



Heart to Heart

January 15, 2021 (#423)

ST. MARY PARISH IN KITCHENER received their first delivery of food on Wednesday to their new kitchen below the church. The plan is to provide takeout food for the most vulnerable and those who do not have access to drive-thru because they do not have a car. Food testing begins today – and they hope to open by the end of next week. Thanks to Father Toby Collins, C.R., and his team for this important initiative coming to fruition at such a dark time! A bright light in the midst of darkness indeed!

WITH THE STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS currently in place in the Province of Ontario and in the Diocese of Hamilton, the decision has been made to postpone the Episcopal Ordination of Auxiliary Bishop-elect Wayne Lobsinger until June 29, 2021, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. The Congregation for Bishops has provided dispensation from Canon 379 and accepted the new date. All respondents to the invitation to the February 2nd event will be notified personally of the change. We continue to pray for the new Bishop, that God will bless his ministry which has already begun!

THE STRINGENT PROTOCOLS also mean that the celebrations of the *Sacrament of Confirmation* scheduled for these early months of 2021 must be postponed until we can gather safely in greater numbers. Once we get the green light to open churches again, we will slowly rearrange dates and times to assure that young people who seek to be confirmed will receive the Sacrament this year. Please pray for them, and for their parents and sponsors!

AUGUST 13TH IS THE DATE SET TO CELEBRATE BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY. It is the day between the day of his birth in 1852 and the day of his death in 1890. Please continue to pray for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, especially for serious medical conditions. The good priest will surely respond to the pleas of his sons in the Knights of Columbus!

MONSIGNOR EARL TALBOT IS THE AUTHOR OF A NOVELLA *LA ESPERANZA!* The book is a collection of interesting stories and compelling reflections from his time ministering in Guatemala with Father (now Monsignor) Ted Slaman and Father James Beaudry (RIP) and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton. “We had a lot of fun!” he says. Congratulations on the publication, Father Earl. Even better, he has a copy for every priest in the Diocese!

I AM PREPARING A PASTORAL LETTER reflecting on the challenges of the closure of our churches for worship during this second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Titled *FOR THE COMMON GOOD*, it will be published on our Diocesan website early next week. We can now see a glimmering light at the end of this dark tunnel, so we persist with acts of goodness and sacrifice which will help one another make it through.

THE STAR AWARDS GALA, brainchild of James Montague, honours those who succeed in life despite the challenges life often serves up. Preparation has begun for the 2021 version which could take place in the Fall. It is a gala evening indeed, supported broadly by the Oakville community! A [video](#) presents the excitement and energy of the Star Awards Gala evening, and honours the creator of the event, Mr. Montague. Enjoy the video!

ZOOM MEETINGS HAVE BECOME THE NORM during these shutdown days and months. We will be getting some training on the finer points of setting up the platform. The stay-at-home order makes it almost mandatory that most of our meetings are ZOOM meetings. Protocols are being developed to assure appropriate conduct while on ZOOM meetings. These will be forwarded to you once completed.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI