



## *Heart to Heart*

February 23, 2018 (#316)

**OVER 150 CATECHUMENS** presented themselves at the two Rites of Election that took place on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, and on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. Supported by their Sponsors they came forward to sign the Book of the Elect as a preparation to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Many of their Parish Priests and members of the Parish RCIA Teams were also present. The ceremonies were moving and joyful. We pray for The Elect, and for those who will be received into Full Communion during the Easter Vigil liturgy!

**OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE *EX CORDE* FOUNDATION** has granted about \$4.3 Million to Parishes and Catholic services throughout the Diocese and in Canada. Grants support a wide variety of projects and programs that assist in creating vibrant faith communities and promote the work of evangelization – the proclamation of the Gospel. Thanks to the Directors of the *Ex Corde* Foundation for your dedication and discernment! Well done!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DIOCESAN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. The entire Diocesan staff will be participating in a professional development program facilitated by *Catholic Leadership Institute* (the same organization that offers Good Leaders Good Shepherds). The time will focus on the DISC Leadership Profile – an opportunity to learn about personal strengths and opportunities for growth. Please pray for us. The offices will be open again on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**19 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE** complete a 5-day Silent Ignatian Retreat today at the Jesuit Retreat Centre in Guelph. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual such retreat, held over the second semester reading week. The number of participants grows each year. The experience of silence and prayer during this time is a powerful witness to the longing of young hearts to encounter Christ in their lives. Thanks to Sr. Mary McIntyre, CSJ, Sr. Kathleen O’Keefe, CSJ, Deacon Joseph DiLoreto, and Father Bradley Markus for leading the students during this time of prayer. Now, back to the books!

**BISHOP MICHAEL BIRD** and his wife Susan will be guests for dinner at Ardree next Monday evening. Bishop Bird has tendered his resignation as Anglican Bishop of Niagara effective June 1, 2018. His successor will be elected in the coming weeks. His visit provides an opportunity to offer thanks for his many kindnesses to me and to the Diocese of Hamilton over the years of his service.

**THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE MASS IN GUELPH** takes place next Tuesday evening at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate. *40 Days for Life* is an opportunity to pray peacefully and respectfully for an end to abortion and for those who have made this choice. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m.

**THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL** meets next Tuesday for their monthly meeting. The meeting provides an opportunity to study financial and administrative trends in the Diocese and to provide professional recommendations concerning investments, income and expenditures.

**MOTHER CROSBY RETURNS TO OTTAWA ON SUNDAY** following a relaxing visit at Ardree. Being an ardent sports fan, she was the main cheerleader for Canadian Olympic hopefuls at Peong Chang, Korea. Thanks to all who made her stay pleasant and restful!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI