



Heart to Heart

November 18, 2016 (#262)

“AS THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY DRAWS TO A CLOSE, I am struck by what a gift it was to have experienced this period of special reflection on the inexhaustible mercy of God.” So begins my Pastoral Letter to the Diocese of Hamilton at the closing of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The letter outlines some of the high points of the year both internationally and in our Diocese – many focusing on the importance of the Holy Door. The final event of the Jubilee Year takes place tonight at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King – Evening Prayer and an address by Archbishop Donald Bolen on the centrality of mercy in our faith. *“As the apostles were sent forth to evangelize the world, let us also go out bringing God’s mercy to all!”*

DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CLOSING EVENT for the Jubilee Year of Mercy tonight. They will gather for a dinner in McNally Hall and join us for Evening Prayer and the address by Archbishop Donald Bolen. There are few opportunities for our seminarians to come together during the year; we are grateful to the Seminary Rectors for giving the necessary permissions for this special gathering!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: *Father Bob Stainsby*, who has moved from Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Stoney Creek to St. Joseph Convent in Dundas this week, where he awaits placement in a long-term care facility; *Father Leonard Strohmeyer*, who is at St. Joseph Hospital suffering with pneumonia; *Father Chris Rushton OMI*, who is at the Juravinski Cancer Centre awaiting a liver transplant.

SISTER CHARMAINE KROHE, SSND, was elected Provincial Leader of the community earlier this year. She is visiting the Sisters in Hamilton and area during these days. This afternoon she will visit us at the Chancery Office. It is always a pleasure to welcome leaders of the SSND community. We are grateful for their presence and ministry in the Diocese over the years.

THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING IS CELEBRATED THIS WEEKEND. It is an important celebration at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. *“Every eye shall see Him,”* a citation from the Book of Revelation, is the motto for the Basilica – and reminds us of His coming on the clouds at the end of time. At every Mass this weekend, parishioners will pray the *Magnificat* in thanksgiving for the blessings of the Jubilee of Mercy which concludes worldwide on Sunday!

STUDENTS AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH IN STONEY CREEK celebrate Confirmation tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We continue to pray for the young people who present themselves for this Sacrament. Thanks to Pastors, lay pastoral ministers and teachers for assuring that the young people are so well prepared for this key moment in their life.

PRIESTS ARE REMINDED TO RETURN THE PERSONNEL BOARD QUESTIONNAIRE to the Bishop’s Office or to any member of the Personnel Board as soon as possible. The first meeting of the Board will take place on December 2nd with the Deans providing helpful information. This is an important time of discernment for the Diocese and the responses make up an important part of the process.

I ARRIVED HOME LATE YESTERDAY following the annual visit of the CCCB Presidency to the Holy Father and several Curial Dicasteries. Because the visit was over a shorter time than previous years, the program was very full. It was a moment of grace in my life to represent the Canadian Conference at such a visit. But it is also very nice to be back in my own bed! Thanks be to God for safe travel!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI