



## Heart to Heart

May 14, 2021 (#435)

**ST. JOSEPH'S COVID CARE @ HOME PROGRAM** was featured in The Hamilton Spectator this week as a “good news” story coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID CARE program is designed and delivered by St. Joseph's Home Care. It provides nursing guidance to people infected with the virus so they can self-treat, and if necessary dispatches paramedics or respiratory therapists to patient's homes. More than 430 people have participated in the program which started last November. Of 119 patients currently in the program, only 4 have been referred to hospital! Congratulations to Carolyn Gosse, President of St. Joseph's Home Care, and to the entire team!

**ON MAY 11<sup>th</sup>, POPE FRANCIS CREATED A NEW CATHOLIC MINISTRY**, open to women and men, announced in an Apostolic Letter, *Antiquum Ministerium* (Ancient Ministry). “*The Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Christian faith. ... It is the task of pastors to support them in this process and to enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society,*” said the Holy Father. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops will develop *national norms (formation, mandate, etc.)* for the implementation of this new ministry, the Ministry of Lector, and the Ministry of Acolyte.

**WITH A FATHER'S HEART:** that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as “the son of Joseph.” This opening line from Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, sets the tone for the entire letter. “*St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.*” Monsignor Murray Kroetsch and Teresa Harnett offer a 90-minute ZOOM webinar on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. to discover more about the Pope's letter. Register to receive the link. Check upcoming events on the Diocesan [website](#).

**THE CENTRE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS SOLIDARITY** recently opened on Kent Street in Simcoe. The Centre will welcome workers looking to connect to free WiFi, get answers to legal and workplace safety questions, or just hang out together. The Centre also aims to keep workers safe from COVID-19 and informed of their rights. The Centre is funded by a grant of \$163,000.00 from KAIROS Canada, a faith-based social justice organization. Father Peter Ciallella, who provides support to migrant workers from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Burford, has been an important supporter of the Centre. Over 5,000 welcome bags have been prepared containing face-masks, hand-sanitizer, soap, toothpaste, a towel, socks, cookies and granola bars, as a way of saying thank you for the work they do. A needed program!

**THE OFFICE FOR REFUGEES** facilitated a call between sponsored refugees overseas, family members in Canada, and one of the parish sponsorship groups in Kitchener. The call was an opportunity to put faces to names, and provided a chance to connect, share information, manage expectations and inspire hope and enthusiasm for the road ahead. It is exciting to note that due to recent government policy changes, the family is now exempt from Canada's current travel ban!

**GLOBAL PRAYER FOR CHINA** is a response to the Call for Prayer for the Church and the Peoples of China, from His Eminence Charles Cardinal Bo of Yangon, in March. The Global Prayer initiative is focused during the week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, May 23-30, this year. May 24<sup>th</sup> is the day of Our Lady Help of Christians – the day Pope Benedict dedicated to prayer for the Church in China. Pope Francis reiterated that call in 2018. Check out the [website](#). Pray for the Church in China!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI