



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2021

THE 2021 – 2023 SYNOD OF BISHOPS brings an invitation from Pope Francis to embark on a journey together. How can you get involved? Offer your thoughts on how we can deepen our communion in the Lord and how all members of the Church can participate more fully in its mission. Visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/synod/#about>.

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES - The Offices for Liturgy, Youth Ministry and Evangelization and Catechesis are happy to provide a resource for families to encourage prayer and celebration in the home during the Advent Season. Please see <https://hamiltondiocese.com/advent2021/> for suggestions, videos and a prayer to be prayed around the wreath each Sunday of Advent. We invite you to share this resource with those in your communities who may benefit.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON - The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis has produced a video showcasing the wonderful ministry of our Diocesan University Chaplaincy Centres. Do share this video with a young person in your life who may be preparing for post-secondary education, or someone who is looking for a faith community on campus within the Diocese. Special thanks to the Priests Chaplains, campus ministers and students who helped make this project possible. To view the video, visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/evangelization-catechesis/young-adult-ministry>.

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION AND ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES - The Diocese of Hamilton is pleased to have The University of Dayton: Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) as a partner in adult faith formation. The VLCFF is a living adult faith community offering online learning opportunities to address the learning needs of adults in our Diocese. Whether taking courses for professional development in ministry or for personal nourishment, the VLCFF provides a breadth of opportunity for learning including full certificate programs, five-week online courses and three-week intensive online seminars. The Youth Ministry office is now accepting applications for Youth Ministry Certification with courses beginning in January. For more information visit the Hamilton Diocese learns web page: <https://www.hamiltondiocesearns.com/> or contact the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis: (905) 528-7988 ext. 2339 or catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH - Parenting Tip 135 - The excitement of Christmas begins to build even before Halloween. Children are targeted with ads and commercials to ask Santa for the latest toys, electronic device or game. As parents we love to see the anticipation, but our task is a greater one – it is to keep the reason for Christmas at the forefront of our children’s minds and understanding. Are they as excited about the coming of Christ and it’s meaning for all people? Do they have a sense that long after every gift they desire from Santa is gone, the truths, love, care, compassion, guidance and stability from God will live on to help each of us to live and, ultimately, receive the gift of eternity? The true gift of Christmas should never be the last one we think of, or getting excited about, since it is indeed the most valuable. Advent is the perfect time to daily bring all of this to light!

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH - Marriage Tip 115 - Intentional divorce and conscience uncoupling are two terms becoming popular in North American vernacular, but what we should be promoting is intentional marriage and conscience coupling. The research is clear that couples can take steps to remain and even deepen their love. Consciously making the decision to spend time together, to share our deepest feelings (good and bad), to use touch throughout the day, to make date-night (however that looks) a priority will build your couple relationship. Looking for moments of gratitude and thanking your spouse will increase the loving bond between you. This Christmas make conscience coupling your gift to each other; it may be the best gift you will ever receive!

YEAR OF AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY - HAMILTON DIOCESAN SPEAKER SERIES - The kick off to the Diocesan speaker series, meant to celebrate the year, will be in January, with a special three part presentation by Bishop Lobsinger, with input from the Pastoral Offices staff. The evening sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Jan. 12th, 19th and 26th, and will unpack the great wisdom in Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love in Families and Church.. The presentations, by zoom, are meant to engage all members of the Diocese in looking at both the challenges and blessings of families in the world today. Check the Diocesan website at <https://amorislaetitia.hamiltondiocese.com/> for more information about both the year and the Diocesan Speaker Series. Online registration will be necessary to receive the link, where you can join in by phone or internet. For more information contact Teresa Hartnett at thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

RESTART: A SEPARATION AND DIVORCE RECOVERY PROGRAM - Feeling the need for support, healing and/or hope after a separation or divorce? The Diocesan ReStart Programs support your journey, providing you with tools to remain healthy. While the program has not been able to run due to COVID restrictions, we will offering an evening session by zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 14th: Coping with Christmas When Divorced or Separated. To register or see the dates for future courses, please check the information online: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/divorce-separation.php>. For more information contact Teresa at the Family Ministry Office: (905) 528-7988, ext. 2250.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT - Is your marriage experience more trouble than joy, feeling stagnant or disconnected and/or causing you worries? The solution is Retrouvaille - a program for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. Retrouvaille has one purpose: to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It also works well for couples who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend begins March 13, 2022. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email teamrecine@gmail.com.