



## *Heart to Heart*

December 15, 2017 (#307)

**CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON** at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Good Shepherd Ministries, sponsored by the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God, supported by hundreds of volunteers, will serve a festive turkey dinner with all the trimmings to about 3,000 excited guests. All will receive a special gift. It is a fine way to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ!

**OUR OFFICE FOR REFUGEES** and the volunteer team from Regina Mundi Parish, Hamilton, successfully telephoned the Burmese family they will soon be welcoming to Canada from a refugee camp in Thailand. The single mother and her three children are expected to arrive at Pearson Airport next week just in time for Christmas. Father Adam Voisin and his sponsorship committee are well prepared and we wish the entire parish well on the special journey that lies ahead!

**FATHER JASON KUNTZ**, Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Oakville, has just notified us that Deacon Alberto Figueredo Galvis died this morning at his home in Burlington, following a lengthy illness. Father Kuntz had visited him yesterday afternoon, brought him Communion, and thanked him for his service to the Parish. May he rest in peace! Details of his funeral will be communicated once completed.

**THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** had its first meeting this week in view of the clergy personnel appointments for 2018. The Deans of our six Deaneries were present for this first meeting and provided an overview of their territories and personnel. The committee will continue its meeting in the New Year.

**MR. FRANK CAPELLI, DIRECTOR OF OUR MISSION COOPERATIVE PLAN**, has notified us that for the past 53 years, since 1964, over \$10M has been collected for missionary projects and programs. Mr. Cappelli offers sincere gratitude to Pastors who have supported the plan and to parishioners who have donated so generously to the good works!

**ST. JEAN DE BREBEUF HIGH SCHOOL** was the venue for this month's meeting of the Student Council Presidents' Council for the seven Catholic Secondary Schools in Hamilton. The lively meeting gives the Council Presidents the opportunity to report on school activities, share creative ideas, and plan for united efforts in the city. The multi-cultural nature of our schools was noted; St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School has students who have come from 48 countries!

**MONSIGNOR MURRAY KROETSCH AND FATHER LOURDY DORISMOND, OMI**, travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in early January to represent the Diocese of Hamilton at the January 6<sup>th</sup> Installation of their new Archbishop, the Most Reverend Max Leroy Mesidor. We have a special relationship with the Archdiocese, providing support for the seminary formation. May God bless the ministry of the new Archbishop!

**FATHER JEFF OEHRING WILL BE FORMALLY INSTALLED AS PASTOR** of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Hamilton at the 12 noon Mass on Sunday. Several new Pastors have requested the liturgical installation which highlights the facets of priestly ministry undertaken by Pastors. We wish him well in his service!

*"WE SETTLE IN FOR ANOTHER CHRISTMAS SEASON. Christmas is always a blessing, a time for giving thanks – especially for the Father's gift to us: Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us – even though many struggle at this time of year."* So begins this year's Christmas letter to the Diocese. It has been sent to all Parishes and will be published on our Diocesan website next week!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI