



## Heart to Heart

February 12, 2016 (#231)

**THERE ARE TWO LOCATIONS FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION ON SUNDAY.** 83 catechumens will “sign in” at the ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica in Hamilton, and 37 catechumens will “sign in” at the ceremony at the Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph. Both events begin at 1:30 p.m. and mark the beginning of intense preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil in Parishes throughout the Diocese. Thanks to Pastors and RCIA Teams for the care you take in ensuring the preparation of the Elect!

**THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MET EARLIER THIS WEEK** and received reports from the Deans of the six Deaneries in the Diocese. Monsignor Raymond Modeski, who has been appointed Coordinator for Retired Priests, outlined the basic programming offered to our 35 retired Priests. He also provided a glimpse at what is offered in the Archdiocese of Toronto and how we might improve our programming. Father Ian Duffy presented an update on the 2016 Priests’ Seminar on behalf of the Seminar Committee. The Seminar will be one day longer this year, providing opportunity for excursions to experience “Mercy in Ministry” at several sites. The meeting is always full of good information and vibrant discussion.

**ST. PATRICKS PARISH IN HAMILTON HAS BEEN COUNTING DOWN FOR THE PAST YEAR** in anticipation of *REBOOT LIVE*, an exciting Parish renewal program. Chris Stefanick is the inspirational speaker who will proclaim the Gospel message in a fresh and exciting way. Check out the [Parish website](#) or [reallifecatholic.com](http://reallifecatholic.com) for more information about the event. Congratulations to the Pastoral Team on this wonderful initiative!

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE REFLECTION SERIES** continues on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. (until 8:30 p.m.), at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Waterdown. Father Thomas Rosica, Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Television will speak on *The Joy of the Father is to Forgive*. The sessions, which will continue through to the end of the Year of Mercy, are sponsored by the Office of Discipleship and Parish Life. Each session takes place in a different Parish throughout the Diocese. No cost to attend. All are welcome!

**THE LENTEN PRAYER DAYS FOR PRIESTS TAKE PLACE** on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The day is an opportunity for Priests to reflect on the call to *Be Merciful Like the Father*. It is also an opportunity for Priests to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pray for the Priests, that they may experience God’s mercy and love.

**THE ANNUAL BISHOP’S CHARITY DINNER DANCE**, organized by the Knights of Columbus, takes place tomorrow evening. It is always an opportunity for the Catholic community to gather and to celebrate while at the same time supporting many worthy charities! I look forward to greeting the 800-or-so “friends” who will join us. Perhaps this year I will succeed in meeting each one!

**FATHER GILLES BOURDEAU, OFM**, President of the Holy Land in Canada, has sent helpful information to Parishes concerning the Good Friday collection in support of the holy sites in the Holy Land, through the “Custody of the Holy Land”. The Franciscans provide Christian formation and education, conduct Parish ministry, offer housing and food for the poor and welcome pilgrims to the shrines in the Holy Land. We are blessed to share in this ministry through the special collection!

**THIS MONDAY IS FAMILY DAY. IT IS A PROVINCIAL HOLIDAY IN ONTARIO.** The Chancery Office will be closed. Enjoy this mid-winter break.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI