



## *Heart to Heart*

December 16, 2016 (#266)

**MR. CHARLIE HOGG HAS RETIRED AFTER 36 YEARS** as carillonneur at the Cathedral Basilica! He was often heard (but not seen) playing the carillon before and after Diocesan liturgical celebrations and special events. To get to the carillon keyboard in the bell tower of the Cathedral takes dexterity and good health. The stairs are steep and a ladder must be managed – while carrying music in a satchel! His Christmas music and program list have been passed to Travis Kantor, who will “let the bells ring out” before Midnight Mass this year. A sincere thank you to both gentlemen! *Vale et Ave!*

**ARCHIVIST TYNE PETROWSKI FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG** referred to the archives of the Diocese of Hamilton as being one of only ten (out of 72) Catholic ecclesiastical corporations in Canada that meet her standards for providing “exemplary praxis for practical active access applications”. The reference was made in the thesis for her Master of Arts degree. She says that we provide clear information about the archives and how to access them, including contact information, online finding aids, and copies of records online. Congratulations to Dominy Williams, hardworking Diocesan Archivist, and her capable team, for the accolade!

**THE SCAFFOLDING SURROUNDING THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA** is slowly coming down. The roof is close to completion. The walls are done. The scaffolding will remain around the bell tower until the finer work is completed next year. And it will remain at the back of the Cathedral to provide access to the roof until the work is done. While we are all suffering from construction fatigue – it is nice to see the finished parts as they are unveiled!

**SALT AND LIGHT TELEVISION WILL TELEVISION THE MIDNIGHT MASS** from the Cathedral Basilica this year. They will make the feed available to CHCH television for their viewers. Thanks to the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton for sponsoring this graced celebration!

**ST. RAPHAEL PARISH IN BURLINGTON** welcomes me for their Sunday Mass this weekend. A reception following the Mass will provide an opportunity to greet parishioners and for all to offer congratulations to their Pastor, Father Frank Wagner, CSC, as he celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination.

**THE 28 SEMINARIANS STUDYING FOR SERVICE IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON** will gather at for their annual Christmas luncheon with Father Michael King on December 28<sup>th</sup>. The men, who are studying at five different seminaries, have few opportunities to get together, so this will be an important time for them to share their stories and get to know one another. We thank them for their commitment, and wish them well in their studies!

**THE MASS FOR CHANCERY AND CATHEDRAL STAFF TAKES PLACE NEXT FRIDAY** at Holy Family Church. It is followed immediately by a dinner in the parish hall. Father Hanh Van Tran, OMI and parishioners have worked hard to ensure things are well-prepared. It is an opportunity to thank all who serve the Diocese for their dedication and generosity, and to offer good wishes for the Christmas season!

**MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SENT CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND GIFTS.** Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated and your generosity is overwhelming! Pastors, please note that my Christmas letter will be sent out early next week. *Heart to Heart* will resume in the New Year! Blessings of joy and peace upon all of you during these holy days!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI