



## *Heart to Heart*

December 7, 2012 (#98)

**THE MESSIAH SEASON IS UPON US ONCE AGAIN!** Two opportunities to enjoy Handel's powerful Oratorio exist for music lovers in Hamilton Diocese. It will be offered at Mary Mother of God Parish in Oakville on Saturday evening, and Boris Brott will direct the Arcady Singers at St. Patrick Parish in Hamilton next Monday evening. It is a wonderful way to "prepare" for the season of God's overwhelming love!

**OUR LADY OF VIETNAM PARISH IS BEING RELOCATED** to Holy Family Church on Kenilworth Street. Father Hanh Van Tran, OMI, is appointed Pastor of Holy Family Parish while remaining Pastor of Our Lady of Vietnam Parish. Recently ordained Permanent Deacon Joseph DiLoreto is appointed to serve with Father Hanh at Holy Family Parish. The change will provide more space for the growing Vietnamese community and give new vigour to Holy Family Parish. It is effective next Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. May this new initiative be a blessing for all involved!

**THE ANNUAL IMMIGRATION (MULTICULTURAL) MASS** will be celebrated this Sunday at Christ the King Cathedral beginning at 1 p.m. Barbara Dollak, Director of our Immigration and Refugee Office, informs us that 14 different cultural groups will participate actively in the liturgy. It is one of the most colourful and moving liturgies of the year!

**LAST YEAR, THE DIOCESAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE OFFICE** assisted 34 refugees to find a home in Canada. The final application has just been submitted. We have received the same quota (34) for 2013. It is nothing less than the important work of saving lives!

**STUDENTS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN GUELPH** know the wrenching reality of the deportation of one of their classmates. Nallely Enriquez-Colin and her family were ordered back to Mexico by Immigration Canada effective today. A letter-writing campaign encouraging the Minister to stay the deportation until the completion of the appeal process was ineffective. Mr. Michael MacPherson, the school Principal, emphasizes the Christian virtue of hope which provides some consolation and reassurance for the students.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARON FAZARI AND THE DIOCESAN CHOIR** for the success of their annual Advent Hymn Festival held at St. Raphael Parish, Burlington, last Sunday evening. The Church was packed and parishioners were grateful for the experience. Proceeds from the free-will offering were contributed to St. Clare Inn, a Franciscan program to assist women in difficulty. Thanks to the Parish for hosting the event this year!

**DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> IS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a special feast for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and for many Religious communities in the Diocese. Tonight, I will join members of the Congregation of the Resurrection and parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Kitchener for a celebration of Evening Prayer. Tomorrow morning, the small Oblate community in Hamilton will gather for 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Parish.

**THE NEW RESIDENCE FOR ST. BENEDICT PARISH IN MILTON** will be blessed tomorrow, marking another step in the development of the newest Parish in the Diocese. Congratulations to Father Dan Miehm for the success of these first months. May the Parish continue to grow in faith!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI