



## *Heart to Heart*

*December 3, 2021 (#453)*

**ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH CENTRE, GUELPH** celebrates 160 years of compassion care and courage – a long history of serving the community. The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph was honoured last week at an exhibit of artifacts from their archives and from the Guelph Civic Museum. And it all began with a courageous Nun with 50 cents in her pocket and a hankering to care for the sick! What a blessing!

**JOHN O'BRIEN HAS MADE THE DECISION TO RETIRE** from the Diocese effective February 1, 2022. As a student, John began to work during the summers at the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton in 1975. He began his career as Director of Cemetery Operations in 1987. He completes his service to the Diocese as Episcopal Delegate for Cemeteries and Insurance. We will have an opportunity to thank him for his service and celebrate this new chapter in his life early in the New Year!

**BRIANNE FOOTE** leaves the Diocese next week to move to the Peterborough area with her husband and their little girl. Brianne began working with us in 2014. We will mark her departure and wish her well at a special office gathering next week.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR FATHER BOB STAINSBY**, retired Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Burlington, who died earlier this week. His funeral will take place at St. Paul the Apostle Parish on December 7<sup>th</sup>. He is the second retired Pastor of the Parish who died this year. May they rest in peace.

**FATHER IAN DUFFY**, Rector of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, has organized a Novena of Masses running up to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception next Wednesday. He has invited celebrants for each of the Masses, including Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, who celebrated the first of the Novena Masses. The Novena is also a fine way to mark these first days of Advent.

**A FOURTH REFUGEE** will be reuniting with his relatives in Kitchener. A 30-year old, who lived in asylum in Israel will arrive here in December. Canada resettles a large number of refugees from Israel annually. Thanks to Erin Pease and Rita Balla from our Office for Refugees for their good work!

**THE PERSONNEL BOARD** of the Diocese will hold its first meeting next week. The Deans participate in the first meeting of the Board and provide an overview of the personnel situation in each Deanery. Early in the New Year, the Board will begin the work of considering possible personnel appointments. Please pray that we are Spirit-led!

**THE FINAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL** for 2021 takes place next week. The Council meets at least 10 times each year to assure the financial well-being of the Diocese. We are blessed to have committed members of the Council and a Chancellor (Temporal Affairs) who prepares the agenda and provides the documentation.

**THE HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** holds its annual “initial” Board meeting “virtually” on Tuesday evening. Our Catholic schools are overseen by Catholic leaders who are committed to encourage and promote the best education in our communities. We pray for them.

**THE STATE BOARD AND DISTRICT DEPUTIES** of the Ontario State Council of the Knights of Columbus meet these days in Toronto. It is the first “in person” meeting in more than two years. Actually the meeting is “hybrid” because some will join the meeting online. The good works of the Knights have continued through the pandemic, but many of the Councils have cancelled “in person” meetings.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI