



Heart to Heart

January 29, 2021 (#424)

“IT MAY BE SMALL, BUT THE NEW *TINY HOME TAKEOUT* in front of St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in downtown Kitchener can produce 12 personal pan pizzas in three minutes and at least 150 soups in the two hours it is open.” So begins the CBC story featuring the most recent initiative of Father Toby Collins, C.R., his C.R. community, and his St. Mary Parish support team. Congratulations on getting the program up and running – especially during these colder winter and pandemic days! A good story for the Church!

1300 CHURCH LEADERS FROM ACROSS CANADA participated recently in a ZOOM presentation sponsored by Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada. Dr. Tam explained the process of delivering the coronavirus vaccine to Canadians and provided helpful information about the very few minor reactions to the vaccines, most being related to soreness in the arm and some nausea. Overall, she reassured religious leaders that the vaccine was safe and that despite the current slow-down in production, she expressed her confidence that the forecast 4M doses would be administered by end-March.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, begins the Holy Season of Lent. The Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis and the Diocesan Office for Liturgy are preparing an Ash Wednesday program that can be celebrated at home – with the Gospel proclamation and a brief reflection by “yours truly”. Parents may bless their children by tracing the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads, marking the beginning of the annual Lenten journey.

THE CCCB OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS is preparing a four-session webinar series titled *Nurturing Friendship – The Directory for Catechesis in Dialogue with the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti*. The four sessions will be offered from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. on Tuesdays: March 2nd, March 9th, March 16th, and March 23rd. Our own Monsignor Murray Kroetsch will launch the series with a reflection on Chapter 1 of *Fratelli Tutti*. The second session will feature Dr. Josephine Lombardi on Chapter 2 of the Encyclical – why the parable of the Good Samaritan is a paradigm for Pope Francis’ vision of social friendship. The Diocese of Hamilton will be well-represented by them. Interested? You are invited to register to participate in the engaging webinar – a perfect way to nurture your faith during the holy season of Lent! More information will soon be available on the CCCB website.

THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL of the *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace* (D&P) is “hoping for the best” for their annual *Share Lent Collection* which is traditionally held on the Fifth Sunday of Lent: this year, March 21st. Due to the first pandemic shut down, last year’s special collection was postponed to October when a special collection was taken for several charities. D&P received \$109K from that collection, plus \$191K from funds received previously, plus funds from parishioners who sent their collection directly to the charity. These funds support our sisters and brothers in developing countries.

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, CONVERSATIONS AT ARDREE (*Ardree* is the name given to the Bishop’s Residence) has drawn together Priests, school board trustees, high school and elementary school teachers and staffs, entrepreneurs, and university professors and administrators. Next week the Board of Governors from St. Jerome’s University will “gather” virtually on ZOOM for a *conversation* about what makes it a Catholic University. It will be a wonderful opportunity to speak with the members of the Board of Governors, especially the newer members, and the new President of the University, Dr. Peter Meehen.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI