



TWO COUNCILS OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS participated in the *Coats for Kids* initiative, promoted by the Supreme Council of the Order. Representatives from Council 5860 and Council 8380 delivered two large boxes of children's winter coats to Erin Pease, Director of the Office for Refugees for the Diocese. The coats will be distributed to newcomers arriving through the private sponsorship program implemented by the Office. Grand Knight Paul Coughlin and Grand Knight Fern Citrigno were joined by Past Supreme Deputy Natale Gallo, Neil Bouvier and his son Aymery, and Jay Nelligan. Thanks to the Knights, including also Carlos Diaz, Bo Chausse and John Noonan, for the wonderful initiative!

THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON CELEBRATES ITS 160TH ANNIVERSARY ON FEBRUARY 29, 2016. We will mark the event at the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 28, 2016, at the Cathedral Basilica. Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada will join us for the celebration and will be the homilist at the Mass. Please pray in thanksgiving for the blessings of the past 160 years at all Masses in the Diocese that weekend. And if you can join us at the Mass, please know you are welcome!

POPE FRANCIS HAS HONOURED DR. KEVIN SMITH, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Health System, by appointing him *Knight of St. Gregory the Great!* The honour was announced at a dinner with St. Joseph's Health System Board members earlier this month. It will be presented to him by Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, on Sunday, February 28, 2016, at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The honour is well-deserved. We offer our congratulations to Dr. Smith, and look forward to celebrating the event with him!

THE RITE OF ELECTION TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016, for all Catechumens (unbaptized) in the Diocese of Hamilton – both adults and children of catechetical age – who will celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. This Rite is an important part of the process of initiation. Parishes in the Deaneries of Bruce-Grey, Waterloo, and Wellington will gather at the Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph. Parishes in the Deaneries of Brant, Halton, and Hamilton will gather at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The deadline for registration with the Liturgy Office is February 5th. Registration information can be found on the [Diocese of Hamilton Rite of Election website](#). Plan now to be part of this very moving experience of faith!

ACAROSPORA MACCARTHYI IS THE NAME OF A NEW SPECIES OF LICHEN DISCOVERED by Jesuit Father John McCarthy. The species, discovered on the Port-au-Port Peninsula in Newfoundland, was named after him. Congratulations to Father John on this unique honour – and to the Jesuit community which has encouraged his avid interest in biology – especially lichens!

MOTHER CELESTE, SUPERIOR OF THE CARMEL OF ST. JOSEPH IN ST. AGATHA, is travelling to Rome next week to participate in the closing events for the Year for Consecrated Life which takes place in Vatican City. The year closes officially on February 2, 2016, the Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. She is one of the representatives for the Carmelite Order. We offer our good wishes for safe travel and a blessed experience! It is good to know that someone from the Diocese of Hamilton is part of the joyful festivities!

THE CCCB EXECUTIVE MEETS ON TUESDAY NEXT WEEK AT THEIR OFFICES IN OTTAWA. The Executive meets six times each year; the January meeting is the first for 2016.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI