

LENT IS COMING!!

We approach the Lenten season as a time to come closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As people of faith, we invite others in our parish, our schools, and our community to join us in opening our hearts to solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South and take action together to build a better world.

For almost 50 years, Canadian Catholics have generously and faithfully responded to the cry of the poor by giving generously to DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. We have walked side by side with the women, men and children who experience the injustice of poverty, no matter where they may be.

This Lent we are being asked to sow seeds of love as we continue to lead the "One Human Family, food for all" campaign across Canada, which was launched by Pope Francis in December 2013. With other members of Caritas International around the world, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace works to build a world where no one goes hungry. Lent Begins February 18th.

DO YOU WANT A DOCTOR WITH MORAL INTEGRITY?

Doctors may be required to violate their moral integrity by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO).

Our doctors maintain professional, respectful and compassionate relationships with their patients. This includes accompanying patients as they make difficult choices, understanding fully that the final decision is always the patient's.

Our doctors simply ask that they be respected as professionals in return. Forcing doctors to violate their moral integrity is not only damaging to the doctor, but to the patient and to medical services as a whole.

The CPSO have a draft policy that would demand that doctors participate in morally controversial procedures like birth control, abortion and even euthanasia (if it becomes legal).

For more info, please visit: cmdscanada.org – the deadline for comments is: Feb 20, 2015.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – with Bishop Crosby at the Cathedral Basilica in Hamilton on **Sunday June 7th, 2015 at 1:30 pm**; for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years in the calendar year 2015. Registration forms are available on the poster on the bulletin board at the back of the Church.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9 am – 5:30 pm - Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St., W., Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck, Guest Speaker: Al Kresta. High Mass (with Sunday readings)

Celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins. Separate Youth Event (13-18 yrs.) Music, Skits, Power-packed Talks.

For Tickets (Adult \$20/Youth \$10) call 416-251-4255 or 905-270-2510/. Email: LJHR@rogers.com, visit: www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org.

BRANT MEN OF SONG BENEFIT CONCERT

The Brant Men of Song and guest artists will present a benefit concert in support of the Hankinson House Hospice. Please support this worthy cause being held at St Pius X Church on **Saturday, February 28th** at 7:30 p.m. A free will offering will be greatly accepted.

Pope Francis has called a Synod of Marriage and Family to be held in October of 2015 which is to include Bishops from around the world. – **this is your invitation to participate** in the gathering of information from the Hamilton Diocese. There are two ways that you may submit your responses:

1. Fill in the questionnaire which can be found on the Hamilton Diocesan web site at www.hamiltondiocese.com. The questionnaire seeks information from the faithful on the content of the Lineamenta, which is the working document for the upcoming Synod. It can be completed on line, or printed and faxed or mailed to the Family Ministry Office. **The deadline for submission is Feb. 27, 2015.**
2. **Attend one of two focus group gatherings** where the questionnaire will be discussed and responses collected to include in the final report. **Both gatherings will occur from 7:00 - 9:00 pm** and you are asked to RRSP by phone (905-528-7988 ext. 2249) or e-mail (familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com) if you plan to attend. You may join in a focus group at **St. Michael Parish** (240 Hemlock Street, Waterloo) on **Tuesday, Feb. 17th** or at the **Chancery Office** (700 King Street West, Hamilton) on **Thursday, Feb. 19th**.

The information being gathered will provide essential input to the Bishops as they prepare for the Synod. Please consider engaging in this process in one or both of the ways provided. For further information contact Teresa Hartnett at 905-528-7988 ext. 2250 or thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com.

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry at each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 13-15, 2015** in Niagara Falls please call **905-664-5212**.