



Heart to Heart

May 7, 2021 (#434)

POPE FRANCIS has launched a Marathon of Prayer for the month of May. “Guided by Shrines around the world during this month of May, we recite the Rosary to invoke an end to the pandemic and the resumption of social and work-related activities.” (*Pope Francis, General Audience, 5 May 2021*) Father Ian Duffy, Rector of our own Diocesan Shrine, the Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph, is joining the Pope’s prayer marathon by praying the Rosary at noon each day. You can participate in the daily prayer with the Pope by checking the Vatican website for a listing of Shrines, or pray the Rosary in union with Father Duffy at the Basilica in Guelph.

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD SISTERS in Dundas celebrate their 75th anniversary of Foundation in Hamilton, on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 3 p.m. The celebration was to have taken place at the Cathedral Basilica, but pandemic restrictions make that impossible. The community will pray their thanksgiving in the monastery. Five Sisters celebrate significant milestones this year: Sister Ursula Dandeno, 60 years; Sister Nano Nagle, 70 years; Sister Moira McClafferty, 70 years; Sister Lorraine Griffin, 75 years; and Sister Edith May McConnell, 75 years! We offer heartfelt congratulations and profound thanks!

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE OF CANADA honoured Sister Anne Anderson, CSJ, with a “Lifetime Achievement Award”. Sister Anne has given over 50 years of her life to healthcare and higher education. She has been the Chairperson of the St. Joseph’s Health System Board for 18 years! We offer hearty congratulations. Well-merited!

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM has been progressing quietly during the pandemic lockdown. Their sessions have been taking place on the ZOOM platform. This Saturday, the First Year Candidates will be meeting with Sister Eileen Schuller, OSU, who is presenting on Old Testament Wisdom Literature. Father Paul Baillargeon, Chancellor and Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of London, will be introducing Canon Law to the Third Year Candidates. We keep the Deacon Candidates and their spouses in our prayers!

“**THE FIRST LADY AND HER SUCCESSORS**” is a feature-length documentary, written, produced and directed by Dr. Josephine Lombardi. The movie showcases nine dynamic women following in the footsteps of Mary of Nazareth. It will premiere on May 13th, at 7 p.m. on her [website](#). Preview the trailer [here](#).

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH. It is an important opportunity to help destigmatize mental health and treatment. There is growing research and support for connecting a person’s religious beliefs and spirituality into their mental health treatment. We can all offer a listening ear and an understanding heart.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9th IS MOTHER’S DAY! “The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church.” The opening line of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, reminds us why the Church offers blessings and gratitude to mothers on Mother’s Day. A mother’s love is the first human experience we encounter. Mothers nurture us, teach us how to live and act in the world, and reflect God’s unconditional love for us. “A mother who watches over her child with tenderness and compassion helps him or her to grow in confidence and to experience that the world is a good and welcoming place. This helps the child to grow in self-esteem and, in turn, to develop a capacity for intimacy and empathy” (*Amoris Laetitia*, 175). May God bless all mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures! Thank you for your love and affection in our world!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI