



Heart to Heart

December 1, 2017 (#305)

“OH HOLY MARY”, is the title of this year’s *Advent Hymn Festival*. It takes place NEXT Sunday evening, December 10th, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The Diocesan Choir and the Spanish Choir from St. Michael Parish, Oakville, will be featured. Not to be missed.

FORMATION CONTINUES FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE and their wives this weekend. The Year Four candidates will study the Church’s funeral rites tonight, with Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, Chancellor. Throughout the day on Saturday, both Year Two and Year Four candidates will study Christology with Father David Perrin, Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at St. Jerome’s University. Father Adrian Lee, Diocesan Judicial Vicar, will preside the Mass. Deacon Trevor Klein will present on “Portage Elora”, a drug rehabilitation program for Ontario youth. We pray for these candidates and thank them for their commitment to the program.

THE HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD holds their annual *Faith Day* today at the First Ontario Centre. His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins and Lieutenant-General, The Honourable Roméo Dallaire are keynote speakers during the day. Sounds like an interesting program! We wish them well.

ALL THE 2017-2018 CONFIRMATIONS IN MILTON will be done by tomorrow afternoon. Holy Rosary Parish celebrated with two groups last Saturday, and will celebrate with the remaining two groups tomorrow. St. Benedict Parish celebrated with two groups the previous Saturday, and four groups each night this week. The candidates were all well prepared. Thanks to the Grade 7 teachers, Parish Catechists, and Parish Priests!

REMEMBER THE HEALING MASS FOR PARENTS who have lost children before or after birth. This can be a difficult time of year for those who grieve the loss of a child. Sunday’s 4 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica is an opportunity to pray with parents and for the children. May it be an experience of healing and peace!

FATHER SAM RESTIVO is all ready for the Advent Prayer Day for Priests. Over 60 Priests have indicated their intention to attend the day at the Cathedral Basilica. Over 40 will attend at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo. The Advent Prayer Day begins at 10 a.m. in both places: the Cathedral on Tuesday, and Our Lady of Lourdes on Wednesday. See you there!

THE INAUGURAL MEETING for the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board takes place next Tuesday evening. This marks a new year of meetings for the Board. Elections are held for the Chair and Vice-Chair, and appointments for Board Committees are approved. This is the final “inaugural meeting” for the current Board. Elections will be held next Fall. May the work of all the Catholic Boards serving the Diocese of Hamilton be blessed!

DECORATING BEGINS MONDAY AT THE CHANCERY in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Thanks to those who “lean in” to do the “heavy lifting”! It is always a beautiful transition. Advent is not long this year – just over three weeks. We wait “in joyful hope!”

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI