



**THE BISHOPS OF CANADA WILL CONSECRATE CANADA** to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at a ceremony at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica in Ottawa next Tuesday, the Feast of the Holy Canadian Martyrs, following a Mass at which the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace will be marked. The prayer will be led by three Canadian Cardinals: Cardinal Gerald Cyprien Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, and Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect for the Congregation of Bishops. Archbishop Terrance Prendergast, Archbishop of Ottawa will preside at the Mass. Earlier this year, on Canada Day weekend, Bishops and Priests across the country prayed the Prayer of Consecration with their parishioners. The annual Plenary meeting of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in Cornwall, which begins on Monday, provides a perfect occasion for the Bishops to pray the prayer together!

**WORKSHOPS ON THE REVISED VOLUNTEER SCREENING MANUAL** have been scheduled throughout the Diocese in the coming weeks. Letters have been sent to Pastors informing them of the dates. Mr. John O'Brien, Episcopal Delegate for Cemeteries and Insurance, and Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, Vicar General and Chancellor, will lead the workshops. All Pastors and Parish Screening Coordinators are expected to attend one of the sessions – there are several options. Our sincere thanks to Mr. David Dayler who has coordinated the program over the past number of years!

**THE CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (C.Y.O.)** held their Annual General Meeting this past week. It is always an impressive and moving event. Joanne Guarasci, President of the Board of Directors chaired the official part of the meeting in an impressive way. Camp Brebeuf, Camp Marydale and hundreds of sports programs in Catholic schools are the heart of their year-round service, all focused on giving young people the opportunity to have fun! In 2016-2017 there were 3,762 campers, including 259 one-to-ones (children with special challenges who get the opportunity to participate in the programs too). Congratulations to John Spatazzo and his great team for another successful year!

**THE WEATHER COOPERATED** for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Celebration of Catholic Education sponsored this year by the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board. Sacred Heart Church grounds in Walkerton were prepared to welcome the many representatives from the seven Catholic Boards and from St. Jerome's University. Mr. Dan Moynihan gave a stirring presentation about the value of a lived faith, sharing many personal stories. Thanks to Board Director Jamie MacKinnon and Amy Kieffer, Consultant for Family Life and Catholic Education, who organized the event – a sublime evening in every respect! Thank you.

**THE 2017 ALL STAR AWARDS GALA** organized by James Montague of St. Matthew Parish, Oakville, takes place tomorrow night at the Holiday Inn in Oakville. The Gala recognizes the courage and the successes of people who have faced and gone beyond their challenges to better the lives of many they know. Congratulations to James for organizing such a remarkable evening – and to all the worthy recipients!

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CCCB PLENARY MEETING NEXT FRIDAY**, I will have completed my two year term as President of the Conference. It has been a wonderful – and demanding – experience. I am grateful for the opportunity. Bishop Lionel Gendron, Bishop of St. Jean-Longueuil, current Vice-President, will assume the duties of President at the drop of the gavel at the conclusion of the meeting. Thank you for your support over the past two years!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI