

*Proud to be Catholic*

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



### ***Communio Reflection from Elsie Flay***

As we continue to reflect on the challenge of living out our Baptismal promises, winter and Ordinary Time provides each of us time to reflect and consider our personal response to our next step in our personal journey to be of "One heart and one soul". This is a responsibility each member of parish. I invite you to spend time with the following article I found in a treasure chest of articles in the to do box. Enjoy. (Read across the page)

I want you to imagine in front of you a most wonderful tree. This tree represents the parish. From its trunk we can tell its age. Over the years it has weathered many a storm, including recent times. Many branches are strong and sturdy, some are worse for wear. Others are young and are braving the elements.

You may find as you look at this tree, its branches, its leaves, that some of the leaves have withered and turned brown. There are signs that from time to time branches have fallen off. Over time many branches have grown old and decayed and have fallen to the base of the tree. Others have been cut off. These leaves and branches, though decayed and rotten, have replenished the earth and nourished the roots of the tree. Become aware of the strength that comes

Each branch represents some aspect of parish life. Some are very strong and support smaller branches and leaves. But all the branches are needed to give this parish its identity and to support and comfort all who come within its compass. This tree has room for us all. All of our ideas and needs will hopefully find support and nourishment here.

Each branch represents an area of the parish and of our belief system.

Take a moment to become aware of this tree and the many different areas in the parish that it symbolises. Many branches are obvious. Others are tucked away from sight, but all contribute to the overall grandeur of the tree. You may wish to stand back from it and admire it or you may wish to sit under it with your back to the trunk and feel the massive support therein.

Become aware of the strength that comes with having secure roots that are constantly being nourished. Nothing is ever lost.

Every idea the parish has had, whether used or discarded, has led to where we are today and to who we are today. Many ideas have blown in on the wind. Some remain. Others have been blown around elsewhere, only to be replenished and recycled and to come back stronger than ever.

