



Heart to Heart

February 28, 2020 (#393)

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE for the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministers Network, which was held at the Convention Centre in Hamilton last weekend was an unqualified success! Congratulations to Christina Mines and Nicole McCowell for their good work in assuring that everything was ready to welcome the 170 participants and various keynote speakers. There were many challenges to face due to train cancellations and health issues, but with the professional help of our Chancery personnel, the bases were covered. The CCYMN Executive met for several days afterwards at Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre. It was a stellar event!

THE NEWS FROM L'ARCHE ABOUT FOUNDER JEAN VANIER has shaken us all – none more than the members of the 154 *L'Arche communities* worldwide. We stand in prayerful solidarity with them, asking for their consolation and the healing of victims. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a [statement](#) (*French*) which provides perspective, guidance and solace. We pray to the Lord!

THE CCCB HAS PUBLISHED AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE TABLING OF BILL C-7: “*An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*”. The Bill is said to respond to concerns expressed through “a highly questionable, biased and rushed online survey, which took place over just two weeks between 13 and 27 January 2020.” The text for the strong and clear response is available [here](#) (*French*). It is worth the read.

THE RITE OF ELECTION will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King beginning at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 1st. To date, 105 catechumens from Parishes in the Hamilton, Halton and Brant Deaneries have indicated their intention to “sign their names” in the Book of the Elect at that liturgical celebration. Added to the 33 from the Wellington, Waterloo, and Bruce-Grey Deaneries, it means that about 140 people are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist – at the celebration of the Easter Vigil in Parishes throughout the Diocese. Additionally, individuals will be welcomed to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist alone, or Confirmation and Eucharist, at the same celebration. Our profound thanks to the RCIA teams who work so diligently to assure that the Elect and those who are receiving Sacraments are both accompanied and prepared for this important life-long commitment!

FATHER IAN DUFFY, Rector of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, is the presenter at the Priests' Lenten Day of Reflection. His talk is an important part of the day, which also includes time for prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, and fraternal sharing over a luncheon. On Tuesday, March 3rd, the day begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, and on Wednesday, March 4th, the day begins at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Waterloo. Priests are reminded to inform the Office of the Vicar for Priests of their intention to participate. It assists in assuring sufficient food for the luncheon.

DESPITE THE WINTRY WEATHER Ash Wednesday services were celebrated in churches and Catholic schools throughout the Diocese. Lent has begun. It is a time to renew and deepen our Christian commitment and service, and to prepare for the Easter Triduum and celebration of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We strive to follow ever more closely the teaching of the Lord in our lives.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI