



Heart to Heart

March 2, 2018 (#317)

A WARM WELCOME TO GERALD CYPRIEN CARDINAL LACROIX who will confer Papal Honours on five of our Priests and eleven Lay Faithful during a liturgical service on Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Because he is Archbishop of Quebec, the first Diocese in North America, he also carries the title of Primate of Canada. Cardinal Lacroix arrives at Ardree tomorrow and will leave on Sunday, following the celebration, to join the other Bishops of Quebec at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, for their Spring Plenary meeting.

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO FATHER LUC PAYETTE on the death of his mother, Madeleine, in Quebec on Tuesday, February 27th. We received notice of her death yesterday. We pray for her repose and for consolation for Father Luc and for the family!

THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (HAMILTON) agreed to write the Prime Minister about the requirement to sign an attestation that hiring groups support reproductive rights, which include abortions, when applying for funding through the *Canada Summer Jobs* program. “It is not an attestation that our member organizations can or should have to support,” the letter states. “We urge your government not to discriminate against us based on our religious beliefs.” The attestation affects several member organizations who seek government support when hiring summer workers. The letter was copied to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, as well as Hamilton area Members of Parliament.

THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF THE SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE published a lengthy article on *How the Diocese of Hamilton Created Unique Experiences to Connect with its Community*. It is an informative read about the growing interest in The Saint John’s Bible – but also in the Word of God. Check out the article [here](#).

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO meet in Plenary from Monday to Wednesday of next week. Under the Chairmanship of Bishop Ronald Fabbro, CSB, the Bishops meet in the Spring and Fall to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern. Pray that our deliberations will be guided by the Holy Spirit!

THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND IN OTTAWA has sent materials to all Parishes to promote the annual Pontifical Collection in support of the Holy Land. This collection is taken up in all our Parishes on Good Friday each year (this year on March 30th). “A donation in response to the annual appeal of Pope Francis is a direct way of changing the lives of those caught in the grips of war, violence and the instability in this region,” says Father Gilles Bourdeau, ofm, Commissary of the Holy Land. Parishioners are invited to be generous. “*Let us work for the good of all*” is this year’s theme!

DOUGLAS CARDINAL, ARCHITECT, is tonight’s speaker for the St. Jerome’s *Lectures in Catholic Experience* series. His theme: *Organic Architecture and the Indigenous Worldview*. His architecture springs from his observation of Nature and its understanding that everything works seamlessly together. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

VISITS TO THE SEMINARIES BEGIN THE WEEK OF MARCH 12th. Father Michael King, Director of Vocations and Director of Formation for the Diocese, and I travel first to St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto and subsequently to St. Peter’s Seminary in London. We will receive the reports from Seminary staff about our Seminarians, and meet with them individually to discuss future directions. We are blessed with a goodly number of Seminarians. Please pray for them and for vocations to the Priesthood.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI