



Heart to Heart

March 16, 2018 (#319)

GATHERED INTO ONE is the title of the Diocesan Pastoral Letter that will be distributed to all Priests, Deacons, Lay Pastoral Associates, and Parish liturgy personnel, including Choir Directors and Choir members following the Chrism Mass. It will also be published on our Diocesan website. As a liturgical instruction for the Diocese of Hamilton, it provides directions to assure that the Sacred Liturgy is celebrated with integrity and unity throughout the Diocese. The letter will clarify Diocesan practice and respond to frequently asked questions. It strives to assure the “full, conscious and active participation” of all who celebrate Mass on Sundays and Solemnities.

THE CHRISM MASS will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Monday, March 26th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. It is the Mass at which Priests renew their priestly commitment to serve the Diocese in union with the Bishop, and at which the Sacred Oils to be used in the celebration of the Sacraments in the coming year are blessed, and the Sacred Chrism is consecrated. Parishioners from across the Diocese are encouraged to join with us for this celebration at which the fullness of the diocesan church is present.

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM continues this weekend. On Friday evening, Monsignor Murray Kroetsch will present to the candidates preparing for ordination in June on the *Easter Triduum*. On Saturday, Deacon Peter Gittens will present on *Ecclesiology: Christocentric and Ecclesiotypical Mariology*. Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at noon for all participants. We pray for those men preparing for diaconal service in the Diocese, and for their wives.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY is celebrated on Wednesday, March 21st. Often the beauty and value of children and adults with Down Syndrome is not recognized and acknowledged, so on Wednesday let us celebrate how wonderful they are! Since life is joyous for them, they have an extraordinary ability to make others smile and laugh; they are truly able to love unconditionally! May we do the same for them!

FATHER JEROME MASCARENHAS, OCD, Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Kitchener, left for India yesterday to support his ailing mother, who unfortunately died this morning before his arrival. We offer our sympathy to Fr. Jerome and his family and assure him of our prayers for the repose of his mother, Carmin Veigas, who died at the age of 91.

MONSIGNOR RAYMOND MODESKI, Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Burlington, has invited me to preach a Lenten Parish Mission. It will include preaching at all weekend Masses, and talks on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evening. Pray that the Mission will be a blessing for parishioners!

FATHER MICHAEL KING, Vocation and Formation Director for the Diocese, and I are meeting the Rector and staff of *St. Peter's Seminary* today, and are receiving the evaluations of our Seminarians who are studying there. It is always a blessed experience! Following the day-long session, the Seminarians will join us for dinner, a good way to finish the day! Next Friday, we will meet each Seminarian to review the evaluations and determine future directions. Pray for our Seminarians – they are men of prayer and study!

ON MONDAY, ST. JOSEPH HEALTHCARE HAMILTON is dedicating a statue of St. Joseph at the West 5th Campus of the hospital. It will be a clear sign of the Catholic mission, vision and values of the hospital, and a reminder of the legacy that the Sisters of St. Joseph have provided to the City of Hamilton. The Health System is a ministry of the Diocese of Hamilton, which assures fidelity to the Catholic mission. We pray for the thousands of people who are served by the Health System every day!

St. Joseph, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI