



Heart to Heart

May 13, 2016 (#244)

SEEING MERCY IS THE TITLE OF A DAY-LONG RETREAT for the Chancery Office staff today. Barbara Sutton from St. John's University, Collegetown, is directing the retreat at Holy Rosary Parish Centre in Burlington, using remarkable illustrations from the St. John's Bible. Earlier in the week, Barbara worked with Parish Ministers and with staff who will be responsible for the proper care of the Bible in the Diocese. The Chancery Office will be closed today.

THE RESPONSE OF THE 50 CATHOLIC ENTITIES to the contractual commitment entered into with the Government of Canada relative to Indian Residential Schools, has received much media coverage in recent days. Media attention has focused on the "best efforts" *Moving Forward Together Campaign*, which was to include donations from the corporate sector and donations from the Dioceses that had no residential schools. The campaign collected about \$4M, well short of the hoped-for \$25M. The Diocese of Hamilton contributed \$300K to the Campaign, funds which supported educational opportunities for aboriginal students at educational institutions in the Diocese.

PEOPLE HAVE ASKED HOW THE DIOCESE WILL ASSIST residents of Fort McMurray who have suffered such devastating losses due to the recent forest fires there. Pastors are asked to encourage parishioners to send personal donations directly to the Red Cross which is assisting those who have been directly affected. These funds are being matched by the Canadian Government. As well, Pastors are asked to hold a special collection on or before June 4/5, the proceeds of which will be sent to Most Rev. Paul Terrio, Bishop of St. Paul Diocese. Bishop Terrio has informed the CCCB that half of the funds received by his Diocese will be given to the Ministerial Association of Fort McMurray to assist with their losses. The other half will be used by St. Paul Diocese to assist the Parishes in Fort McMurray to rebuild or restore their losses. It is an act of solidarity.

LETTERS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO PARLIAMENTARIANS who must soon vote on legislation regarding *Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*. The Office for Family Ministry has provided [resources on our website](#) and in our Parishes to ensure that parishioners are well-informed about the issues. Let us now pray – that hearts are moved to respect and protect life – and that conscience rights for health care providers and institutions are protected by our elected law makers. Pray the Rosary, Eucharistic adoration, group prayer, private prayer, universal prayer during Sunday Masses! Now is the time. Let us pray - fervently!

THE 2016-2017 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE WAS SENT OUT YESTERDAY! It is a long and detailed task. Thanks to Carol Daly for the care and attention she puts into assuring that the needs of the Parishes are met. Thanks to the Pastors for responding to the request for preferred times. It was very helpful. All done!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH who are celebrating Jubilees on Saturday at St. Joseph's Convent in Dundas. Sister Francis and Sister Mary Ambrose Huszak celebrate a remarkable 75 years; Sisters Bernardine Smith, Carole Anne Guay and Carol Graf celebrate 60 years; Sister Susan Kerrigan celebrates 50 years and Sister Isobel celebrates 25 years of commitment to community and ministry. We offer our prayers and thanks!

THE YEAR FOUR CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE meet tonight and tomorrow for the final session before their Ordination on June 4th, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King! The time will be spent in prayer and reflection, listening to and critiquing homilies, being informed about the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Sacrament of Marriage, and experiencing Christian Meditation. We pray for the four Deacon candidates and their wives. May the coming weeks be a time of joy.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI