



Heart to Heart

December 7, 2018 (#347)

THE ANNUAL ADVENT SCRIPTURE AND HYMN FESTIVAL sponsored by the Diocesan Choir under the direction of Sharon Fazari was a “tour de force”! The newly renovated St. Augustine Church in Dundas resounded with song and scripture proclamation! Congratulations to the Choir for your best production to date! Thank you for helping us begin the Advent season in a beautiful way.

TONIGHT A “SOLD OUT” CATHEDRAL BASILICA will enjoy *The Birth of Christ*, a choral concert sponsored by Salt & Light TV to close their 15th Anniversary year! *Masterworks* from Oakville will provide the music and song. This is the first North American presentation since its debut in Ireland in 2006. Another beautiful Advent experience!

WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT FATHER MARIJAN MIHOKOVIC, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Hamilton, had a stroke while visiting Cuba with friends. He is recuperating in hospital and hoping to return home when the doctors feel he is in stable health. Father Bela Pesznyak is replacing him in the Parish. We are grateful for his presence. We pray for Father Marijan’s rapid recovery!

THE FINAL MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL for 2018 takes place next Tuesday morning at the Chancery Office. The Council will review the 2019 Budget and – hopefully – approve it! Thanks to the members of the Council for your faithful service to the Diocese and for your always helpful advice!

DECEMBER 8TH is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a major Marian Feast in the Church. It is a feast day for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate – present in the Diocese. We wish them a “Happy Feast Day”, and blessings on their missionary endeavours in the Diocese of Hamilton and beyond!

DECEMBER 12TH is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. In Canada it is also the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. The theme for this year’s Message, in [English](#) and in [French](#), prepared by the National Catholic Indigenous Council, is *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment* (the same as the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops). We pray for our Indigenous brothers and sisters in a special way on this Feast!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRS of the Catholic District School Boards throughout the Diocese. Pat Daly was elected Chair of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board; Bill Conway, Chair of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board; Peter DeRosa, Chair of the Halton Catholic District School Board; Rick Petrella, Chair of the Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk Catholic District School Board; Beverley Eckensweiler, Chair of the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board. We await elections in the Wellington Catholic District School Board and Mon Avenir Conseil Scolaire Catholique. As stated in *Renewing the Promise*, the elected Trustees have been “entrusted with the profound responsibility of stewardship of the mission of Catholic education!” We pray for them!

BISHOP PAUL REDING, Seventh Bishop of Hamilton died 35 years ago tomorrow, following a long battle with cancer. Having served as Bishop for ten years before his death, he is fondly-remembered in the Diocese. We pray for the repose of his soul!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI