



## Heart to Heart

April 6, 2018 (#321)

**THE FUNERAL MASS FOR MONSIGNOR EDWARD HOUSE** took place yesterday morning at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Monsignor died on Holy Thursday, his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday, in the care of his sisters. Bishops, Priest-friends and collaborators gathered with his family and a church full of friends and former parishioners from the Parishes he served, including the Cathedral where he was Rector for 13 years. The sorrow was heart-felt; the promises of the Easter season gave hope! May he rest in the peace of Christ!

**FROM POPE FRANCIS ON GOD’S MERCY AND FORGIVENESS:** *“One time the image of Our Lady of Fatima came to Buenos Aires and there was a Mass for the sick in a big stadium of people. I was already a bishop then, and I went to hear confessions. ... Finally, there was practically no one left, and I got up to leave as I had to go somewhere else for Confirmation. But a little woman came up to me ... Her splendid eyes lit up her face. “You want to go to confession,” I said to her, “but you don’t have any sins.” She answered, “All of us have sinned.” I teased her, “Be careful then: perhaps God doesn’t forgive.” “God forgives everything,” she said confidently. “And how do you know that?” I asked. “If God did not forgive everything,” she answered, “the world would not exist.” I wanted to ask her, “Did you study at the Gregorian University?”! (Taken from “Our Father – Reflections on the Lord’s Prayer” by Pope Francis, 2017. Offered as a reflection for Divine Mercy Sunday.)*

**AT THE INVITATION OF POPE FRANCIS**, the three Missionaries of Mercy from our Diocese have travelled to Rome to meet with him at a conference for all Missionaries of Mercy (there are over 1000) during this time dedicated to The Divine Mercy. Father Bill Trusz, Father Michael King, and Father Ted Hughes were appointed Missionaries of Mercy by Pope Francis during the Year of Mercy. Appointments were extended at the conclusion of the Year. The appointment of Father Francisco Cruz followed the death of Father Ted Hughes. We pray for them. They pray for us!

**THIS YEAR’S FINAL MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD** took place at the Chancery Office yesterday afternoon. Interviews with a few Priests remain prior to the publication of the Clergy appointments for 2018. We offer thanks and prayers for those Priests who have accepted to serve in new ministries.

**THE BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** held their Annual *Bishop’s Dinner* last evening at the Community Centre in Neustadt. The evening was an opportunity to showcase new learning styles and opportunities for the young people in their schools. The confident and well-spoken students presented the varied approaches to teaching that engage them in learning for a hope-filled future. Thank you to the teachers and Board administration for such an interesting evening!

**CONFIRMATIONS START AGAIN** after a break for the Holy Days and Easter celebrations. St. Andrew Parish, Oakville, Holy Cross Croatian Parish, Hamilton, and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown will celebrate the Sacrament this weekend. St. Eugene Parish, Hamilton, St. Michael Parish, Waterloo and Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo will celebrate next week. We pray for the enthusiastic young people who are presenting themselves to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit! Thank to those who assure that they are so very well-prepared!

**MONDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> IS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD.** It is the Patronal Feast of the Diocese of Hamilton. The Feast is usually celebrated on March 25<sup>th</sup>, but the Holy Days and Easter Octave take precedence, moving the date to next Monday. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica at 12:00 noon. All are welcome. We pray for our Diocese and the many good people who serve with us. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents so generously – we are blessed!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI