



Heart to Heart

February 2, 2018 (#313)

TODAY, THE CHURCH OBSERVES THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for Consecrated Life. We are united in prayer for all Consecrated Religious men and women who bear witness to Christ in our world by their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and thank God for their faithful witness in the Diocese of Hamilton.

THE COALITION FOR HEALTHCARE AND CONSCIENCE in its *Call for Conscience Campaign* is encouraging people to contact their Provincial politicians to ask for strong conscience protection in the current legislation for all Health Care Professionals: that they should not be asked to make referrals that violate their own moral convictions, nor should long term care facilities be mandated to allow assisted death on their premises. You are invited to read the bulletin announcement of February 4th and 11th, and take the time to write to your local MPP, the Minister of Health and the Premier about this important issue. Should you wish to see them, sample letters are being made available at the Parishes on these Sundays. Go to the Coalition's web site (www.canadiansforconscience.ca/provinces) to use their system to determine the people to whom you should send your letter and for further information.

WE OFFER OUR SYMPATHY TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION on the death of Father Bill LaFlamme, C.R., on Tuesday, January 30th. Visitation and prayers are tonight at Resurrection College, St. Eugene's Chapel, Waterloo, followed by a funeral Mass tomorrow morning at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Kitchener, beginning at 11:00 a.m. May he obtain the reward promised to good and faithful servants!

PLEASE PRAY FOR FATHER ANTHONY CIAVARRO, who suffered a major stroke and is at Joseph Brant Hospital, Burlington. His housekeeper found him when she arrived for work on Monday morning; there is no idea how long prior to her arrival Father had suffered the stroke. Thank you for your prayers.

DON SHILTON, PRESIDENT OF ST. MARY'S GENERAL HOSPITAL, KITCHENER, will retire on June 30th, Dr. Kevin Smith, Chief Executive Officer of the St. Joseph's Health System, announced this week. Mr. Shilton has held the position since 2010, serving as Vice-President, Patient Services and as administrative leader for the Cardiac Program prior to that. During those years the hospital's Board of Trustees adopted a bold Vision that St. Mary's be the safest and most effective hospital in Canada, characterized by innovation, compassion and respect. We offer our good wishes for his retirement.

WELCOME TO FATHER ARTUR GERINGER, S.A.C., who arrived just prior to Christmas to serve the Diocese, following studies in Rome. Currently, Father is residing with Father Martin Mikulski, S.A.C., at St. Clement Parish, St. Clements. He will be helping out here and there until he receives a more stable appointment.

"REFLECTIONS" IS THE TITLE OF THE NEWSLETTER from our Diocesan Vocations Office. This [issue](#) features a message from Father Michael King, Vocation Director, and reflections from 24 of our 25 Seminarians. William Meehan, the 25th, spent the time following Christmas, serving at The Working Centre in Kitchener. He returns to the Royal English College of St. Alban in Valladolid, Spain, to complete his "Spiritual Year" of preparation before he begins his theological studies. We pray for all of our Seminarians.

NATALIE CROSBY (MOTHER) ARRIVES NEXT WEEK for a winter vacation at Ardree! She did not visit over Christmas, so she will join me for the *Bishop's Charities Dinner Dance* next weekend in Hamilton and stay for two weeks. We welcome her warmly and pray for safe travel from Ottawa.

THE DIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD MEETS NEXT WEEK to study clergy appointments for the coming year. Please pray that we are Spirit-led.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI