



Heart to Heart

February 5, 2016 (#230)

THE CHINESE, VIETNAMESE AND KOREAN COMMUNITIES IN THE DIOCESE celebrate Lunar New Year this weekend. The celebration, called TET in Vietnamese, begins the Year of the Monkey. The Korean Catholic community will join the Vietnamese community at Our Lady of Vietnam Parish for the colourful celebration. We send greetings and good wishes for a blessed New Year!

THE FORMATION PROGRAM FOR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATES continues this weekend. Father Michael Prieur from St. Peter's Seminary in London will present on Human Sexuality. As well, Erin Pease will provide an information update from the Office for Refugees. Monsignor Murray Kroestch and Christina Ronzio will provide a Liturgy Practicum on Friday evening to the fourth year candidates. It is a full weekend. We pray for the candidates and their wives.

FATHER PIOTR JURZYK IS THE HOST FOR A WEEKEND VISIT TO KINCARDINE tomorrow and Sunday. It is always a pleasure to travel "north", providing an opportunity to experience more wintry weather. Pray for safe travel and a happy weekend!

THE ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT THE CHANCERY OFFICE has become a "tradition". The "Social and Gift Committee" organizes the event for the rest of the staff as a prelude to Lent. It is always a happy event, leading to the more somber and reflective Lenten season.

THE LENTEN PRAYER DAYS FOR PRIESTS take place at the Cathedral Basilica on Tuesday, February 16th, and at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo, on Wednesday, February 17th. Father Joseph de Viveiros, C.R., Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Kitchener, will be reflecting with us on the Year of Mercy. Priests are asked to confirm their participation in order to assure adequate food for lunch. Thanks to Monsignor Earl Talbot for organizing the event.

THE PAPAL BULLA ANNOUNCING THE FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON 160 years ago has been located by Dominy Williams, Diocesan Archivist. The document will be framed and visible at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica on February 28th, when the event will be formally marked. A Mass will also be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, February 29th – the actual date of the establishment of the Diocese. All are welcome.

AN HISTORIC MEETING between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow will take place on February 12th at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport in Cuba. The Pope will make a stop on his way to Mexico and the Patriarch will be there on an official visit. This will be the first such meeting in history and will mark an important stage in relations between the Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church. We pray fervently that God will bless this meeting and that it will bear good fruits!

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, MARKS THE BEGINNING OF LENT. It is a time for personal penance and deepening of faith. The ashes that are placed on our foreheads remind us of the shortness of life and the importance of making full use of the time given to us to do good. During this Year of Mercy we become aware of God's unceasingly merciful compassion toward us. Gratitude is our first response, leading to generosity toward others, leading ultimately to sacrificial love.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI