



## *Heart to Heart*

January 29, 2016 (#229)

**FATHER RON COTE IS RECOVERING FROM A SUCCESSFUL SURGERY** at the Juravinski Hospital in Hamilton. He is in good spirits and says that he looks forward to getting back to “retirement” ministry soon. He will spend a time at St. Joseph’s Convent in Dundas after he gets out of the hospital. Thank you for prayers – don’t stop just yet!

**THE PERSONNEL BOARD MEETS AGAIN TODAY TO REVIEW PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS** for 2016. Thanks to the Priests who have responded to the consultation regarding current placements. Thanks also for openness to possible appointments. Your prayers are requested for God’s blessing on this important process.

**CANDIDATES FROM ST. RAPHAEL PARISH IN BURLINGTON**, will be Confirmed tomorrow at Masses in the morning and afternoon. Thanks to the catechists and teachers who prepare the students so well for the Sacrament. Thanks to the Pastors and Pastoral Associates for assuring that everything is ready for the celebration.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY** we call Lent. We renew and deepen our commitment to follow Christ closely – to the Cross, so that we might share the fullness of life with him. During the Year of Mercy, the season of Lent takes on special significance. It is an opportunity to call to the Lord for MERCY! Pope Francis reminds us, “God never tires of forgiving; it is we who tire of asking!” Lent is the time!

**THE CHANCERY STAFF WILL BE STUDYING THE PARABLES OF MERCY** throughout Lent. The reflection sessions will take place on Friday mornings, concluding with Mass. The *Parables of Mercy* is one of eight *pastoral resources* published by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization for the Year of Mercy. The Office for Discipleship and Parish Life can provide sets of these resources if you want to do something special for the Lenten journey.

**THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS** is sponsoring a visit to Canada of the relics of *Saints Louis and Zelig Martin*, who were canonized by Pope Francis last Fall. The visit is foreseen to take place in June 2017. We have informed Father Rejean Lessard, Rector of the Shrine, that we will be pleased to welcome the relics at some time during that month. Dates and places will be finalized once Father Lessard has heard from other interested Dioceses.

**SR. ANN MARSHALL, CSJ, HAS BEEN HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOLS** to pray, using the age-old principles of Christian meditation. The experience has been transformative. Next week, I will visit St. Brigid’s School to pray with the young people and to learn about their understanding and appreciation of Christian meditation. It is becoming an important part of the school day in many of our schools – a wonderful way to encounter the Risen Lord.

**THE BISHOP’S CHARITY DINNER AND DANCE**, organized by the Knights of Columbus Councils in the Hamilton area, takes place on February 13<sup>th</sup>, at Carmen’s Banquet Centre in Hamilton. It is an evening where the Catholic community gathers and celebrates together, while supporting charitable activities in the Diocese and beyond. Thanks to the Knights for their organizational skills. I always look forward to greeting so many friends and to meeting new ones. See you there!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI