



## Heart to Heart

January 7, 2022 (#455)

**STORIES OF A GENERATION WITH POPE FRANCIS** is the title of a warm, uplifting and inspirational series on NETFLIX. The series began on December 25<sup>th</sup> – and is based on the Pope’s 2018 book, *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*, published by Loyola Press. The series showcases stories from people over 70 from all quarters of the globe, including the Pope himself, as they impart their life experiences to young filmmakers. Each of its four one-hour episodes is devoted to a central theme: “Love”, “Dream”, “Struggle”, and “Work”. There are a few famous names among the stories, including Martin Scorsese and Jane Goodall, but most of those who are presented have never lived in the spotlight! If you subscribe to NETFLIX, it is well worth a watch!

**AMANDA GORMAN, THE YOUNG POET** who read her now-famous poem, “*The Hill We Climb*”, at the 2021 inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden, has written another poem to welcome 2022. “*New Day’s Lyric*” includes this beautiful excerpt:

*“This hope is our door, our portal.  
Even if we never get back to normal,  
Someday we can venture beyond it,  
To leave the known and take the first steps.  
So let us not return to what was normal,  
But reach toward what is next.”*

To hear Amanda Gorman recite her poem, [click here](#).

**GIVEN THE HIGH TRANSMISSIBILITY OF THE OMICRON VARIANT**, and the need to isolate if one is infected, Pastors have been advised that if they or an Associate test positive for COVID-19 and are required to isolate, they are to inform parishioners through the Parish Website and by notices published on doors of the Parish Office and Church that the Parish is closed for the isolation time and will remain closed until a negative result is received. A few of our Parishes, including the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, are closed this weekend as Priests complete the required five-day isolation. Parishioners are reminded that masks are required for church-goers. Following the constant recommendation of medical officers of health, vaccines and booster shots are strongly encouraged!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR FATHER JAMES MCSHARRY** who is in hospital in St. Catharines with a life-threatening illness (not Covid). It had been hoped that he would be transferred to the hospice in Owen Sound, but his current health status is precarious. Your prayers are appreciated!

**THE PILGRIM ICON OF ST. JOSEPH**, sponsored by the Ontario State Council of the Knights of Columbus, is beginning a year-long cross-Ontario pilgrimage at our own Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Stoney Creek. It is the Parish of Ontario State Deputy Marcel Lemmen. The Knights of Columbus Councils will sponsor the pilgrimage in their Parishes. Look for it to arrive in your Parish in the coming year.

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD CONCLUDES THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.** Ordinary Time begins on Monday. From the Ordo: *Sunday is the original Christian Feast Day, following the tradition handed down from Apostolic times, for this was the day of the Lord’s Resurrection. Today’s Christian communities continue this tradition by celebrating every Sunday as the day of the risen Lord.*

**TODAY IS THE MEMORIAL OF ST. ANDRE BESSETTE, C.S.C.** He was a doorkeeper at a school run by the Holy Cross community. His strong devotion to St. Joseph inspired a generation of Montrealers. The beautiful St. Joseph’s Oratory began with his encouragement and continues to be, thanks to the Holy Cross community, a place of prayer and miracles.

St. Andre Bessette, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI