



Heart to Heart

January 8, 2021 (#422)

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD which is celebrated this Sunday marks the end of the Christmas season. Thank you for the greetings and gifts received throughout the season! Ordinary Time begins on Monday and continues until Ash Wednesday. Several Parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton have arranged to live-stream Masses during the Provincial lockdown. Check your Parish website to see if your Parish does so. Mass from the Cathedral Basilica will be televised on Cable 14 at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.

BISHOP-ELECT WAYNE LOBSINGER has now moved into his new residence and he has visited his office at the Chancery. Painting and freshening up both the house and office is being completed. His computer and internet connections are being installed. We are grateful that he accepted the appointment of Pope Francis to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton.

FATHER PAUL EDMONDSTONE has been appointed Pastoral Administrator of St. Ann Parish, Ancaster, and Monsignor Edward Sheridan has been appointed Financial Administrator, until a new Pastor is appointed in June. Originally, Father Michael King had been appointed Administrator of the Parish. He has requested and received a Leave of Absence from priestly ministry, requiring the new appointments.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is traditionally celebrated January 18th-25th, which, this year, is in the middle of a pandemic lockdown. The Biblical Text for 2021 is John 15:1-17. The theme, taken from that passage is: *Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)*. The Monastic Community of Grandchamp prepared the texts. Each day focuses on a specific theme taken from the Biblical Text. See <http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en.html>

WITH THE “WORK AT HOME” REQUIREMENT of the current lockdown, essential staff are coming into the Chancery periodically during the week. It may mean that telephone calls might not be returned immediately – but in a day or two. Thanks to our staff who are doing their best to serve the Diocese in a safe and helpful way! Most meetings scheduled for the coming weeks will take place on the ZOOM platform. In-person meetings will take place only when physical distancing and safety of participants can be assured.

THE PERSONNEL BOARD WILL MEET VIRTUALLY later this month to continue the process of Priest appointments which normally take place in June. Priests have returned the consultation forms, providing helpful information to the Board. The 2021 changes should be announced end-March or early-April. Pray for us as we study possible appointments.

ST. JEROME’S UNIVERSITY BID FAREWELL TO MARTHA FAUTEUX, Director of Campus Ministry, who completed her final day of work yesterday! Congratulations on your retirement, Martha; thank you for your caring ministry for so many happy years! Welcome to Sean Hayes who was recently appointed the new Director of Campus Ministry for the University. We wish him rich blessings in this new service!

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, Public Health Professionals, and First Responders during these challenging pandemic days! With the arrival of various vaccines, there is a sense of “light at the end of the tunnel”. Already thousands and thousands have received the vaccine which is being shipped across the country. It will be so good to visit with family and friends again – once the coronavirus is controlled.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI