



Heart to Heart

February 26, 2016 (#233)

ON FEBRUARY 29, 1856, POPE PIUS IX SIGNED A PAPAL DECREE forming the Diocese of Hamilton. On the same day, he signed a decree appointing Bishop John Farrell the first Bishop of the new Diocese. On Sunday, February 28th, the 11 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in Hamilton will be celebrated in thanksgiving for the blessings of God over the past 160 years. Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, will preach the homily at the Mass. On Monday, at 11:45 a.m., the actual date of the Anniversary, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated, followed by a reception in McNally Hall at the Cathedral. All Masses are public events. All are welcome.

ON SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 27th, a dinner honouring Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi is being held in McNally Hall. This is the first visit of the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada since his appointment on December 18, 2013. Born in Bergamo, Italy, in 1948, he entered the diplomatic service on March 25, 1980. He has served in the Camerons, Trinidad and Tobago, Malta, Mozambique, Spain, the United States of America, Italy and Canada. He has served as Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti, Cuba, the Baltic Countries (Lithuania and Estonia), and later including Latvia, prior to his arrival here. We warmly welcome His Grace to Canada, and wish him a pleasant visit to Hamilton.

DR. KEVIN SMITH, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH SYSTEM, will be invested as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great, during the Sunday morning 11 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica. Archbishop Bonazzi will confer the honour granted by Pope Francis earlier this year. We offer congratulations to Dr. Smith, both for the honour bestowed and for the service he gives to healthcare through St. Joe's!

THE FUNERAL OF MONSIGNOR WILLIAM (BILL) O'BRIEN took place at St. Patrick's Parish in Hamilton, on Thursday, which has been the center of worship for his family for years. Bishop John Sherlock, Bishop-emeritus of London, and long-time friend, preached a wonderful homily that reflected the Gospel roots of his ministry over his long life. May Monsignor O'Brien rest in peace and obtain the reward promised to good and faithful servants!

THE FORMATION PROGRAM FOR PERMANENT DEACONS CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND. Teresa Harnett, Director of the Office for Family Ministry will speak on the link between the two Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders. Dwayne Cahill will speak on Homiletics and Public Speaking. Father Jeff Bergsma, Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Hamilton, will preside at the Mass on Saturday. We pray for the Deacon candidates and their wives who continue their program of preparation.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD, a program of the Pontifical Council for Evangelization, proposes that the Sacrament of Reconciliation be offered on March 4th-5th for extended times in selected sites in Dioceses. In the Diocese of Hamilton, there are special sites in each Deanery when Priests will be available to hear Confessions. Please check our [Diocesan website](#) for a listing of times and places. It is a good opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Lenten season and especially during this Year of Mercy!

DR. KATHERINE BERGMAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR of St. Jerome's University for a second five-year term. Cathy Horgan, Chair of the Board of Governors of the University, announced the appointment earlier in the week. Dr. Bergman is the seventh President of the University. We wish her continued blessings in her service to Catholic education!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI