



Heart to Heart

January 16, 2015 (#189)

THE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD MOURN THE LOSS of Sister Mary Muriel O'Connor who died on January 7th, in her 95th year, the 69th of her Religious life. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday. She is buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington. We offer our assurance of prayers to Sister Margaret Nadeau, Superior of the community and to the Sisters.

FATHER GUS SMITH HAS CONTRACTED PNEUMONIA, in addition to the complications following the stroke he suffered this summer. He is receiving excellent care from the staff at St. Joseph's Villa. Thanks to Father Ted Slaman for the special attention he is providing. Please pray for Father Gus.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE CHALDEAN COMMUNITY! On January 15th, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Reverend Chorbishop Emanuel Shaleta Eparchial Bishop of the Chaldean Eparchy of Mar Addai of Toronto. He is currently Parish Priest of the Chaldean Parish of St. George in Michigan.

THE BOARD OF THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON have announced the retirement of Ersilia DiNardo, Executive Director, effective June 30, 2015. Her leadership over the years has been highly regarded throughout the Province and in the Diocese. She was given the honour of *Dame of St. Gregory the Great* by Pope Benedict XVI in 2011. The Board of Directors has developed a succession plan to guide its work in the selection of her successor. We thank her for her leadership and wish her well in this time of transition and in the next stage of her life!

UPSTAIRS AT THE ALBION HOTEL IN GUELPH WAS PACKED for *Theology on Tap* on Tuesday evening. It was the venue for lively music, food, drink, conversation and a presentation on *The Francis Effect* by "yours truly". Thanks to the organizers for a joy-filled evening – and for making *Theology on Tap* a unique and enjoyable way for people to gather to learn and discuss our faith.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ORDINARY SYNOD ON THE FAMILY, taking place next October, will be published by the Diocesan Office for Family Ministry on the Diocesan website before the end of January. Responses can be made on-line, or by printing the questionnaire and mailing your responses to us. Also, we will be offering two sessions for those who wish to comment in person. Responses are welcome until the end of February when we will file our report with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops who, in turn, will forward their report to the Synod Secretariat in Vatican City. All responses will be sent with the Diocesan report.

THE BROTHERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD BECOME *Hospitallers of St. John of God* at a ceremony that takes place today in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While this affects their affiliation as religious men, it does not affect their ministry in Hamilton, which will still be referred to as Good Shepherd Ministries. We pray for the Brothers today – and express our gratitude for their most effective ministry among us!

ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY LECTURES IN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE continue next Friday, January 23rd, at 7:30 pm. The topic: "*Sometimes leading, sometimes following, sometimes side-by-side: Catholic and Anglican Missionaries and the Political Evolution of Canada's North*". Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer, professor and chair of the department of History at St. Jerome University is the speaker. It promises to be informative!

OFF TO VIETNAM EARLY THIS MORNING – PRAY FOR SAFE TRAVEL! Father Hanh Van Tran, OMI, has organized an interesting visit, including participating in a national celebration with the Catholic Bishops of Vietnam on January 20th. Not sure whether there will be an edition of *Heart to Heart* next week. It will depend on how the week goes in Vietnam. We return to Hamilton on January 24th!

Our Lady of Vietnam, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI