



Heart to Heart

June 30, 2017 (#292)

AUGUST IS A MONTH OF ONLINE REFLECTION, PRAYER AND LEARNING for youth ministers in the Diocese, all in view of next year's ministry. Christina Mines, from our Youth Office, invites anyone who ministers to young people (teachers, chaplaincy leaders, pastors, youth ministers, parents, etc.) to participate in "[Kickstart 30](#)". Participants register by email and once each day throughout the month of August they will receive an email with a reflection to think and pray about – providing spiritual and professional nourishment in the summer. Consider signing up!

PREPARATION FOR THE 2018 SYNOD ON YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT is going very well in the Diocese. Through online surveys, in person conversations, and paper surveys, over 600 young people from across the Diocese have responded to the Synod questionnaire! We hope to have over 750 responses by the time of submission to Rome at the end of October. Check out the [online surveys](#) on the Diocesan website. Have your say!

WELCOME TO BISHOP GERALD WIESNER, OMI, who is preaching a retreat to the Sisters of the Precious Blood at their convent in Dundas. Bishop Wiesner is the Emeritus Bishop of Prince George, B.C., and lives with his Oblate brothers in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In retirement, he preaches many retreats for Priests and Religious Sisters. We welcome him to the Diocese of Hamilton!

PRIESTS ARE REMINDED that the brief prayer on the prayer cards for parishioners contains the last two paragraphs of the *Prayer of Consecration of Canada* to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Parishioners are invited to pray the last two paragraphs along with the Priest leading the prayer. PLEASE NOTE that there is a slight change in the people's prayer – a line was moved. PRESIDING PRIESTS are advised to pray the last two paragraphs of the consecratory prayer using the SMALL prayer card. Then everyone will be praying the same words. Forewarned!

THE BVOR REFUGEE PROGRAM continues to work well in the Diocese! St. Agatha Parish welcomed to Canada part of the Syrian family they are sponsoring. One brother has arrived safely; the other brother and his family await visas from the Canadian High Commission in Lebanon. Three families that arrived in 2017 are now pregnant and joyfully awaiting new children who will live peacefully and safely in Canada! On Wednesday, St. Patrick's Refugee Committee, Burlington, telephoned their Eritrean mother of four at a refugee camp called Mai Aini in northern Ethiopia, where they have lived for 8 years! All good news and new life for people who long to call somewhere "home"!

ST. TERESA PARISH IN ELMIRA is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Church on Sunday, July 2nd. As part of the celebration, new Stations of the Cross will be blessed. And Father David Lewis will mark his 30th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. We offer our congratulations to Father and to the entire Parish!

FATHER CHRIS RUSHTON, OMI, HAS MOVED to the renovated Emmanuel Hospice which is under the care and direction of the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God and the Good Shepherd Centres. The building, which underwent a year-long renovation to assure that everything is up to code, is now receiving people requiring hospice care. The move was long-awaited by current residents and was accomplished smoothly and without incident. We hold all the residents in our prayers!

HEART TO HEART TAKES A SUMMER BREAK and will return after the Labour Day holiday! If there is enough happening, we may publish in the summer. May the summer months be good to you!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI