



Heart to Heart

March 29, 2019 (#359)

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION is being celebrated throughout the Diocese these days. Tonight I travel to St. Mary Parish in Owen Sound, and tomorrow I will celebrate at St. Patrick Parish in Burlington. On Sunday morning I am at Holy Cross Croatian Parish in Hamilton, and in the afternoon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Stoney Creek. Next week I celebrate the Sacrament with young people from St. Catherine of Siena Parish at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. It is always a joy to meet the young people who are so well prepared for the celebration. Please continue to pray for this year's *Confirmandi* in our Diocese!

WE RECEIVED A WELCOME E-MAIL FROM FATHER JASON KUNTZ who is studying in Rome. "Happy Feast of Our Lady of the Annunciation! I will offer my Mass for your intentions and for the needs of our Diocese on this our Feast Day. We have had some beautiful weather here in Rome – Spring is in full force. Last week Cardinal Ouellet joined us for the Feast of St. Joseph – Patron of Canada. He will come to celebrate Mass today for the Sisters who administer the house. Lent has been softened by so many celebrations!"

PLEASE PRAY FOR FATHER DAVID LEWIS who is in the University Hospital in London undergoing medical tests for possible transplants. He took seriously ill during a recent vacation to Panama and returned following a lengthy stay in hospital there.

THE MOST RECENT ISSUE OF *THE GRAPEVINE*, the Newsletter for St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, reports that "*The Statue of St. Mary has returned to the spotlight at SMGH*". After he learned about the "very simple, yet profound" ritual of the nurses reaching out to touch the statue as they arrived for and left work, Gary Payne, Spiritual Care Manager, had the statue moved from its less visible spot to a more prominent location. "The statue served as a tangible reminder of their vocation ... to provide a caring, compassionate service to those who would be in their care that day," Gary says. Proper thing!

EMMANUEL HOUSE HOSPICE IN HAMILTON operates under the direction of the *Good Shepherd Ministries of the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God*. A fundraiser dinner for the Hospice will be held at Carmen's Banquet Centre on May 2nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dr. BJ Miller, one of the world's pre-eminent speakers on patient-centred palliative and end-of-life care, and an advocate for healthcare that minimizes suffering and maximizes quality of life, will provide thought-provoking insights. Entertainment is by R&B Blues icon Harrison Kennedy. "*Live Like There's No Tomorrow!*" Not to be missed!

VICKY AND MATT ODOM are bringing little Elizabeth Mary to the Chancery next Monday afternoon for her first visit since her January 24th birth. Excitement is growing! Three more babies are expected before Christmas! The Chancery Social Committee is already planning a Children's Christmas Party for the many children and grandchildren of staff born over the past few years! It will be a happy (and noisy, we expect,) celebration.

FOLLOWING MEETINGS OF THE DIOCESAN PERSONNEL COMMITTEE and personal meetings with the Priests themselves, the Clergy Appointments for 2019 will be announced next week. Thank you to the Priests for your openness to new appointments! May your pastoral service to the parishioners of the Diocese be a blessing for the Church!

Our Lady of Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI