



THANKS TO DEACON NICK CHERRI FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE in our Office for the Permanent Diaconate. He resigned his position and completed his service this week. The staff gathered to wish him all the best at a farewell lunch. Nick continues to serve as a Deacon in St. Ambrose Parish in Cambridge. Plans for the future of the office will be discussed at a meeting on February 8th.

THE APPLICATION FOR INCORPORATION OF THE *EX CORDE FOUNDATION* has been sent to the Federal Government for approval. Terry Carter and Jennifer Leddy, the lawyers who are helping us with this process, facilitated a helpful Resource Day at the Chancery Office on Monday. Participating were representatives from the Episcopal Board, the Diocesan Finance Committee, Diocesan Administration personnel, and the proposed founding Board of the new Foundation. It is hoped that the new Foundation will provide significant financial support for parish projects and programs in our Diocese. Once it is approved and up and running we will let you know.

THE NEW ONTARIO FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND CEMETERIES ACT was the topic for discussion at a session held on Monday afternoon at our Chancery Office. The Senior Managers from the Catholic Cemeteries, our Diocesan Administrative personnel, representatives from our Diocesan Finance Committee and from the Episcopal Board were present for the meeting. The revised legislation must be implemented by July 1st. Thanks to the fine work of the managers at our Catholic Cemeteries, we are confident that we will be fully compliant with the Act well ahead of that date.

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN HAMILTON dropped in for a visit at the Chancery earlier this week. They were the first of three groups from the school to have completed an eight-day trek to the Dominican Republic as part of this year's D.R.E.A.M.S program. They spoke about the life-changing experience with exuberance and joy. The Chaplaincy Leader at their High School, Mr. Don Hall, organized the visit here, which provided an opportunity for me to hear more about the program and to meet the students personally. It is a remarkable initiative.

THE NATIONAL EVANGELIZATION TEAM (N.E.T.), nine young people who visited our Diocese over the past two weeks, stopped by for lunch on Tuesday. They spoke enthusiastically about the retreats they offered in parishes and schools throughout the Diocese, and particularly a retreat for about 50 university students held at the centre in Deemerton last weekend. These vibrant young people have given the better part of a year of their lives to N.E.T. Ministries, and travel across the country meeting other young people, speaking about the importance of faith in God and care for others. Another impressive group of young people!

FATHER JOHN McCARTHY, S.J., PROCURATOR FOR THE JESUIT COMMUNITY, dropped by for a friendly visit on Wednesday. He is completing a tour of Jesuit communities in this area, including those in the Diocese of Hamilton. Father McCarthy lived with me for a year in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, so his visit gave us opportunity to recall some of the happy events of that time.

FATHER EARL TALBOT AND ST. ANTHONY DANIEL'S PARISHIONERS will be welcoming me for the weekend. On Saturday, I will meet many at a formation session for those who serve in a variety of ministries, and I will celebrate all of the Sunday Masses. I look forward to visiting this dynamic parish! Father Talbot has promised his hallmark bologna sandwich for Sunday lunch!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!