



## *Heart to Heart*

December 21, 2018 (#349)

**OVER 2000 GUESTS WERE SERVED A FESTIVE TURKEY DINNER** with all the trimmings at the Hamilton Convention Centre last Sunday afternoon. The meal was sponsored by the Good Shepherd Ministries under the direction of the Brothers of St. John of God. 800 volunteers decorated the venue, prepared the food (along with Convention Centre staff), and served the guests! After dinner, there were opportunities for fun and games, a visit with Santa, and the distribution of gifts! Expressions of joy and gratitude abounded! Congratulations to the Brothers and to all who supported the Good Shepherd's Christmas Wonderland!

***"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE MEN, WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE*** who come every day and see we do not go hungry. You don't realize the difference you make in my life. If not for just the food, the smiles and cheer you bring into our lives. There are days I come for a hot chocolate and your happiness. I love you all with all my heart. I thank you. May God bless each and every one of you. I pray every day for you. Thank you. I can't thank you enough!" (A Christmas note "to all the volunteers at St. Patrick Parish," Hamilton.) Says it all, doesn't it!

**THE CHANCERY STAFF AND GUESTS** gather in the Cathedral Basilica later this morning to celebrate Mass in thanksgiving for the blessing of serving the Diocese and to pray for family and friends as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas and a restorative holiday season! A festive meal will be served in McNally Hall following the Mass. It will provide an opportunity to thank the Chancery personnel for their dedicated service to the Diocese throughout the year!

**VICKY ODOM, THE CHANCELLOR'S ASSISTANT**, begins a maternity leave today! Her baby is due next month. We wish her a safe delivery and we hope that the coming months will be joy-filled for both Vicky and Matt – and the baby. We are waiting to learn the baby's name – a best kept secret!!!

**OUR 21 DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS** gather for the celebration of Mass at the Cathedral Basilica, and a luncheon at Ardree, on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, before they return to the seminaries/parishes to continue their formation for the Priesthood! We are blessed to have such fine candidates preparing for service in the Diocese. Please continue to pray for them. Thank you to Father Michael King who is Director of Vocations and Director of Formation!

**WELCOME BACK TO FATHER JAMES MCSHARRY** who spent the autumn months serving with the Ceili Catholic Community in Westmeath County, Ireland. His time with the community was an opportunity to experience close-up their evangelizing ministry there. He has already resumed his ministry at St. Mary Parish, Owen Sound (and the missions) with renewed vigour!

**A CHRISTMAS LETTER, "ONE BLESSED NIGHT"**, has been posted on the [Diocesan website](#) this morning and was sent to all Parishes last week. It expresses my good wishes to the entire Diocese during this most holy Christmas season. Let us pray for one another!

**THE CHANCERY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. It will reopen on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the next publication of *Heart to Heart* will be on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI