

Heart to Heart



March 28, 2013 (#113)

Holy Thursday

WELCOME TO THE 215 CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES who are being welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening in Parishes throughout the Diocese. They will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist) as part of the great celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord which takes place after sundown on Saturday evening. We offer our prayers for all, and look forward to welcoming them, their families and friends to a special Mass that will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m. It will provide an opportunity for me to greet each of them personally!

THE DIOCESAN CONFERENCE ON SACRAMENTS AND SACRAMENTALITY is scheduled to be held at the Hamilton Convention Centre on April 13. Already over 200 people have registered for this Year of Faith event. Parishioners who serve in their Parishes providing liturgical or administrative services are encouraged to attend – it will provide them with insight and information about those important moments of grace which are celebrated regularly in our churches. All are welcome! Registrations can be completed online (www.hamiltondiocese.com).

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS IS ON JUNE 9, 2013, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Almost 300 couples have already registered. Plan to attend now. Registrations can be completed online. It is always a joyous celebration and an important way to celebrate fidelity and faith!

OUR DIOCESAN REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION OFFICE recently welcomed an 81 and 83 year old couple from Damascus who were finally reunited with their children and grandchildren after waiting for several years. We expect 20 or more to come to Canada in the coming months through the program of the Diocese of Hamilton, thanks to the interest and support of several of our Parishes. Catholic sponsorship groups from across Canada will be meeting in Vancouver, May 25-28, to compare notes and to be brought up to date on common concerns. Lives are being saved by the program!

THE RETIRED PRIESTS' ASSOCIATION has been established in the Diocese of Hamilton following a survey of Priests of the Diocese, discussion at the Presbyteral Council and among retired Priests. Father Roger Formosi has agreed to chair the Association in the early years, and will be assisted by Father Mike Isabelle, Father Arthur Scidmore, Father James Curtin, and Father Ronald Cote. The basic purpose of the Association is to ensure that retired Diocesan Priests continue to be well connected to the Diocese and are able to meet occasionally for prayer and social activities.

THE EX CORDE FOUNDATION ISSUED ITS FIRST GRANTS to grateful recipients on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (which this year it is celebrated on April 8, because of the Easter celebrations). It is the patronal feast of the Diocese. Requests for grants that will be issued in the autumn should be sent to the Foundation by August 15. The Foundation provides support for projects and programs in the Diocese of Hamilton.

WELCOME TO FATHER MARIO TITOTTO, a Scalabrinian Father, who will serve as *Locum Tenens* at All Souls Parish while Father Peter Ciallella takes a medical leave. We pray for his quick return to full health, and for Father Mario's ministry!

THE CHANCERY STAFF MARKS THE EASTER TRIDUUM WITH A LUNCHEON and visit to the Hamilton Art Gallery today. Their diligent and careful service to the Diocese throughout the year is deeply appreciated by Priests and parishioners throughout the Diocese. I am particularly grateful for their many kindnesses and for the strong support they provide every day!!!

Happy Easter!!!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI