



Heart to Heart

March 23, 2018 (#320)

THE BLESSING OF THE STATUE OF ST. JOSEPH at the West 5th Campus of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton took place on a chilly Monday morning, the Feast of St. Joseph. Representatives from the Spiritual Care Department of the Hospital, as well as Hospital and System Staff, were present. A video showing the raising and placement of the statue was shown. You can watch it [here](#).

ALMOST 250 PRIESTS, DEACONS, AND SEMINARIANS will gather at the Cathedral Basilica on Monday evening for dinner and the Mass of Chrism. At the Mass, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens will be blessed, and the Sacred Chrism will be consecrated. As well, the Priests will renew their Priestly promises of service. Parishioners from around the Diocese gather to pray with us. It is an impressive gathering during these holy days!

CARDINAL LEONARDO SANDRI, Prefect for the Congregation for Eastern Churches, has written a letter to Bishops of all Dioceses, encouraging the annual "Collection for the Holy Land", which takes place on Good Friday. *"The traditional "Collection for the Holy Land" held on Good Friday, is a proper occasion for the faithful to be one with our brethren in the Holy Land and the Middle East. Unfortunately, from those territories the outcry of thousands of persons who are deprived of everything, at times even of their own human dignity, continues to reach us, breaking our hearts and inviting us to embrace them through Christian charity, a sure source of hope."* Please encourage parishioners to be generous in the Good Friday collection.

THE GRADE 5 STUDENT AND TEACHER RESOURCE for the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* Religious Education Program is nearing completion. The Bishops are being asked for their final editorial comments. The content was approved at the Spring Plenary meeting of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. The program is also used in Catholic schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The program is expected to be introduced in the classroom in September. Thanks to the many people who are involved in the development of this excellent program.

THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE takes place on Parliament Hill on May 10, 2018. The March is organized by Campaign Life Coalition and begins in the evening of Wednesday, May 9th, with Mass and a candle-light vigil at the Human Rights Monument. The day itself begins with several Masses and prayer services in Ottawa and Gatineau. The rally on Parliament Hill begins at 12:30 p.m., followed by a march through downtown Ottawa at 1:30 p.m. The Diocese of Hamilton supports the March by assisting with transportation for students who travel to Ottawa, and with prayer!

ST. ANN PARISH, ANCASTER will hold a Tenebrae Service on Palm Sunday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. It is a time for Scripture Readings, Prayer, and Psalms – a deeply prayerful event! If you have never experienced the service, it is well worth the time – and a beautiful Holy Week event.

RUNNERS IN SUNDAY'S AROUND THE BAY ROAD RACE in support of St. Joseph's Hospital are invited to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass at St. Patrick Parish on Saturday evening beginning at 5:00 p.m. There will be a special blessing for runners at the conclusion of the Mass – a good way to prepare for the "oldest road race in North America"!

AS WE ENTER THE HOLIEST WEEK of the Church's Liturgical Calendar, I wish the Priests, Deacons, Lay Pastoral Associates, Parish staffs, Seminarians and parishioners the rich blessings that the celebrations offer. May you encounter the Lord Jesus Christ, experience his overwhelming love for you, and grow in your love in return.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI