



## Heart to Heart

November 11, 2016 (#261)

**DATED NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, THE CLOSING DAY OF THE YEAR OF MERCY**, a Pastoral Letter reflecting on the many blessings of the year was sent to all Parishes today. It may be published or read during all the Sunday Masses next weekend. It outlines some of the graces experienced during the year – opportunities to experience God’s merciful compassion.

**MERCY UPON MERCY UPON MERCY IS THE EPISCOPAL MOTTO** of Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina. Because his motto is so relevant to the Extraordinary Year of Mercy, we have invited him to speak on this theme at our final Jubilee Year event. Join us at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King next Friday evening, November 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Evening Prayer. If this is the only event you attend during this Year of Mercy, you will not regret it! It will be an event not to be missed!

**THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CCCB** continues in Rome these days. Of course the meeting with Pope Francis yesterday morning was the highlight of the visit, even if it was the first of many meetings. Yesterday evening we met with Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect for the Congregation of Bishops, and a Canadian. This visit is always the most fraternal for obvious reasons. Sunday is a “day of rest”, giving us time to pray at St. Peter’s Basilica, something which is good for the soul. I hold the Diocese close to my heart these days, especially during these intense moments of prayer! I promised Pope Francis we pray for him always! Please do.

**PRIESTS ARE REMINDED OF THE ADVENT PRAYER DAYS** scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Waterloo respectively. Father Bill Trusz, Missionary of Mercy, will be speaking at the event which begins at 10:30 a.m. each day. It is a time for reflective listening, prayer and reconciliation – a perfect Advent opportunity!

**MR. GLENN LEMAN** has taken over the reins of the Out of the Cold Program in Hamilton, succeeding Sister Nancy Sullivan, CSJ, who was recently elected to the leadership team of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada. Glenn has been a breakfast volunteer for the past four years. Many people are treated with compassion and provided with shelter and meals during the winter months in Hamilton and in other locations in the Diocese. An important ministry!

**MR. ALEX SCHADENBERG**, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, will be showing a one hour DVD “*Euthanasia Deception*” followed by a question and answer period in the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Hall, 28 Norfolk Street, Guelph, on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This will be a good opportunity to become informed on this important topic.

**MENTAL ILLNESS IS A STRUGGLE** for many people. On Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> a workshop meant to both educate and reduce the stigma and fear associated with mental illness will be offered in Hamilton. The morning session, *Hearing Voices*, is a simulated workshop aimed at presenting the real life experiences of a person dealing with this issue; the afternoon session will offer tips for lay persons serving people with mental illness. You can register by contacting our Diocesan Family Ministry Office.

**COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS** can be challenging for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one. On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. the Family Ministry Office is offering a session that will provide practical tools for those who feel overwhelmed as they face Christmas suffering from the grief of loss. Contact the Family Ministry Office for more information.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *Fr. Douglas*, OMI