The gathering, which takes place every three years, is always appreciated by the participants and comes very highly recommended. Mark your calendars now!

THE SPECIAL COLLECTION OF GOOD FRIDAY, taken up at Good Friday services throughout the Diocese, supports the care and maintenance of the holy places, and benefits the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works carried out by the Church to benefit brothers and sisters. Thank you for your generosity!

THE ANNUAL CEMETERY MASSES celebrated at Catholic Cemeteries in the Diocese begin tomorrow morning with a celebration at 11:00 a.m. at *Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery in Stoney Creek*. The new addition to the mausoleum will be blessed as part of the celebration. It is an opportunity for family and friends to pray once again for their loved ones who have gone ahead! Join us.

WELCOME TO SHANNON MOYLE, Director of *Planting Seeds*, and apostle of goodness, whose life is dedicated to “saving lives”! *Planting Seeds* is an organization dedicated to the education of young people whose lives are spent working in the dumps of Guatemala City. Education is their way out of that horror! Shannon will be presenting to our Chancery staff at a *Lunch 'n Learn* on Monday noon.

Our Lady of Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI