



THE ENTIRE LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH SYSTEM including all of their entities, as well as Hotel Dieu Shaver Health Centre, in St. Catharines, gathered at McNally Hall in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King yesterday for a presentation by Father Francis Morrissey, OMI, on the doctrinal and canonical principles relating to the sponsorship of apostolic works. The Health System, once under the care and direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, is now sponsored by the Diocese of Hamilton and under the direction of a Board of Directors chaired by Sister Anne Anderson, CSJ. Dr. Tom Stewart is the President of the System. Before lunch the participants delighted in a tour of the Cathedral directed by Father David Wynen, Rector.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALLAN BEAUPRE who was honoured with the Fellows Distinction by CPA Ontario! The Fellows Distinction formally recognizes exemplary CPA's for their leadership, outstanding career achievements and their volunteerism. Only about 2% of CPAs achieve this level of recognition. Al has been a member of our Diocesan Finance Committee for eight years. He is a worthy recipient!

THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM WINDS UP THIS WEEK with Monsignor Kroetsch celebrating two ceremonies at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph on Saturday, and a celebration on Tuesday evening at St. Augustine Parish, Dundas, at which I will preside. The program picks up again on January 17th. Thank you to the teachers and catechists who assure the preparation and to the Pastors who assure that all is well done!

ST. PATRICK CHURCH IN HAMILTON will be blessed on Sunday following a recent makeover! For the past six weeks a new floor has been installed replacing well-worn carpeting. A fresh paint job gives the interior a new look. Masses were celebrated in the neighbouring school gym while the work continued in the Church.

THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY will be declared a Diocesan Shrine to Mary Immaculate at a Mass on Monday evening, December 9th. A decree will be read announcing the designation. As a Shrine, the Basilica will promote devotion to Our Lady, especially on Feast Days in the liturgical calendar dedicated to her. The Basilica will welcome pilgrims from across the Diocese and beyond who wish to visit the Shrine and pray for Our Lady's intercession. Thanks to Father Ian Duffy, Rector of the Basilica, for his enthusiasm and support for the designation!

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD takes place next Tuesday afternoon. The Deans will join the Board to begin the reflection on personnel changes in 2020. Priests have submitted their responses to a questionnaire indicating their own reflections on their ministry placement. Please pray for the deliberations of the Personnel Board!

HOPE IS THE FORCE that drives the hearts of those who depart, leaving home, their homeland, at times their relatives and families – I am thinking of the migrants – in search of a better life which is worthier of them and their loved ones. And it is also the impulse in the heart of those who welcome: the desire to encounter, to get to know each other, to dialogue ... *Pope Francis, General Audience, September 27, 2017.*

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI