



Heart to Heart

November 29, 2019 (#385)

THE FOUR-DAY VISIT OF CARDINAL GERALD CYPRIEN LACROIX was a blessing for the Diocese. Arriving from Rome, late last Thursday, he was “all energy” to accompany the relic of St. Francois de Laval to the Carmel of St. Joseph in St. Agatha. A prayer service and homily preceded an opportunity for visitors to the Carmel to venerate the relic. The service was followed by a visit to the cloister, where the Cardinal met the entire Carmelite community and gave the Nuns the opportunity to venerate the relic. A visit to the Precious Blood Sisters in Dundas followed in the afternoon. He presided at the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica, one of four Masses that were packed with parishioners and visitors. His homily was a “barn-burner”. The music, under the direction of Mr. Rob Corso was stirring. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Cathedral’s Titular Feast – Christ the King!

HOORAY FOR SARAH GUINTA, Coordinator of our Office for Justice and Peace! She spoke eloquently at the annual Religious Leaders Forum of the Interfaith Social Affairs Reform Coalition which took place at Queen’s Park in Toronto on Wednesday. She was one of the organizers of the ISARC sponsored Voices from the Margins, deep listening to people who struggle because of social assistance inequities and challenges. Her passionate presentation received the approval and hearty applause of the audience. Leaders of political parties greeted those present.

THE ST. JOSEPH’S HEALTH CENTRE IN GUELPH was recently designated a *Canadian Compassionate Company (CCC)* because of its commitment to support employees who are caring for ill or injured loved ones. The award was presented by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA). Mr. David Wormald, President of the institution welcomed the award saying, “Accommodating the needs of employees during a difficult time in their lives is one of the ways we live our values of compassion and respect in a tangible way!” The great legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph lives on! Congratulations!

SEVERAL PARISHES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE DIOCESE will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend. Candidates in Owen Sound will be Confirmed at St. Mary Parish tonight. On Saturday morning, Confirmation will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Parish in Formosa, also welcoming candidates from Sacred Heart Parish, Mildmay. In the afternoon, Confirmation will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Parish, Walkerton, also welcoming candidates from Holy Family Parish, Hanover and St. Peter Parish, Durham. On Sunday afternoon, candidates from St. John Parish, Arthur, and St. John Parish, Dundalk, will join the candidates at St. Mary Parish, Mount Forest, for the Confirmation celebration. It is an effort to serve as many Parishes as possible while visiting the region. We also welcome Bishop Daniel Miehm once again. He will be celebrating Confirmation at Holy Rosary Parish in Milton tonight and tomorrow, and at St. Louis Parish in Waterloo on Sunday. We are always grateful for his assistance!

PRIESTS’ ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER takes place at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, and at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Waterloo, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Father Edwin Gonsalves, Rector of St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto is the speaker. The day provides the occasion to pray and reflect together, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to enjoy a fraternal luncheon!

PRIESTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED AN INVITATION to participate in the program entitled *EMPOWERING THE SHEPHERDS* scheduled to take place at Nottawasaga Inn in March and April, are reminded to return the response form to the Chancery by today. It is a formation opportunity of a lifetime!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI