



Heart to Heart

December 8, 2017 (#306)

THE HERITAGE EDITION OF THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE will be featured during Handel's Messiah tomorrow evening at the Centre in the Square in Kitchener. As the orchestra and choir present Handel's sublime music, many of the illustrations from The Saint John's Bible will be dramatically displayed in the theatre AND outside! The collaboration of St. Jerome's University, the Grand Philharmonic Choir of Kitchener/Waterloo, and the Waterloo Critical Media Lab has also included the involvement of personnel in the Bishop Farrell Library and Archives. This promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

WELCOME TO BISHOP JONAS IVANAUSKAS AND BISHOP LINAS VADOPJANOVAS from Lithuania, who are visiting Father Paulius Rudinkas, OP, and parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Hamilton, and celebrating the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass there. The two Bishops are also visiting Lithuanian Parishes in Toronto and Mississauga. We wish them a joyful visit and safe travel!

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH, WATERLOO, is celebrating its 65th Anniversary at the 11:00 a.m. Mass this Sunday, December 10th. Congratulation to Father Rafal Tomon, Parish Administrator, staff, and parishioners on this significant anniversary – we offer a *Te Deum* in thanksgiving for vibrant years of service!

PASTORS AND PARISHES PREPARING FOR THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER for Christian Unity 2018, are encouraged to visit the [website](#) of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The materials include an introduction to the theme, an ecumenical worship service, a selection of readings and reflections for the eight days of the Octave of Prayer. A helpful resource!

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS, in collaboration with a Muslim Production Company, have produced a film about St. Francis of Assisi's pilgrimage of peace to the Muslims in the midst of the Crusades. It is a strong statement for peace and understanding between Christians and Muslims. *The Sultan and the Saint* will be broadcast on PBS, Tuesday, December 26, 2017, at 8:00 p.m. The film tells the story of St. Francis and Sultan Al-Kamil of Egypt, using both Christian and Muslim sources. A learning opportunity! Pastors are encouraged to include this notice in Parish bulletins.

THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE HAMILTON will celebrate a Christmas dinner together next Friday evening, December 15th, in Burlington. It will provide an opportunity to thank each of them for their valuable part in making our diocesan cemeteries and mausoleums such beautiful places where families can visit and pray for deceased loved ones.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRIES IS CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND at the Hamilton Convention Centre on Sunday afternoon, December 17th. Well over 3,000 guests are expected to come for the annual event. Hot turkey dinners are served by a bevy of volunteers, and gifts are given to the guests. It is always well planned and well executed. Thanks to everyone who makes the magic happen!

REMEMBER OUR DIOCESAN ADVENT HYMN FESTIVAL – OH HOLY MARY, which takes place at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday evening, beginning at 7:00 p.m. It is a unique opportunity to enjoy beautiful hymns, to join in singing, and to listen to God's holy Word, as we prepare for the fast approaching Christmas season. It is a perfect way to "prepare the way of the Lord" as St. John the Baptist cries!

TODAY IS THE 34th ANNIVERSARY of the death of Bishop Paul Reding, 7th Bishop of Hamilton. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace!*

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI