

Heart to Heart

May 12, 2017 (#285)

TOMORROW IS THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITION OF OUR LADY at Fatima, Portugal. Forty pilgrims from the Diocese, led by Father Wayne Lobsinger, will be in Fatima for the celebrations with Pope Francis and hundreds of thousands of the faithful! Father Heitor Antunes, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Hamilton, has organized a major festive celebration beginning with Mass at 8:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. there will be performances in front of the parish hall. Following Mass, the Chapel will be dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. Finally, there will be a candlelight procession around the church, concluding with a farewell hymn of praise to Mary. All are welcome.

MR. GLENN SCHNURR, FATHER OF SEMINARIAN JOHN SCHNURR, is undergoing delicate brain surgery today to remove a tumour discovered late last week. The 8-hour procedure is underway right now. Prayers are needed – and have been promised – for Glenn, for the surgeons and nurses, and for John and the family.

BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM is the 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient!!! The award is given by the students, staff and trustees of the Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools. It will be presented on Tuesday, May 30th, at Resurrection Secondary School. Loretta Notten, Director of Education for the WCDSB offered her good wishes: *It is always gratifying for us to see our graduates accomplish great things, but in the case of Bishop Miehm's appointment as Bishop of Peterborough, it is even more gratifying since our schools have had the opportunity to benefit directly and in so many ways from his vocation and his ministry! A well-deserved recognition!*

THE OFFICES FOR YOUTH MINISTRY AND VOCATIONS welcome young people aged 16-29 to share their input on faith and the experience of being a young person in the Church at *Evenings of Prayer and Conversation*, facilitated by Sister Margaret Kane, CSJ. The initiative is in preparation for the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will take place in October 2018. The theme for the Synod is, *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. More information is available on our web-site.

REGISTRATIONS FOR OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY, scheduled for June 3rd, will close next week! It will give time to assure adequate final preparation for the event, including food services, etc. It promises to be a great day of friendship, prayer, and learning! Not to be missed!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH who celebrate Jubilees tomorrow! The community, friends and families will gather at St. Joseph Convent, Dundas to honour Sister Audrey Burns (70 years) and Sisters Marion Downer, Marjorie Masterson, and Anne Anderson (60 years). *Ad multos annos!*

THE FIRST LIVE-STREAMED KIDNEY TRANSPLANT IN CANADA took place at our own St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton on Wednesday! It was done to raise awareness about kidney disease and the importance of organ donation. Mr. Bhargav Turaga's kidney transplant surgery was described by surgeon Dr. Anil Kapoor as a "ten out of ten!" Almost 3000 people from around the world wrote messages of emotional support and gratitude. We add our prayers for a speedy recovery!

THE INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION (ICE) is planning a province wide Symposium on Catholic Education in November 2017. The Symposium will focus on the theme of *Renewing the Promise: Exploring the Critical Role of Catholic Education in Contemporary Society*. Each Catholic School Board has been encouraged to undertake a process of consultation and engagement with parents, students, educators, Pastors and parishioners to gather information from across Ontario about contemporary issues in Catholic Education. An online tool is available by clicking on the Renewing the Promise link. Because Pastors have a very special role to play in the success of Catholic Education, I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to be a part of this very important consultation which will only take a few minutes of your time.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

Ex corde, + Douglas, OMI