



Heart to Heart

February 3, 2017 (#271)

THE WEARING OF THE GREEN is an annual luncheon on St. Patrick's Day at Michelangelo Events and Conference Centre in Hamilton, during which the "*Irish Person of the Year*" is honoured. This year, St. Patrick Parish, Hamilton and Father Tony O'Dell, OMI, were unanimously chosen not only because of the past history of the Parish, but in particular for the more recent Outreach Program undertaken by the Parish. This is the 32nd year of the luncheon. We understand that Bishop Joseph Ryan was the first honoree. Obviously, then, the prestigious honour has a rich history. Congratulations!

THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE named a new Executive Director earlier this week. The CCOOP National Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Serge Langlois to the leadership position in Montreal on January 28th. Mr. Langlois was Vice President of the International Diabetes Federation since 2015, having served on its Board of Directors since 2013. From 1995 to 2015, he was President and CEO of Diabetes Quebec. "*On the strength of the support of the Catholic Church in Canada for the past 50 years, we will continue to offer a voice to the poorest and most vulnerable populations in order to respond to the social inequalities and injustices in the world,*" said Mr. Langlois. Over the past 50 years, Development and Peace has invested \$600 million in more than 15,000 projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. He began his new duties on Wednesday. We offer our good wishes.

THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE takes place in Ottawa on Thursday, May 11, 2017. It is the 20th Anniversary of the March. This year's theme is *LIFE: WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE*. The organizers believe that the theme will capture the attention of Canadians who are celebrating 150 years of confederation. The events begin on Wednesday evening, May 10th, with a pro-life Mass followed by a candle-light procession and vigil at the Human Rights Monument. On Thursday morning there are four Masses, two English, one French, and one bilingual. In the evening the Rose Dinner and Youth Banquet take place at the Hampton Inn. A Youth Conference takes place on Friday, May 12th, where over 1000 young people gather for a day of education and activism. May Canada be a sanctuary for all human life!

THE FORMATION PROGRAM FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE continues on Saturday. Deacon Peter Gittens will present to the Year 1 candidates an Introduction to Scripture. Mrs. Teresa Hartnett, Director of the Family Ministry Office will present to the Year 3 candidates on Pastoral Theology: Marriage. Father Dennis Noon, Rector of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, will preside at the noon Mass in the Annunciation Chapel at the Chancery. We pray for all of our Deacons and those in the process of formation!

EVENING PRAYER AND THE WELCOMING of the third volume of the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible – *Revelation and Letters*, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on February 26, 2017, beginning at 7 p.m. Thomas Cardinal Collins will speak on the Book of Revelation, the topic of his Doctoral Thesis. He is considered to be an expert in the Book! It is a "not to be missed" event. Mark your calendar!

THE NEW PRELATE FOR OPUS DEI was appointed by Pope Francis at an Elective Congress in Rome. The new Prelate is Msgr. Fernando Ocariz, who was born in Paris in 1944. He was the closest collaborator of Bishop Javier Echevarria from 1994 until the Prelate's death last December 12th. We offer our prayers for blessing on his ministry!

THE DIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD meets today to consider possible personnel appointments for Priests who serve throughout the Diocese. It is always a "Spirit led" process that affects the lives of many of our Priests each year. Please pray that God's will be done!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI