



## *Heart to Heart*

November 28, 2014 (#184)

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE CELEBRATION LAST SUNDAY** at the Cathedral Basilica such a joyful event. The preparation of the event, the beautiful music, the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Honour Guard, the many ministries, the graciousness of the recipients of Papal Honours – and the recounting of their contribution to the Church and to society, the presence of 31 of our 32 seminarians, the stirring homily of Cardinal Lacroix – and his friendly and warm nature, all contributed to making the celebration one that exemplified the Gospel of the day. Father David Wynen, Rector, and his Parish team, deserve a profound expression of thanks. The Cathedral Basilica was resplendent – made even more so by the presence of so many joyful and smiling parishioners! It does not get better!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CARMELITES OF MARY IMMACULATE** on the canonization of their founder, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, which took place in Rome last Sunday. We join Fr. George Palamattam and Fr. Jerry Punnassery in thanking God for this blessing on their community and the Church universal.

**OFF TO CHEPSTOW AND CARGILL FOR THE WEEKEND!** Thanks to Father Luc Payette for the invitation. It seems like the weather will cooperate! I look forward to meeting the parishioners.

**ADVENT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS** who serve the Diocese of Hamilton take place on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The December 2<sup>nd</sup> gathering is at the Cathedral Basilica in Hamilton beginning at 10 a.m.; the December 3<sup>rd</sup> gathering is at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Waterloo, also beginning at 10 a.m. Bishop William McGrattan, Bishop of Peterborough, is the speaker. The day will provide a time for reflection, worship, reconciliation and fraternity.

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th, IS A HEALING DAY** for those experiencing loss. Our Office for Family Ministry is offering a session entitled *COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS – when someone you love is gone*. It is intended to help those who experience loss at this most sensitive time of year. The session, led by grief counselor Christina Walton begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Chancery Office. Then, at the Cathedral Basilica, the 4 p.m. Mass will be offered especially for those mourning the loss of a child.

**CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS HOLD THEIR INAUGURAL MEETINGS** these days following the recent elections. We congratulate all successful Board members and thank all who offered to serve in such an important capacity. I look forward to the opportunities to meet you over the coming months! May your service be a blessing for you and for the students and teachers you serve.

**THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION CONTINUES** throughout the Diocese. Bishop Tonnos and I will celebrate at ceremonies at St. Joseph's in Guelph, while Bishop Miehm travels to St. Benedict Parish in Milton and St. Louis Parish in Waterloo, and Bishop Ustrzycki will preside at St. Gabriel Parish in Burlington. We are grateful to the Pastors, catechists and teachers, who ensure that the Confirmandi are so well prepared.

**THE ST. JEROME UNIVERSITY LECTURES IN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE** continues on December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. Bruce Alexander, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Simon Fraser University will deliver the 2014-2015 Ignatian Lecture on Ecology and Justice. The title of his presentation: *For the sake of the earth, let's deal with our collective malaise!* Worth a listen!

Our Lady Immaculate, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI