



## *Heart to Heart*

*April 18, 2019 (#362)*

**HAPPY EASTER! THE TOMB IS EMPTY!** After a time of penance and prayerful renewal, and following the rich celebrations of the high holy days of our faith, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. He is Risen! We rise with him! This is our profound hope! May the hope of the Resurrection bring abundant joy which blesses family, friends, co-workers, indeed all you meet every day!

**THE FIRE AT NOTRE DAME DE PARIS CATHEDRAL** in Paris, earlier this week, captured our attention and moved us deeply! Tears flowed as Parisians, young and old, gathered in shock to watch the blaze, and prayerfully sing an *Ave Maria*. Bishop Lionel Gendron, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote a reassuring letter to Archbishop Michel Aupetit of Paris, promising prayers and expressing the hope that sadness and shock would be transformed into the hope and trust of the approaching Easter season. Javid Mirza, President of the Muslim Community of Hamilton, sent a letter assuring me of their thoughts and prayers for “our Catholic brothers and sisters”! It is a deeply appreciated and most thoughtful gesture!

**THE HOLY OILS WERE DISTRIBUTED** to all Parishes following the annual Mass of Chrism last Monday evening. Those Parishes who did not receive their Oils are asked to contact the Cathedral Basilica Office as soon as possible to arrange to pick them up. Priests are reminded to dispose of ALL old oils. They may be poured into the *sacrarium* or into the ground.

**THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY** will be hosted at Bingeman’s Conference Centre in Kitchener this year. The theme: *According to YOUR Word!* All seven volumes of the Heritage Edition of the Saint John’s Bible will be available for the young people to experience. Individuals and groups are encouraged to register before the deadline of May 3rd at [www.hamiltondiocese.com/youthrally](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/youthrally)

**307 COUPLES HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED** for the Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass. 52 will celebrate their 25th anniversary; 60 their 40th; 122 their 50th; 50 their 60th; 16 their 60th+; 6 their 70th and over, and 1 their 72nd! It promises to be a powerful witness to the blessing of married love!

**PROMOTING OUR PARTNERSHIP** with the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, Sarah Guinta, from our Office for Justice and Peace, and Nicole Vaughan, from our Office for Youth Ministry, will travel to Mary Our Mother Parish in Rankin Inlet to co-host a Mental Health First Aid workshop. Clergy, lay volunteers and Inuit community members will learn how to care for one another as a Parish community as they address the challenging realities of life in the North. Safe travels, blessed workshop!

**CONFIRMATIONS PICK UP AGAIN AFTER EASTER** at St. John the Baptist Parish in Hamilton next Tuesday, St. Basil Parish in Brantford next Wednesday, and St. James Parish in Oakville next Thursday. These are special occasions in the lives of the Confirmandi, their families, and the Parishes. We pray for them!

**A WARM WELCOME TO ARCHBISHOP MAX MESIDOR** from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, who will be visiting the Chancery on May 1st. This will be his first visit to the Diocese of Hamilton since he became the Archbishop of the Diocese! A strong bond of friendship developed between our two dioceses during a visit from his predecessor, the late Archbishop Guire Poulard.

Our Lady of Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI