



Heart to Heart

November 8, 2019 (#382)

IN A DECREE DATED TODAY, the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate has been declared a designated Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, effective December 8, 2019. The Decree will be read at a Mass celebrated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is celebrated this year on December 9, 2019. As a Diocesan Shrine, the Basilica will promote, among other Marian devotions, annual celebrations of Marian Days and processions, an annual Novena, and welcome pilgrimages from various parts of the Diocese. Thank you to Father Ian Duffy, Rector of the Basilica, for promoting this initiative and for overseeing the program of the Shrine!

DR. MOIRA MCQUEEN, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, and a member of the Vatican International Theological Commission, will be presenting on bio-medical issues to the 2nd and 4th year Permanent Diaconate Candidates. Deacon George Newman, former Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of St. Catharines, will present on the Four Dimensions of Diaconate Formation to the Aspirants to the program. I will celebrate Mass with them and join them at lunch on Saturday!

THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) met this week at the ACBO offices in Toronto. The Honorable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, joined the meeting for a conversation on concerns related to climate change and government policies and programs that respond to these concerns. The hour-long discussion was wide-ranging and informative. The Commission meets four times a year to follow several social justice concerns on behalf of the Bishops.

WELLINGTON WATER WATCHERS are sponsoring a public event at St. Joseph Parish Hall in Hamilton, on Wednesday evening, November 13th. Representatives from Vittel (Switzerland) will be discussing international advocacy efforts relative to water privatization. The evening session will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. An important concern for all!

THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY will be celebrating the Feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs this Sunday at St. Anne Parish in Kitchener, beginning at 3:00 p.m. It is always a colourful celebration followed by a festive gathering in the Parish Hall! Presentations of traditional songs and dances add to the celebrations. May it be a joyful time!

FATHER JIM PETRIE will be “showing off” the current state of St. Benedict Church on Monday morning. Visitors from the Chancery will tour the construction site and join him for lunch. The date for the Dedication of the Church is scheduled for June 19, 2020. Mark your calendars!

BISHOP RONALD FABBRO, C.S.B. will welcome visitors from the Hamilton Chancery Office for a formal “walk through” of St. Peter’s Seminary Monday, November 18th. With assistance from the Diocese of Hamilton, the Seminary has undertaken a major renovation over the past three years that is quickly coming to completion. A formal celebration of the completion of the project will take place at the 2020 Alumni Reunion next Spring! The venerable and historic building continues to prepare seminarians – “shepherds according to God’s own heart.” (*Jeremiah 3:15*)

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI