



Heart to Heart

November 16, 2012 (#95)

THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF HAMILTON request your prayers for the week of November 18-24, when they will enter into a union with the St. Joseph Congregations in London, Peterborough and Pembroke, and become one Religious Institute of Pontifical Rite. The new Institute will be called the "Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada". The decree is effective November 22, 2012, (the memorial day of Mother St. John Fontbonne) during the first General Chapter of the new Institute. Elections for the new Congregational Leadership Team will be held during the Chapter.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH IN WATERLOO celebrates its 60th anniversary this weekend. I will celebrate all the Masses and meet parishioners afterwards. It is another opportunity to offer thanks to God for the blessings showered upon us!

IT IS ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH for the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. The Society works hard at this time of year to find Catholic families to open their home and their hearts to children through adoption. The message on the cover of their brochure says it all: "Adoption is one way that God creates families." Pastors are invited to encourage married couples to consider adopting or fostering children. CCAS provides all the information and support a family will need.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. NAT GALLO, parishioner at Christ the King Cathedral, who was recently elected Supreme Director on the Supreme Board of the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Connecticut. He was the founding Principal of Bishop Tonnos High School and has been involved in the Knights of Columbus for many years. We wish you well, Nat!

BARB DOLLAH OF OUR IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE OFFICE reports that the Southern Ontario Sponsorship Group (SOSG) met this week at the Chancery Office. The SOSG is made up of refugee sponsoring organizations who come together to dialogue about refugee resettlement. Casa El Norte, from the St. Catharine's Diocesan Office, co-sponsored the event with our own office. This was the first meeting of the group in our Chancery. Welcome to you!

THERE ARE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO NURTURE OUR FAITH during the upcoming Advent season. Three are listed below:

- **"COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS"** is a session sponsored by the Family Ministry Office for those who might find the Christmas season a challenge because of the loss of a loved one or for any other reason. Christina Walton, Grief Counselor, will share strategies for coping when Christmas is not the joyful experience it promises to be. Mark your calendars: Sunday, December 2, 2012, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. The session takes place at the Chancery Office.
- **"TO US A CHILD IS BORN" IS AN ADVENT RETREAT** for the Diocese of Hamilton offered by the Ignatius Jesuit Centre – Loyola House in Guelph. The December 14-16 event will provide time for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Daily Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Spiritual Direction. Cost is \$200. Call 519-824-1250 to register.
- **ST. AUGUSTINE'S INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND LAY FORMATION PROGRAM** present a Retreat entitled *Preparing for Advent* on December 1, 2012. Dr. Josephine Lombardi will guide two meditations on the first two Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary: the Annunciation and the Visitation. The event takes place at St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough. The \$40 registration includes lunch. Call 416-261-7207, extension 235.

CLERGY APPRECIATION NIGHT is tonight at the Knights of Columbus Centre at St. Eugene's Parish in Hamilton. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. See you there!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI