



Heart to Heart

May 13, 2011 (#26)

THE DIOCESAN MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION MET AT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH in Burlington on Wednesday. Laurie Monique, Pastoral Associate at St. Louis Parish, Waterloo, co-ordinates the group. Fr. Con O'Mahony spoke to the group, and I was pleased to have an opportunity to greet them and thank them for their ministry in the various parishes of the Diocese. I was introduced to two of five Parish Nurses in our Diocese. You might want to look into this area of expertise in your own parish setting.

MR. ALAN VALARKI, recently accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Hamilton, will spend the summer months at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo, prior to continuing his studies at St. Peter's Seminary in London. We welcome Alan, and look forward to the coming years of discernment. All of our seminarians begin summer assignments, some working at the Catholic Cemeteries in Hamilton. We wish the young men well, wherever they will be spending the academic vacation. I am hoping to have a midsummer gathering for them, providing an opportunity to hear about their experiences!

WELCOME BACK TO FATHER MURRAY FARWELL, following his brief sabbatical and recuperation from some health problems. He was present for the meeting of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council on Wednesday and reports that he is in good shape once again and ready to pick up where he left off! I offer my gratitude to Father Rafal Tomon for his ministry in Mount Forest during Father Farwell's absence.

THE MASS FOR MARRIED COUPLES CELEBRATING SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES takes place at the Cathedral of Christ the King beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th. Almost 400 couples from across the Diocese have registered for the Mass. Special certificates are given to mark the occasion. Thanks to those who have worked hard to make the event so such a wonderful occasion. I am looking forward to a joyous family celebration.

THE INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION (I.C.E.) sponsors a symposium on Sunday and Monday in Toronto. The theme for the symposium, *Living Our Legacy – Forging Our Future*, celebrates 25 years of full-funding for Catholic education in the Province of Ontario. Bishop Paul-André Durocher, Bishop of Cornwall, is the key-note speaker at the Sunday evening banquet. Dr. Mark McGowan and Mr. Sean Conway are speakers at the Monday sessions. Anne Jamieson, Director of our Office for Catechesis will be present at the event.

I WAS WELCOMED AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH IN HANOVER, ONTARIO, last evening, for the celebration of Mass and a blessing of the life-size statue of the Holy Family which has stood outside the church since 1982. It was re-installed last month following a careful restoration in Thailand; I learned that this Asian nation is a world leader in casting bronze. In mid-June, Father Perera will welcome his classmate, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka, to the parish for a few days. These are exciting days in the community!

MR. ROBIN CASLICK MEETS WITH THE STAFF OF THE PASTORAL OFFICES next Tuesday to facilitate a session that will lead to the development of a mission statement. Mr. Caslick is a professional in the area of Human Resources and has been providing helpful advice in the development of our pastoral offices.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI