



Heart to Heart

September 9, 2022 (#479)

ON THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II, Pope Francis sent a message from the Vatican to King Charles III: “Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I offer heartfelt condolences to Your Majesty, the Members of the Royal Family, the People of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen’s eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises. Commending her noble soul to the merciful goodness of our Heavenly Father, I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. Upon you and all who cherish the memory of your late mother, I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord.” FRANCISCUS

THE PRIESTS SERVING IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON completed the first *Priests’ Seminar* in three years this week! The three-day session, entitled *REIMAGINING OUR PREACHING*, focused on the art of preparing the Sunday homily. Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher from Gatineau, Quebec, was the keynote speaker on the opening evening. He outlined the challenges and blessings of being a Priest today. Father Michael Connors, CSC, Director of the John S. Marten Program in Homiletics and Liturgies at Notre Dame University, led the Priests through an informative reflection on the preparation and delivery of homilies that touch hearers’ minds and hearts! Between the sessions, there were lively discussions and happy opportunities to welcome new Priests to the Diocese!

THE ANNUAL SEASON OF CREATION began last week and continues until October 4th. The season provides special opportunities to focus our efforts and reflect on our responsibilities as stewards of creation. To be better informed and to actively participate, check out the resource guide [here](#). If you are hosting an event that you would like to share, contact Sarah Guinta at the Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK takes place the last week of September. The programming has expanded to include age-appropriate material for Grades 1 through 12, centered around the theme ‘Remembering the Children’. Indigenous knowledge keepers will share with young people. Further information can be found [here](#). The *Fourth Indigenous Legacy Gathering* takes place at Nathan Phillips Square, September 29-30, 2022. It is a lively event celebrating Indigenous music, dance, drumming, workshops, artists and performers.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA, founded in 1920, is the largest national organization of women in Canada, with more than 63,000 members represented in every province and the military. The League has received the commendation and appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal leaders for the voluntary services performed by its membership. The priority for 2022 is to encourage the enactment of federal legislation to reduce food loss and waste. The current theme is *Catholic and Living It!* Shari Guinta, from St. Michael Parish in Waterloo, is President-elect of the League! Catholic women are encouraged to become members of The League.

CARITAS PAKISTAN is responding after devastating floods have impacted one-third of the country, destroying infrastructure, and killing 1200 people so far. Donations can be made [here](#) or through Development and Peace/Caritas Canada.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for *Father Ireneusz (Irek) Kosiak*, SAC, Pastor of St. Clement Parish, St. Clements, who underwent successful open-heart surgery on Wednesday at St. Mary’s Hospital, Kitchener. He begins a lengthy period of recovery. And for *Father Jim Petrie*, who is beginning a time of rehabilitation following a lengthy stay in hospital in Oakville. We pray to the Lord!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI