



Heart to Heart

January 27, 2017 (#270)

THE LUNAR NEW YEAR is celebrated in some of our cultural Parishes this weekend. Saturday, January 28th marks the New Year. Vietnamese Martyrs Mission in Waterloo celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish last weekend. This weekend celebrations will take place in our Korean and Vietnamese communities in Hamilton and Kitchener. We offer our congratulations and good wishes to the Asian Priests and parishioners in our Diocese who mark the beginning of the *Year of the Rooster!*

FATHER TED SLAMAN RETURNED FROM A CHRISTMAS MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE in Coral Harbour in the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay. In a two-page report about his time in the North, Father writes: *"I was glad to discover there would still be about four hours of daylight, plus the time of dusk, knowing that I would not appreciate being in darkness the whole day! ... Midnight Mass was at 11:00 p.m. (attended by about 80 people), then Christmas Day Mass at 11:00 a.m. (attended by 10 people). ... Mass was in Inuktituk and English, since I speak no Inuit language. Hymns were all in Inuktituk. ... Food pricing at the two stores was approximately two and a half times the prices in Hamilton. ... I was amazed that this community of 850 people, though there are no other communities reachable by road, still had probably 100 pick-up trucks and other vehicles on the streets ... including many skidoos and ATV's. ... I thank the Lord for giving me this opportunity to be there with them, even if only for 13 days."*

BISHOP ANTHONY KROTKI, OMI, BISHOP OF CHURCHILL-HUDSON BAY, is visiting the Diocese of Hamilton next Monday to discuss ways the two Dioceses might work together. Bishop Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines will join the meeting in the morning. In a recent CCCB report, it was proposed that the Dioceses of Hamilton and St. Catharines find ways and means of supporting this Northern Diocese. In the afternoon, Directors of our Pastoral Offices will meet with the Bishop to consider ways we might collaborate, including providing catechetical programs. We welcome Bishop Krotki, and pray for a fruitful partnership.

A MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE RECENT CANONIZATION of *St. Alfonso Maria Fusco*, Founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, is scheduled to take place at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish in Hamilton, on Saturday, February 11th, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Friends of the Sisters and parishioners are invited to pray with us for God's blessing on the mission and ministry of the Community, here in Hamilton and wherever they serve! St. Alfonso Maria Fusco, pray for us!

FEBRUARY 11TH IS ALSO THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, declared by St. Pope John Paul II. It is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Healer! The Chaplaincy of the St. Joseph's Health System plans to distribute a beautiful prayer card to every patient in their hospitals on the lunch tray that day. The prayer calls upon the Healing Spirit of Jesus to be present to those whose lives are marked by loss or sickness. A wonderful initiative! On February 11th, let us remember to pray for all those who are sick or in any distress!

THE LEGION OF MARY IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON has submitted its annual report on the activities of their members throughout the Diocese in 2016. Whether prison ministry, the school apostolate, hospital visits, door-to-door home visits, nursing home visits, or catechetical preparation, and prayer, the members in the Legion of Mary have touched many lives! We offer our thanks and our good wishes for the organization for 2017.

THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE prepares its Share Lent launch by informing interested parishioners in every Deanery about this year's theme: *Women at the Heart of Change*. It was launched in the Wellington Deanery on Wednesday night at Holy Rosary Parish, Guelph. It will be launched for the Brant Deanery, at St. Pius X Parish, Brantford on January 28th; for Bruce-Grey Deanery at Sacred Heart Parish, Walkerton on January 30th; for Hamilton Deanery on January 31st, at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish; for Halton Deanery at St. Michael Parish, Oakville, on February 6th; and for Waterloo Deanery at St. John Parish, Kitchener on February 8th. All sessions begin at 7 p.m. It is an excellent way to prepare for the Lenten journey.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI