



Heart to Heart

March 15, 2019 (#357)

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY CATECHUMENS were inscribed into the Book of the Elect at ceremonies at the Basilica of Our Lady and the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King over the past two weekends. They are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) which will be celebrated in their Parishes at the upcoming Easter Vigil. Both events were very moving opportunities to meet others who have made the same choices about their faith. Thank you to the RCIA Teams and the Pastors of Parishes for your participation in this year's Rite of Election!

AMONG THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CRASH OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES earlier this week were the students and teachers at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Hamilton, with the loss of two of their students. Father Adrian Lee will represent the Diocese of Hamilton at a Memorial Service to be held at Hamilton City Hall tomorrow evening. May their souls and the souls of all those who died in the crash, experience the peace of God!

ALONG WITH PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, we offer sympathy to and prayers for the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand, on the slaughter of 49 of their faithful in a horrific terrorist attack that took place in two Mosques in the city. The sheer extent of the killing has shocked us all, and awakens within the horror caused by such senseless hatred! May this be, yet again, a call to build understanding among us!

THE STUDENT EXECUTIVE for the McMaster Catholic Chaplaincy (MACSA) for the upcoming 2019-2020 Pastoral Year will be installed at Sunday morning Mass at Canadian Martyrs' Parish in Hamilton. The annual installation marks (already) the approaching end of the school year at the university and the leave-taking of young people who are completing their studies! We wish you well in your exams and in your future endeavours!

PARISHES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON will hold a Holy Hour of Prayer this Sunday for victims of sexual abuse, including clerical sexual abuse. Parishes will hold the Holy Hour at different times. At the Cathedral Basilica, the time of prayer will take place from 2:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon. The 4:00 p.m. Mass will have the same intention. May those who suffer know freedom and healing!

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO) will meet in Toronto next week, in Plenary Session. The Bishops meet twice each year (Spring and Fall) to discuss matters of mutual concern on a variety of topics. Please pray that the Holy Spirit fill us with the gifts necessary to discern His holy will!

OUR SYMPATHY AND PROMISE OF PRAYERS TO JIM LONG and his family on the recent death of his father, Salvatore (Sam) Long! May he know the fullness of life and love in the Lord, and may his family experience the reassuring consolation of God! Jim Long is the Episcopal Director of Finance and Administration for the Diocese of Hamilton.

MARCH 17th, IS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY on the Church's Liturgical Calendar. It is also a day of celebration for the Irish and those who wish they were! May the day be a time of joy and friendly encounter – and may the events of the day draw us always closer to the Lord!

St. Patrick of Ireland, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI