



Heart to Heart

April 1, 2016 (#238)

THE MASS WITH NEW CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON takes place this Sunday at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Catholics who were initiated and those received into the Church during the Easter Vigil last Saturday evening have been invited to join those who worship at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass. It is always a joy for us to welcome them and an encouragement for them to see how many have made the life-changing decision. We pray for God's rich blessing for all of them!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IS CELEBRATED THIS SUNDAY, the Second Sunday of Easter. It takes on heightened significance during this Year of Mercy. It is a day one might plan to pass through the Doors of Mercy at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King or to visit one of our other pilgrimage sites – Sacred Heart Parishes in each of our six Deaneries. Many Parishes hold special events for this Sunday; plan to participate!

AMORIS LAETITIA – ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY is the title of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis following the Synod on the Family which took place last Fall. The Ordinary Synod was preceded by an Extraordinary Synod on the Family in 2014, and both Synods were informed by a world-wide consultation. The Apostolic Exhortation will be published in many languages and released during a Press Conference in Vatican City next Friday, April 8th. Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, will lead the delegation at the Press Conference.

THE DIOCESAN YOUTH OFFICE IS PLANNING A YEAR OF MERCY YOUTH RALLY for May 21st. It will be an exciting opportunity for young people to learn more about and celebrate the Year of Mercy from the unique and blessed perspective that is theirs! The Rally is open to young people from Grades 7 to 12, and Parish Youth Ministers, Chaplaincy Leaders, Pastors and Religious. It will be a day of encounter, prayer, talks, discussion, music, food, and celebration. Registrations are going well. Please ensure that young people from your Parish know about the event.

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO announced the appointment for Ron Noble as President and CEO of the CHAO. He replaces Mr. Ron Marr who leaves the organization after a remarkable 27 years of dedication, having steered the CHAO through many changes. We offer both men our thanks and good wishes. Bishop William McGrattan (Peterborough) and I are representatives from the Assembly of Ontario Bishops on the CHAO Board.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL which will be dedicated and blessed next Wednesday. The name of the school, part of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, is closely connected to the neighbouring Immaculate Heart of Mary School which also serves the young people of Stoney Creek. The timing of the blessing coincides with the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation, the Diocesan Patronal Feast which was moved from March 25th to April 4th this year because of the Easter celebrations.

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS reports that during this Pastoral Year over 8000 resource materials were sent out to Parishes throughout the Diocese to help with the preparation of young people for First Eucharist and for Confirmation. And that is only some of the good work of the office!

DOMINY WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF THE BISHOP FARRELL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, confirms that she has completed the important work of preparing digital files of the blueprints of Parish buildings which are held in our archives. It is an important task – well done! Congratulations!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI