



THE HONOURABLE GRAYDON NICHOLAS will visit Hamilton Diocese, *December 11 – 13, 2022*. He will speak to leaders in Catholic Education during the day in Hamilton on December 12th, and in Halton, December 13th. **On December 12th, at 7:00 p.m.**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and *National Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Indigenous Persons*, he will speak in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King about the significance of the appearances of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego, an Indigenous person, at Teypeyac. Canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002, Juan Diego was the first Catholic Indigenous Saint in the Americas. Indigenous himself, the Honourable Graydon Nicholas, currently Chancellor of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, has had a remarkable career, including serving as 30th Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick from 2009-2014. His culture and his faith are central to his life. All are welcome to hear him in person. His presentation will also be live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube Channel. Bring a friend!

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS is a concerted effort undertaken by The Stewardship and Development Office to invite parishioners to return to the celebration of Mass – especially at Christmas. Parishes are receiving letter templates, posters and postcards, bulletin announcements, social media resources and various other materials. Billboards will soon appear in larger centres throughout the Diocese. Mass times and Confession opportunities in our Parishes will be available on our Diocesan Website. All this in the hope that our Churches will be filled at the many Masses offered at Christmas – and beyond.

THE SPIRITUAL CARE DEPARTMENT at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton is celebrating the December 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception in a special way. *L'Assomption de la Vierge*, an 1869 painting by the prominent Quebec Artist, Antoine Plamondon, originally created for the Chapel of les Soeurs du Bon-Pasteur in Levis, Quebec, recently gifted to the St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, will be blessed and hung in the Chapel of the hospital. The painting is a copy of *The Immaculate Conception of Los Venerables*, dated 1678, by Spanish artist Bartolome Esteban Murillo. It is a remarkable acquisition, worth a visit to the hospital chapel and a prayer!

THE PERSONNEL BOARD MEETS WITH THE DEANS of the Diocese next week to receive the reports of the Deans on the personnel needs in the various Deaneries, and to review the individual responses from the Priests regarding possible changes to pastoral appointments this year. The Personnel Board will meet next in February to propose possible appointments. Pray for this important discernment process and pray for the Priests who will be asked to consider new appointments.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES of the Diocese of Hamilton will gather at Liuna Station next Friday evening for their annual Staff Christmas Dinner! It is an occasion to thank them for their good work at cemeteries throughout the Diocese. They care for the cemeteries and assure that they are welcoming for families and friends of the bereaved. Thank you for your service. Enjoy the evening!

WELCOME TO FATHER TIMOTHY SCOTT, C.S.B., who is visiting our *Office for Evangelization and Catechesis*, and taping presentations for our celebration of "Word of God Sunday", early in the New Year. We are already looking forward to benefitting from your wisdom!

THE FINAL DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING for 2022 takes place at the Chancery Office next week. For the first time since the first COVID shut down, the meeting will be a hybrid, with some members joining the "in person" meeting online! Updated technology in one of our conference rooms makes this hybrid meeting possible! Thanks to all who serve so faithfully and generously on the Diocesan Finance Council!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI