



## Heart to Heart

March 4, 2022 (#463)

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH** on Hamilton Mountain is beginning to show! The steel beams are being erected revealing the building's shape and size. Father Mark Gatto inspects the site regularly along with building overseer, Deacon Tom Vert. During a recent visit, Father Mark had a close up view of the cranes that are doing the "heavy lifting". It is an exciting time for parishioners who have waited a long time for their new church!

**OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO OUR UKRAINIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS**, especially those in the Ukraine, those displaced by the current conflict, and those of Ukrainian heritage here in Canada. We are mindful of the many refugees from diverse countries of origin who have been living in asylum in Ukraine. The UN Refugee Agency reports that more than 1 million refugees have fled Ukraine in recent days. Our Office for Refugees has already started fielding calls enquiring about sponsorship for Ukrainian nationals. The UN has confirmed it is too early to consider resettlement for those fleeing Russian aggression in Ukraine. Sponsorship is not currently a viable option for this community. We pray for a rapid de-escalation of violence and suffering and a generous humanitarian response in the interim. For updated information about what steps Canada's federal immigration department is taking to address this emergency, see [here](#).

**THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** has issued a helpful document, [A Call for Peace in Ukraine](#). For those interested in letter-writing, the message includes addresses of leaders who can be written. For those interested in providing financial assistance, you are invited to consider the following opportunities:

- [Development and Peace in partnership with Caritas International](#)
- [Aid to the Church in Need \(ACN\)](#)
- [Catholic Near East Welfare Association \(CNEWA Canada\)](#)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops published their statement earlier this week. It is available [here](#).

**THE WEBPAGE** of *The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis* and the *Liturgy Office* has tips for families celebrating the Lenten rituals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, as well as resources available for purchase at the Diocesan Office. [Check it out!](#)

**THE deVEBER INSTITUTE** is presenting a three-part lecture series, looking closely at palliative care in the face of Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD). The series features doctors, lawyers, and psychiatrists who are at the forefront of this important conversation and who can enlighten us on dignity conserving care, whole-patient palliative care and mental health resources in Canada. [Register on their website](#).

**THE PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM** continues this weekend at Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre. With the reduced protocol requirements, the session will be an "in person" session – an opportunity for me to celebrate Mass with the Deacon-candidates and their wives. Some of the candidates are completing their formation in preparation for Ordination in June.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO** meets virtually next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. This provides the Bishops opportunities to discuss matters of common concern and interest, and to receive reports and interventions from a variety of presenters. The ACBO has carefully overseen the development of pandemic protocols in the dioceses, with the help of a *WorshipSafe* committee. The professional counsel of medical expertise has been invaluable in assuring the care of parishioners throughout the pandemic.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI