



## Heart to Heart

April 16, 2021 (#431)

**THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCIES** in the Diocese of Hamilton met “virtually” last week to review the activities of the past year and to discuss opportunities for shared ministry! The Chaplains and Chaplaincy Leaders at St. Jerome University, Waterloo; St. John Paul II Student Centre, Waterloo; Canadian Martyrs’/McMaster Students Association, Hamilton; and Newman Centre, Guelph, meet together with the Diocese a few times each year to share experiences and resources. The challenges of the pandemic have intensified the outreach of the chaplaincies – much of it online. Keep up the good spirit!

**FIREFIGHTERS IN FULL GEAR** interrupted the singing of the *Exultet* during the Easter Vigil at St. Joseph Parish, Hamilton. They were responding to fire alarms that wailed in response to the Easter fire in the sanctuary that got out of control! Parishioners watched in horror until the fire was doused with a pitcher of tap water. The firefighters left when they were sure things were safe, leaving the cantor to complete the *Exultet* and parishioners to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. In 43 years of presiding at the Easter Vigil, this was the first “out-of-control” Easter fire for Father Jim Link!

**THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON CONTINUES TO PARTNER** with Dayton University and their Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCFF). Through this partnership we are able to offer a *Diocesan Certification in Youth Ministry Studies* which reflects on and respects the Canadian Catholic context of Youth Ministry. This Diocesan certification is looking forward to its third year of operation and is now taking candidates for the two-year process starting in September 2021. For more information please check out [Diocesan website](#).

**ST. JOSEPH’S HEALTHCARE HAMILTON** announced the appointment of Dr. Lehana Thabane as the Vice-President of Research for the hospital, and the Scientific Director of The Research Institute of St. Joseph Healthcare Hamilton. The key role of the Institute is to facilitate and support the conduct of scientifically and ethically sound research, and to be a catalyst of scientific innovation. In pursuit of these goals, the Institute is guided by the values of Dignity, Respect, Service, Justice, Responsibility and Enquiry. Welcome to the St. Joseph’s team!

**THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA** are meeting in Chapter these days to discern Congregational direction for the next four years and to elect new leadership for their community. Please pray for the Sisters who have done so much to assure Catholic Education and Catholic Health Care in our Diocese – and several dioceses in Ontario! We pray to the Lord!

**BISHOP GERARD BERGIE**, Bishop of Saint Catharines, was the featured speaker in this year’s *JOURNEY THROUGH LENT* series, sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. His talks are still available on the CCCB website. 13,424 people accessed the eight YouTube presentations! It was a remarkable success. Congratulations to the Bishop. Thank you for your fine Lenten reflections!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO REBECCA RATHBONE**, Development and Peace Animator for Southwestern Ontario (which includes the Diocese of Hamilton)! She has accepted a position with *Caritas Internationalis*, as Officer Promoting Youth Leadership, one of the charity arms of the Vatican. She begins her new duties in May. When things are a bit safer, she will be relocating to Rome. We wish her well and thank her for the commitment she demonstrates to serve the “little one”!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI