



Heart to Heart

February 14, 2020 (#391)

YOUNG ROBERT TAYE from Mrs. Vitulli's Grade 7 French Immersion class at St. Eugene Catholic Elementary School in Hamilton received First Place for the Diocese of Hamilton in the 2020 *Creative Kids* contest sponsored by The Hamilton Spectator! This year's theme was: *Hope Within Us, Hope for the World*. Congratulations to Robert, and to all the students in the class for their creative designs!

THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK *Hope Comes Home* Conference will be hosted here in Hamilton next weekend (February 21-23). 170 youth ministers, teachers, chaplaincy leaders, Priests and Sisters from across Canada will be gathering to learn about how we can better accompany the young people of our communities. Through keynote addresses, workshops, prayer and collaboration, participants will reflect on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, addressed primarily to young people! The very first National Conference was held in Hamilton several years ago – and now it comes “home” again! We welcome Bishop Thomas Dowd, Auxiliary Bishop in Montreal, Bishop Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines, Katie Prejean-McGrady, Emilie Callan and many other uplifting speakers. Safe travel to all!

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAMARA NUGENT, Director of Education for the Wellington Catholic District School Board. It was announced this week that the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association (OCSOA) has selected her to receive their prestigious *Distinguished Leadership Award* at the OCSOA Annual General Meeting in April. She is well-deserving of the honour!

HAMILTON RIGHT TO LIFE AND THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON are co-sponsoring a showing of the eye-opening film *UNPLANNED*. The film is based on the true story of Abby Johnson, the youngest Director of Planned Parenthood, and her journey of transformation. The film will be presented at the Nicholas Mancini Centre, 44 Hunt Street, Hamilton (behind the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King), NEXT WEDNESDAY, February 19th, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.) The movie showing is free. Donations to Hamilton Right to Life to assist in the affirmation and education of the sanctity of life will be gratefully accepted.

SARAH GUINTA, Coordinator of the Diocesan Office for Justice and Peace, visited one of our charitable partners in Guatemala, Planting Seeds International, in early January. The organization specializes in providing access to early childhood education in the underserved community of Zone 3. This community lives and works within the Guatemala City landfill and surrounding area. The organization operates several pre-schools and has begun running after-school programming for parents and youth. They provide access to a community run library and mobile literacy program and have begun fundraising for a community centre, which would provide a safe space for young people to learn and play after school. Sarah was impressed by the attention paid to community partnership, quality education and sustainable development practices. Contact Sarah if you want to learn more about PSI!

FROM INFORMATION TO TRANSFORMATION, the Catholic leadership formation program sponsored by the *Catholic Education Partnership in the Diocese of Hamilton*, is preparing to begin their third cohort. The program which runs over two years, welcomes about 25 participants for six three-day sessions. It builds community and is a wonderful way to grow in faith and awareness of leadership skills that will benefit our many Catholic institutions.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI