



## *Heart to Heart*

January 31, 2020 (#389)

**HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR** to parishioners in our Vietnamese and Korean parishes – and to Asians in other Parishes throughout the Diocese. Celebrations were held last weekend to mark the Year of the Rat! May the year be marked by good health, much happiness, and prosperity!

**WINNIE DOYLE** has served St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton with distinction since 1983! It was recently announced that she will retire on June 30, 2020, after 37 years of dedicated service, including serving as Interim President of St. Joseph's Healthcare, St. Joseph's Villa and St. Joseph's Home Care from 2018 to 2019. We wish her well in her retirement.

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** was celebrated at an Ecumenical Worship and Praise Service last Sunday at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Kitchener. Members of Calvin Presbyterian, Forest Hill United, St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic, Highland Baptist, Faith Lutheran, St. Stephen's Lutheran and St. George's Anglican, prayed for unity and sang hymns of praise!

**THE RITE OF ELECTION** is an important part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). In the Diocese of Hamilton, the Rite will be celebrated at two locations: the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph on February 23, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, on March 1, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Pastors or Directors of Parish RCIA programs are asked to inform Deacon John Moss, Director of our Diocesan Liturgy Office, of your intention to participate at one or other of the events – and the number of Catechumens to be presented at that time.

**WELCOME TO BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM** who will assist with Confirmations in several Parishes next week. It is very generous of him to offer his time to the Diocese for this important Sacrament. It gives him some time to meet with family and friends during his stay with us! He will confer the Sacrament at St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener on Tuesday and Wednesday, at St. Gregory Parish in Cambridge on Thursday, at St. Patrick Parish in Cambridge on Friday, at Holy Cross Parish in Georgetown next Saturday, and at Holy Trinity Parish in Oakville next Sunday. Thanks to Pastors, Lay Pastoral Assistants, and Teachers for assuring that the candidates are well-prepared!

**THE PERSONNEL BOARD MEETS AGAIN NEXT WEDNESDAY** to consider pastoral changes for Priests for the coming year. Priests have been invited to submit their thoughts to assist the Board in its reflections. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this important discernment that affects the life of our Parishes and the Diocese.

**THE EPISCOPAL BOARD MEETS NEXT TUESDAY MORNING** – the first meeting of the New Year. Members of the Episcopal Board are Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, Vicar General and Chancellor, Father Con O'Mahony, Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Education, Father Michael King, Episcopal Vicar for Priests, and Father Wayne Lobsinger, Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life. My thanks to them for their dedication to the Diocese of Hamilton, and for their readiness to "lean in" to support the Episcopal ministry in the Diocese.

**PERSONAL THANKS FOR PRAYERS AND EXPRESSIONS OF CARE AND CONCERN** following my recent surgery. The surgical team and other doctors and nurses at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton gave me the best care during my brief stay. The recovery time has been helpful, and I will pick up the cudgels a little bit at a time in the coming days and weeks. I have felt carried by the prayers of so many!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI