



## Heart to Heart

February 11, 2022 (#460)

**PEOPLE AND PLANET FIRST!** This is the theme for the annual Share Lent campaign sponsored by *Development and Peace – Caritas Canada*. It highlights the work of Development and Peace partners who create alternatives to unjust social and economic systems. We join in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the global south when we open our hearts to the message of this campaign. Development and Peace provides liturgical resources, a virtual Share Lent workshop, an exciting new program for schools, and it invites financial contributions to support those most in need. An excellent Lenten program.

**THE THIRTIETH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK** is today. As is the custom, Pope Francis chooses a theme for the day and publishes a message in which he reflects on that theme. The theme chosen for this year's day of prayer is, "*Be merciful, even as our Father is merciful*" (Lk 6:36). The complete message of Pope Francis is available [here](#). In our prayer today, we remember especially those who, over the past many months, have suffered with COVID, and for those who have tirelessly cared for them. We also remember all those who are sick in any way, and their caregivers! We pray to the Lord.

**THE DIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD** met earlier this week to consider possible priest personnel changes for 2022. Interviews with priests will begin in the coming days with the publication of changes expected in early April. As has become the practice, the changes are effective at noon on Wednesday of the last week of June. Please pray for the Priests and for your Parishes.

**SELECTED BISHOPS FROM CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA** met by video conference on February 7-8, 2022, for the meeting of the *Church in America*. Held every second year, the meeting was hosted this year by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The meeting aims to foster relations and discussions between the Bishops of America. Their Joint Statement at the conclusion of the meeting is available [here](#).

**THE ONTARIO STATE BOARD** of the Knights of Columbus meets this weekend under the direction of State Deputy Marcel Lemmen. The meeting provides the State Board with an overview of the activities of councils across the Province and is a preparation for the 119<sup>th</sup> Ontario State Convention scheduled to take place in Niagara Falls, April 22-24, 2022. We are grateful for the many good works of the Knights in our Diocese.

**LECTURES IN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE** at St. Jerome's University offers a lecture by Waterloo University Professor Mark Jeurgensmeyer titled "*What the Taliban and QAnon Have in Common: The Global Rise of Religious Nationalism*". The lecture will be [online](#) next Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. It is co-sponsored by the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society (TSAS) at the University of Waterloo.

**NEXT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**, is the 196<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the approval of the *Constitutions and Rules* of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. It was at that time that the young congregation was dedicated to Mary Immaculate. We pray for the Oblate community world-wide, and for those members who serve in the Diocese of Hamilton. Happy Feast Day!

**ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** Brendan Whittle and Claudia Defazio, will be representing Canada at Loyola University Chicago's upcoming virtual meeting with Pope Francis. "*Building Bridges: A Synodal Encounter Between Pope Francis and University Students*" takes place on February 24, 2022, and includes students from North, Central and South America. An exciting opportunity!

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI