



Heart to Heart

May 26, 2023 (#508)

THE BLESSING OF ST. MARY CHURCH IN HAMILTON last Sunday, following an extensive cleaning, restoration, and renovation, was a joyful event, attended by parishioners, friends, and supporters. Father David Avila, Pastor, warmly welcomed all who have waited for the completion of the work. The sprinkling rite assured that the building, all its unique features, and all who gathered were well blessed! The traditional “blessing of the crowns” was presided over by Father Avila, with the participation of parishioners young and old. Monsignor Edward Sheridan, project overseer, assured that everyone who worked on the project, inside and out, was appropriately and sincerely thanked. The choir assured that God was praised above all! Thanks to all who contributed to make St. Mary Church beautiful again!

“LET US RETURN WITH JOY!” is the title of a *Pastoral Letter* sent to Parish Priests this week, to be read at all Sunday Masses, this Sunday, the Solemnity of Pentecost. The letter lifts the dispensation from attending Sunday Eucharist effective on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), June 11, 2023. It reminds readers that those who are impeded from participating at Sunday Mass because of ill-health, care for the sick, or some other grave reason, are not bound by the obligation to participate in the Sunday Eucharist. All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to return with joy to the Sunday Mass! The letter can be read [here](#).

ON MONDAY, MAY 29th, THE CHURCH CELEBRATES MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH. As we resume the Liturgical Season called “Ordinary Time”, the first celebration honours Mary, under her title, Mother of the Church. The Memorial, established by Pope Francis, marks a title for Mary favoured by the Fathers of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council. Mass will be celebrated at noon at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. All are welcome.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH in Hamilton continues. A small delegation will visit the site Monday morning to see the progress of the work. The improved weather during the summer months will provide opportunities to work both outside and inside. A Fall dedication of the new church is in planning stages – once the work is complete.

ST. JOSEPH’S VILLA IN DUNDAS holds the *House of Providence Picnic* next Wednesday afternoon, continuing an annual celebration begun by the Sisters of St. Joseph back in the day! Events begin at 1:00 p.m. and continue throughout the afternoon. The celebration is one of the primary fundraising opportunities for The Villa and an occasion to thank the staff for the remarkable care provided to residents year-round.

“THE LETTER” is a beautiful movie emphasizing the urgency of the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis called *Laudato Si’* (Praised be ...). It reveals the effects of climate change in certain parts of the world and the call of young people who are taking the lead in urging us to make changes to our lifestyle choices now. The [movie](#) is worth a watch – not too long – very informative and very moving!

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS throughout the Diocese are preparing High School Graduations for students in Grade 12! It is a significant moment in their lives and an exciting time at the schools. Students are being chosen to give Valedictory (Farewell) Addresses. Principals are preparing their final speeches to the students. Recipients are being selected for various honours and awards. We pray for young people who are at this major turning point. May the Lord be close to you, reassuring you of the love of God for you at this graced time in your lives! Rich blessings to all!

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI