



Heart to Heart

September 27, 2019 (#376)

POPE FRANCIS DECLARED ALL OF OCTOBER 2019 to be an *Extraordinary Mission Month* with the theme *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission to the World*. It marks the hundredth anniversary of the Apostolic Letter on the missionary activity of the Church issued by Pope Benedict XV in the aftermath of World War I, *Maximum Illud*. The aim of the special month, explained Pope Francis, is “to foster an increased awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and taking up again with renewed fervor the missionary transformation of the Church’s life and pastoral activity.” The Diocese of Hamilton has a healthy missionary outreach. Through our *Missionary Cooperative Program* our Parishes generously support many Dioceses, Religious Communities, Parishes, and projects around the world. Additionally, following the devastating earthquake of 2010, we have entered into a contractual arrangement with the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince by which we strongly support their seminary formation program, assuring the education of priests for service in the Archdiocese into the future. As well, we reach out to many “mission” Dioceses in Canada, providing clergy support and financial support when requested. We have a special concern to assist the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, by providing administrative advice, pastoral programming, and clergy assistance during the past several years. Our Parishes are “mission minded” when parishioners “go out” into their communities to visit the sick, the homebound, and the prisons. Our Catholic schools provide marvelous opportunities for students to visit developing countries and participate in projects and programs that assist the local communities and are “life-changing” for the students. We are sent to carry out the missionary mandate of Jesus Christ at the end of every Mass: “Go announce the Gospel of the Lord.”

THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM is holding its *First Canadian National Investiture* in Montreal this weekend. Father Ian Duffy and I will be among several candidates to be part of this historic investiture. More than thirty members from the Diocese of Hamilton are members of this ancient Order, part of the Lieutenancy of Toronto. In the coming months we will provide more information about the Order, with an invitation for interested parishioners to become members.

EACH YEAR, THE FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN holds a peaceful prayer vigil in several locations throughout the Diocese. The celebration of Mass is part of the 40-day experience. On October 1, 2019, there will be a Mass as part of the campaign which will take place in the Waterloo Deanery over the coming eight weeks. The Mass begins at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener. All are welcome to pray for an end to abortion and for the growth of a society that “respects life from conception to natural death!”

DURING THE YEAR FOR CONSECRATED LIFE the Diocese sponsored an evening meal with those in the Diocese who are in Consecrated Life, (Consecrated Women in the World, Sisters, Brothers, Priests in Religious Communities). It was a sublime evening! We did it again in 2017 – another blessed event. We are doing it again this year, on October 16, 2019, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King and in the McNally Hall (downstairs). Dr. Eric Mabrey, who is a Professor of Systematic Theology at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York, and a parishioner in our Diocese, will be the guest speaker for the evening. A reminder to those who have received invitations: Please send in your response before October 7th!

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO IS SPONSORING AN ALL CANDIDATES’ DEBATE prior to the upcoming federal election! The event on October 3rd will be moderated by political journalist, Don Newman. Although tickets have been distributed already, there is an opportunity to view the debate via live-stream. The link can be made through the [St. Michael’s Cathedral website](#). It promises to be a very interesting evening – especially for Catholic voters!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI