



## *Heart to Heart*

June 12, 2020 (#405)

**THE REOPENING OF PLACES OF WORSHIP “ACROSS THE PROVINCE”** was announced by Premier Doug Ford on Monday afternoon, June 8<sup>th</sup>. While surprised that it happened so soon, we are relieved and happy to begin the process. Strict guidelines accompanied the announcement in order to promote as safe an environment as possible to welcome returning parishioners. These guidelines include a limit of 30% of building capacity, recommended use of face masks and hand sanitizers, and social distancing. The Parish Priests in the Diocese participated in a teleconference on Wednesday to review the liturgical norms and to begin the necessary preparation to clean the churches and place helpful signage. Protective equipment, sanitizer and cleaning solution were delivered to locations in each Deanery for pickup if needed, and are available at the Chancery. Churches in the Diocese can open on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 for daily Mass and prayer, and for Sunday Masses on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Please follow instructions carefully to promote safe and prayerful gatherings!

**DURING THE TELECONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY** there was discussion on the seemingly inconsistent message from the Province on funerals and weddings: 30% of capacity for worship services, but only 10 participants (including the Priest) for funerals and weddings. The reason given for the “up to ten” restriction was because of concern on the part of health advisors that individuals will travel across the Province to attend weddings and funerals. This is viewed as too risky at this time. Priests will be notified if and when this is changed.

**A MEMORANDUM FROM JIM LONG**, Chancellor (Temporal Affairs), is being prepared outlining considerations for the reopening of Parish Offices and the Chancery Office. Pastors and parish staff will be invited to participate in a Zoom conference early next week. Chancery staff will participate in one later in the week. Exciting times!

**FATHER PETER CIALLELLA**, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Burford, was featured in an uplifting story in the Brantford Expositor this week. When about 120 migrant workers from Norfolk County finish their two-week quarantine in Brantford (early next week), they will be given a gift bag prepared by parishioners of the Burford Parish and St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Scotland. Blessed Sacrament Parish welcomes migrant workers for a monthly Mass and meal, and offers English lessons and provides WiFi internet access. Father Peter put out a call for support for the gift bags and heard from Catholic and non-Catholic churches from as far away as Vancouver and the Greater Toronto area! Well done indeed!

**JOHN FOSTER** completes 31 years of service to the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton, at the end of June! He will retire on July 10<sup>th</sup>. During his time with the Cemeteries he held many responsibilities, most notably Director. He was a dedicated family counsellor and cared for people at a most vulnerable time in their lives. Thank you for your service, John; may the coming years bring you well-deserved rest and happiness!

**JOYCE ABABIO**, Human Resources Interim Director, completes her last day today. Joyce was hired to replace Gagan Grewald who is away on maternity leave, and happily discovered that she herself is pregnant! Thank you Joyce for your professional and delicate manner in responding to personnel concerns, and for the helpful service you provided during your time with us.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANE VAN STAVEREN AND TYLER LINWOOD**, students at St. Jerome’s University in Waterloo, on receiving the Diocese of Hamilton Award. The award recognizes students in the graduating class who have attained high academic proficiency and exemplify Catholic leadership qualities, Christian values, and a commitment to service in the community. Well deserving recipients!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI