



Heart to Heart

February 19, 2021 (#426)

LENT HAS BEGUN! Churches throughout the Dioceses are open (at 30% capacity) to welcome parishioners for prayer and worship. It will take some time for people to feel secure enough to return, so it is vitally important that Parishes follow rigorously the protocols prepared by the Chancery officials. We want to assure the safety of parishioners and their good health – physical and spiritual! Thank you to Pastors and Pastoral Teams for the care and attention you give to assuring a safe environment!

THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL is back for another year! A partnership between the *Bishop Farrell Library & Archives* and the *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)* shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustice. Films are screened once a month and provide an opportunity for community discussion about ways we can all support actions for change. For more information check [here](#). All films will be available online. The first screening, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., features *THE TRUE COST*, a documentary about the human and environmental costs of the clothing industry.

NET CANADA HAS PUBLISHED THEIR ANNUAL REPORT featuring the good works of the *National Evangelization Teams (NET)* throughout Canada! “*Jesus, the light of the world, is very much alive and still changing the lives of young people across Canada!*” This is the beacon of hope offered in the report which outlines the energy and joy that exudes from 52 young missionaries serving in 28 Canadian Dioceses in eight teams that coordinated over 200 retreats that allowed the missionaries to pray with over 2,000 youth! A remarkable testament from an effective youth ministry organization! We are blessed that one of those teams is working at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Stoney Creek!

ONE HEART ONE SOUL CAMPAIGN is launching its third wave in the largest group of Parishes yet during the coming weeks. The successful campaign has not only raised millions of dollars for long-awaited parish projects, but it has also stimulated parish life throughout the Diocese – even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Parish teams have been prepared and will soon be making their important calls to parishioners. The generosity of parishioners to their Parishes has lifted our hearts! Blessings upon those who are building their Parish – one heart, one soul, at a time!

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA is undergoing an upgrade of its “sound and lighting” capacity. The current lights are being refitted with LED lights, significantly reducing the watts required for each fixture. The television screens are being replaced with higher definition screens and new cameras, and the sound system is being overhauled. It should all be done before Palm Sunday and the Holy Week and Easter services. In the meantime, Masses are being celebrated in McNally Hall at 30% capacity.

THE FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER is celebrated on Monday, February 22nd. “*The cathedra is literally the seat of the bishop,*” said Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. “*It is the symbol of his authority and, particularly, of his ‘Magisterium,’ in other words of the evangelical teaching that he, as successor the Apostles, is called to protect and transmit to the Christian community. To celebrate the ‘Chair’ of Peter means, then, giving it a strong spiritual significance, and recognizing therein a privileged sign of the love of God.*” (From *Living With Christ*, February 2021, pg.168)

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI