



## *Heart to Heart*

December 2, 2016 (#264)

**THE NEXT VOLUME (PROPHETS) OF THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE – HERITAGE EDITION** will be welcomed to the Diocese as part of the annual Advent Hymn Festival at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The celebration of scripture and song is NEXT Sunday evening, December 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. - a great way to celebrate this “prophetic” and prayerful season. Not to be missed!

*“I THANK EVERY MISSIONARY OF MERCY FOR THIS VALUABLE SERVICE aimed at rendering effective the grace of forgiveness. This extraordinary ministry does not end with the closing of the Holy Door. I wish it to continue until further notice as a concrete sign that the grace of the Jubilee remains alive and effective the world over.”* So writes Pope Francis in *Misericordia et Misera*, his Apostolic Letter closing the Holy Year of Mercy. We thank our three Missionaries of Mercy for their continued service to the whole Church!

**DOVETAIL IS THE NAME OF THE NEW CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM** being installed at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) over the coming year. It promises to transform how St. Joe's will care for patients, inspire researchers, and elevate the hospital to become a Canadian leader in digital technology! The system is currently in use in the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins. Congratulations to SJHH for this exciting and important healthcare initiative. The future is now!

**THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM CONTINUES** at the Chancery Office this weekend. Dr. John Dool will work with the Year One candidates on Theological Anthropology, and Monsignor Murray Kroetsch will work with the Year Three candidates on Sacramentality. Mass will be celebrated at noon in the Annunciation Chapel. The day ends by joining all the Permanent Deacons and their wives for a seasonal dinner! Sounds like a full and fun agenda!

**ST. ANNE PARISH IN KITCHENER IS OFFERING AN ADVENT RETREAT EVENING** in preparation for Christmas. All are welcome to the December 10<sup>th</sup> grace-filled event which is being facilitated by Marcel Dion of Magnificat Ministries.

**CONFIRMATION WILL BE CELEBRATED** at St. Mary Parish in Brantford and at St. Louis Parish in Waterloo this weekend. We look forward to meeting the candidates who have prepared so carefully for the event! These will be the last Confirmations until we start again in January. Thanks to Pastors, pastoral animators, and teachers for assuring the Confirmandi are so well prepared!

**THE HAMILTON WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** holds its inaugural meeting for the current school year next Tuesday. The year always begins with the celebration of Mass in the Board room – putting the focus where it surely belongs. We promise prayers for ALL of the Trustees of all of the seven Catholic District School Boards present in the Diocese.

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** on December 8<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the death of Bishop Paul F. Reding, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Hamilton (1983). Let us remember him in prayers. December 8<sup>th</sup> is also a special day for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. I will be celebrating with the Oblates at Queen of the Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga. We entrust our ministry to the intercession of Mary Immaculate.

**CHRISTMAS PREPARATION IS UNDERWAY DURING THESE ADVENT DAYS.** The Christmas Crib and colourful decorations are appearing in the Chancery. The Chancery Christmas Mass and luncheon is scheduled to take place this year at Holy Family/Our Lady of Vietnam Parish, thanks to the kind invitation of Father Hanh Van Tran. My mother arrives for a month-long Christmas visit on Monday evening! May the season of waiting also provide you opportunity to reflect on the many ways God *comes to us* each day!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI