



## Heart to Heart

February 26, 2021 (#427)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR POPE FRANCIS** as he prepares to make an apostolic journey next week to the Christian communities of Iraq which have suffered grievously over the past 20+ years. The Holy Father intends his trip to be a sign of solidarity and encouragement for the beleaguered Iraqi Christians – and there are considerable risks associated with the trip. Please keep him – and them – in your prayers. “Ask and you will receive!”

**THE “ONLINE” PRESENCE OF HAMILTON DIOCESE** is assured by our Diocesan Communication Office, especially during the pandemic lockdown! Over the past year more than 100,000 emails have been sent to parishioners, clergy and staff, and community partners, including registration for and participation in online workshops, discussions on *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis’ most recent encyclical, marriage preparation for young couples, registrations from couples celebrating 25, 40, 50 and 60+ wedding anniversaries seeking certificates to mark the milestone, and resources for parents of school-age children who are preparing to receive Sacraments! Additionally over 90,000 emails were sent from all Diocesan offices to clergy, parishes, staff and other stakeholders. Whew! So much communication – despite the pandemic, the proclamation of the Good News goes on!

**PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE** are being offered in many Dioceses throughout Canada during the Lenten season. In the Diocese of Hamilton we have set aside the *Second Sunday of Lent* for prayer for the victims of abuse and their families. As a Church, we are committed to the protection of children and the vulnerable in our communities, and to bringing about healing in the lives of those who have suffered from the scourge of abuse. Parishes are encouraged to include a prayer for this intention in the *General Intercessions* on Sunday!

**THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR FAMILY MINISTRY** is presenting online information about the threat and impact on children and adults of *pornography* and the Catholic remedy on March 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Teresa Hartnett and Deacon Joseph DiLoreto will be the presenters. Registration is required so the ZOOM link can be sent, but the session is free. [Contact](#) the Family Ministry Office or call the Chancery and dial extension 2250.

**THE PERSONNEL BOARD MET ON WEDNESDAY** this week to review the status of upcoming priestly appointments for Pastors and Associates. These appointments have always been done in person, but this year pandemic restrictions have led to some “in person” conversations, ZOOM calls, and telephone calls. Thank you to those who have been consulted for your openness and generosity. You are a blessing for the work of the Church in the Diocese!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to those who completed courses through our Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCFF) in partnership with Dayton University! A *second cycle* of study has begun especially for our Diocesan Youth Ministers who are nearing completion of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Certification Program. Registration for *Cycle Three* seminars is now open. For more information, please contact Christina Mines in the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI