



Heart to Heart

March 22, 2019 (#358)

MARCH 25th IS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, patronal feast of the Diocese of Hamilton. A Mass will be celebrated at noon at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Following Mass, invitations have been extended to a luncheon in McNally Hall where the Diocesan Campaign, *One Heart, One Soul*, will be officially launched. The final version of the campaign video will be presented at that time. Fourteen Parishes have offered to participate in the “Pilot Wave” of the Campaign, and will launch their own efforts in April. Three additional waves over the next two years will allow every Parish in the Diocese to participate! We pray for Our Lady’s intercession for this historic diocesan initiative!

“CHRIST OUR HOPE LIVES” is the reported title of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation for last Autumn’s Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocation. The letter from Pope Francis to Young People will be signed on Monday, March 25th, during his visit to Our Lady of Loreto Shrine. It is expected that the letter will help us understand what the art of accompaniment looks like for our young people. May it breathe new life into youth ministry!

WELCOME TO MONSIGNOR FRANCIS TWUM-BARIMAH, Vicar General of the Diocese of Koforidua, Ghana. He has begun a one-year sabbatical and will live in residence at St. Eugene’s Parish, Hamilton, with Father Andrew Quarshie. May the time be restorative and fruitful!

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON (CCASH) hopes to increase the connection with Catholic parishioners in Hamilton. The Society is recruiting new members for their volunteer Board of Directors. As well, there is always a need for fostering and adoptive parents. Interested in helping a child at a significant moment in their life? Contact the agency. Their website: www.hamiltonccas.on.ca

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WORLDWIDE have begun a new program entitled *Faith in Action!* It is an important program of renewal directed to “build the domestic Church”! In 2017 alone, the Knights of Columbus contributed more than \$22.7 million to worthy charitable causes throughout Canada. Members and their families donated more than 9.5 million hours of their time to make life better in their Parishes and communities. Blessings on the new program!

IN 2018, THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR REFUGEES served more than 4,110 persons through phone calls, emails, in-person meetings and community workshops and information sessions. More than 50 refugee sponsorship applications are pending a decision by a visa officer overseas regarding the legal merit of a grant of refugee status by the Canadian government. The work is vitally important! We are grateful to Erin Pease, Rita Balla, and Barbara Dollak for their commitment to this life-saving ministry!

CONFIRMATIONS CONTINUE THIS WEEKEND with a Saturday morning celebration at St. Joseph’s Parish in Fergus and a Saturday evening celebration at St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Elmira. We pray for the young people who are presenting themselves for the Sacrament, for their teachers and catechists, and for the Pastors who assure that they are prepared!

PREPARATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK HAS BEGUN! The theme for the week of May 5-10, is Living as Joyful Disciples! *“Education is the key to the intellectual, spiritual, and human formation of everyone. We celebrate the excellence of publicly funded Catholic education which, working in fruitful collaboration with the other forms of publicly funded education in our province, has made Ontario’s education system a model for the world. The system works, and works well.”* Cardinal Thomas Collins.

TODAY IS THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BISHOP JOSEPH RYAN who served as Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton for a remarkable 36 years! May he rest in peace!

Our Lady of Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI