



## *Heart to Heart*

*April 8, 2016 (#239)*

**AS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK AMORIS LAETITIA – “ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY”** was published in Rome earlier today. A copy has been circulated by e-mail and will be posted on our Diocesan website.

**ST. GABRIEL’S CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN STONEY CREEK WAS BLESSED** on Wednesday evening. The newest school in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board was full of excited students, happy teachers and parents, and proud school officials for the dedication. Crosses for each classroom were blessed and given to students, staff and parents to be carried to each room. The school is bright and beautiful – and full! Already there are “portables” because the students outnumber space in the school.

**A SPECIAL TOUR OF ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL IN KITCHENER THIS WEEK** provided the opportunity to see the most up to date nuclear imaging technology in use at the hospital. It is a busy place – providing day surgeries for heart patients and other medical procedures that require in-patient care. The hospital chaplaincy provides pastoral care for patients, medical staff and administration. It is an impressive place to visit – and a wonderful healing environment. Thanks to Don Shilton, hospital president, and all who made the visit so informative and enjoyable! The legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph has been entrusted to capable hands!

**THE INTERFAITH SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM COALITION (ISARC)** is organizing a new initiative called *Voices From the Margins* to educate and mobilize low-income people and faith communities across Ontario to encourage stronger action to counter hunger, poverty and homelessness. This will be done by holding at least 20 “hearings” across the province providing opportunity for people to speak about their lives and their challenges, and to propose measures that could make a positive difference for them. ISARC has carried out four rounds of community hearings during its 30-year history. Several hundred people will be directly involved, including Sarah Guinta, Coordinator of our Diocesan Office for Justice and Peace, Father Con O’Mahony, and yours truly. It will give us close-up insight into the lives of people who struggle each day to make ends meet. It will be like a Year of Mercy retreat!

**PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS FOR CLERGY FOR 2016 WILL BE ANNOUNCED TODAY.** Over 35 Priests and Deacons are named in today’s appointments. A “*Part B*” will be published in the coming month. Sincere thanks to those Priests who retire after a life-time of dedicated service, and to those who have agreed to serve in new appointments. Welcome to Priests *from away* who have accepted to serve in the Diocese, providing much needed support. Pray for these men, that God will bless their good work!

**POPE FRANCIS HONOURS CATECHISTS WORLDWIDE BY THE JUBILEE FOR CATECHISTS!** It will be marked in Rome on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis is developing resources to be used for this event and for ongoing reflection. The material will soon be available to assist Parishes, Catholic schools and others in recognizing the important service our catechists provide in faith formation. Anne Jamieson, Director of our Office for Catechesis can provide more information.

**PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND AT THE CHANCERY.** This weekend is all about liturgical preparation – preaching and sacramental theology. Pray for the Deacon candidates, their wives, and those who help prepare them for their service to the Church.

**CONFIRMATION IN WALKERTON, ARTHUR AND MOUNT FOREST THIS WEEKEND!** Lots of time on the road! Thanks to the Pastors, teachers, and catechists for preparing the candidates. Thanks to the young people for presenting themselves for the Sacrament with such enthusiasm!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI