



**THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL COTEAU**, the new Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism, visited the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CCASH) yesterday afternoon. The visit provided an opportunity for him to hear from staff about the good work and innovations of CCASH for the benefit of children in their care. His message reassured the Board and staff that the recently-introduced legislation did not threaten the organization, but rather placed the child at the center of decision-making about care. The highlight of the visit was a meeting with members of the Youth Advisory Group, who spoke clearly and ardently about their experience of being in the care of CCASH. His visit left the Board, the staff, and the young people feeling encouraged and inspired.

**TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES**, is World Day of the Sick. In his special message for the day, Pope Francis reminds us that *"the sick and those who are disabled, even severely, have their own inalienable dignity and mission in life."* Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethical Institute writes, *"The chronically sick, the frail elderly and people with disabilities often inspire us not only by demonstrating acceptance and fortitude in bearing their hardship and suffering, but often by witnessing to joy and optimism through their faith-filled approach to life."* We pray for the sick, for all health care workers, in particular for those who work for our own St. Joseph's Health System, and for the many family members who also sacrifice by giving of themselves for a loved one!

**FATHER MICHAEL MYRONIUK HAS MOVED TO ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA**, just down the corridor from Father Mike Sullivan. There he will receive the extra attention he requires because of his current health challenges. We are grateful for the care that our Priests receive at the Villa and for the opportunities they have for pastoral care as well. Please pray for Father Mike and all our Priests who are ill.

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TOMORROW** for Our Lady of Lourdes and Corpus Christi Parishes in Hamilton, to determine the openness of parishioners to a proposal to bring together the two Parishes into one new Parish with a new church in a new location. The consultation began late last year, providing time for people to express their comments and concerns in writing, and concludes with tomorrow's Town Hall meetings. Decisions will be made following the meetings.

**THE SISTERS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, THEIR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS**, will celebrate the recent canonization of their Founder, Saint Alphonso Maria Fusco, at a special Mass tomorrow morning at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish in Hamilton, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Pope Francis approved his canonization last April 26<sup>th</sup>, and celebrated the event on October 16, 2016. The Mass of Thanksgiving is open to all. We pray for the Sisters who continue their good work in the Diocese, that God will bless them and all those in their care!

**CHRISM MASS INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN MAILED** to all Priests, Deacons and Seminarians in the Diocese of Hamilton. The invitation for the April 10, 2017 Chrism Mass includes an invitation to the dinner before Mass. As you well know, the seating capacity for the dinner, which takes place in McNally Hall, is limited, so it is important that you respond to the invitation in a timely way. The written invitation requires a written response. Thank you for your attention to this request.

**TO MARK WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**, St. Raphael Parish, Burlington, will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick for parishioners following the Sunday morning Masses. I will join them for the event. We pray especially for the sick at this time and throughout the year. May the Lord be our strength and our joy!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI