



Heart to Heart

January 8, 2016 (#226)

BEFORE CELEBRATING THEIR CHRISTMAS PROCESSION (ORTHODOX) on Wednesday evening, a delegation from Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Parish on Aberdeen Avenue in Hamilton (formerly St. Boniface German Parish) visited the Diocesan Chancery to express their gratitude to the Diocese for making the church available to them. They spoke movingly about the young men from their Ethiopian Orthodox faith martyred on the beach last year. Father Aba Gebreeyesus presented the Diocese with a beautiful historic Cross as an expression of their thanks. We wish them many blessings as they begin worshipping in their new church.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE STUDY SERIES will be held at various locations in the Diocese throughout the Year of Mercy. Hosted by David Dayler and Christina Mines, the series is open to young adults and adults in the Diocese looking to explore the gifts found in Luke's Gospel, often referred to as *The Gospel of Mercy*. Each session will take place in a different Deanery and will include a guest speaker and small group discussions. Register now! [The Diocesan website has more information.](#)

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND. Year 4 candidates begin with a liturgical practicum on Friday evening. On Saturday, both Year 2 and Year 4 candidates will explore Catholic Social Teaching facilitated by Father Mark Gatto. Father Con O'Mahony will preside at the Mass in the Annunciation Chapel in the Chancery. We wish the Deacon candidates and their wives well as they continue their preparation.

ELEVEN MORE SYRIAN REFUGEES ARRIVED OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, sponsored by four Parishes – two from the Diocese of Hamilton. Erin Pease, Director of the Office for Refugees, is quick to give credit to Barb Dollak, the previous director who had done the paperwork before completing her service in the office. These days, Erin is preparing for the Multicultural Mass which takes place at the Cathedral Basilica at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 17th, the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants. Please join us to pray for so many who are still seeking a safe and secure place to live.

FATHER WILF MURCHLAND, C.S.C., former Provincial Superior of the Holy Cross Fathers died at the beginning of December. We have just recently learned of his death and wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to his family and members of his Religious Congregation. May he receive the reward of a good and faithful servant.

CONFIRMATIONS START UP AGAIN TONIGHT IN CAMBRIDGE. Father Bill Foote assures me that candidates are well prepared at St. Patrick's Parish. We continue to pray for all the young people who are preparing to celebrate this Sacrament in the coming weeks and months. Tonight's celebration will give us another opportunity to have a good look at the beauty of the renovated Parish church.

BISHOP MARCEL DAMPHOUSE WILL BE INSTALLED AS THE BISHOP of Sault Ste. Marie during a Mass celebrated at the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption in North Bay, next Wednesday, January 13th. We pray that God will bless him and all his good works as he undertakes this new ministry.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA is seeking Priest candidates for service as president of the organization. Following ten years of dedicated service, Father Philip Kennedy will be returning to the Archdiocese of Toronto to take up other duties. If any Priests in the Diocese of Hamilton are interested in such a service, please arrange to discuss this with me. Many years ago, Monsignor Roger Formosi served as President for a five-year mandate.

THE CURA PASTORUM ASSOCIATION (CARE OF SHEPHERDS), formerly the Hamilton Diocesan Clergy Retirement Pension Plan held its first organizational meeting yesterday in McNally Hall at the Cathedral Basilica. All the legal requirements were carefully followed to assure the good functioning of the new organization. Thanks to Father David Wynen, President, and Father Martin Vallely for assuring that the transition was seamless.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI