



Heart to Heart

April 30, 2021 (#433)

THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER is tomorrow, May 1, 2021! The feast takes on added significance this year because Pope Francis has dedicated the year to St. Joseph. In the Apostolic Exhortation, *Patris Corde* (With the Heart of a Father), published on December 8, 2020, the Holy Father announced the special dedication. COVID-19 protocols permitting, on Canada Day, July 1, 2021, a special Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King during which an Act of Consecration of the country to St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, will be prayed.

DEACON RICHARD PETSCHÉ of St. Patrick Parish, Burlington, recently donated a kidney to his wife, Linda, of nearly 50 years on April 14, 2021. Both surgeries at St. Joseph's Hospital were successful. Family and friends have prayed for their restored health and a speedy recovery in time for their 50th wedding anniversary in July. We join with them in prayer.

DEMAZENOD DOOR OUTREACH at St. Patrick Parish, Hamilton, announced the launch of the DeMazenod Farm, a place to grow produce and raise egg-laying chickens to provide fresh food for those who visit the DeMazenod Door for a nourishing meal. The farm will grow over 40 varieties of vegetables and herbs including beans, peppers, potatoes, beets, cabbage, carrots, and cauliflower. A very creative and healthy initiative!

THE VIRTUAL RETREAT presented by Bishop Wayne Lobsinger during Lent to over 70 music ministers across our Diocese is now available on the Liturgy Office Music Ministry webpage. The retreat focused on the importance of words and melody in the liturgy. Music ministers and those who enjoy music in the liturgy are welcome to check it out.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK is next week. The week celebrates the blessing of publicly-funded Catholic education in Ontario. A live-streamed Mass, sponsored by the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSD), will be celebrated from St. Ann Church in Ancaster. A message for Catholic Education Week and other resources are available on the Hamilton Diocese website.

THE DIOCESAN REFUGEE OFFICE is preparing for the arrival of three newcomers. They are travel ready! The three will be reunited with their families soon. They have been waiting a long time for this moment. The Office meets with all sponsors to prepare a Quarantine Plan which must pass Immigration Canada's approval. It is consoling to know that overseas operations are being restored!

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL in Hamilton has had over 530 patients admitted with COVID-19 since March 2020. There have been over 100 COVID-related deaths. Stark and shocking statistics! On the positive side, over 40,000 vaccines have been administered since March 1, 2021, at the West 5th clinic. Through it all the healthcare professionals at the hospital have been generous in "going the extra mile" to fight the pandemic. We can do our part by getting vaccinated as soon as possible!

THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS holds their State Convention virtually on Saturday, May 1, 2021. It is the second consecutive year that their convention is a virtual event. The Convention is an opportunity for the Knights to celebrate their many charitable works, and to elect a new State Board of Directors for the Order.

St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+Douglas*, OMI