



Heart to Heart

February 24, 2012 (#62)

THE ANNUAL BISHOP'S CHARITIES DINNER IS TOMORROW EVENING at Carmen's Banquet Centre in Hamilton. The event, which raises funds to support several good works in the Diocese and beyond, is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Councils in the Hamilton area under the capable direction of Fred Miscio and Dan Lohin, District Deputy. I am grateful to the Knights who have put so much energy and effort into the preparation of this annual event, and to all who are so generous in support of the good works. I look forward with enthusiasm to meeting those who will be at the event!

THE FIRST OF SEVERAL SPECIAL EVENTS HONOURING Thomas Cardinal Collins takes place next Wednesday morning (10 a.m.) at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. Bishops from across Canada will join priests and parishioners from the Archdiocese at the celebration of the Pontifical Mass with the Cardinal. Mark your calendars to attend our own special Evening Prayer which will take place at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph on March 22nd at 7 p.m. Cardinal Collins will return to his hometown to greet his many friends and to pray with us. The pilgrims who travelled to Rome to participate in the Consistory and related celebrations last weekend are returning home with many stories of a memorable sequence of ceremonies and events.

THE FAITHFUL CAME OUT TO OUR PARISHES IN LARGE NUMBERS on Wednesday to begin the 40 days of Lent. It is a time to re-order our priorities through the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I prayed with Monsignor Edward House and parishioners at the Cathedral of Christ the King. I am always impressed by the piety and goodness of people as they set out on this Lenten journey one more time!

A POSITION HAS BEEN POSTED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for our Pastoral Offices of Catechesis and Discipleship. The posting was sent to our parishes yesterday. Applications can be sent to Mr. Jim Long at the Chancery Office. The deadline is March 1st.

CARPENTERS, ELECTRICIANS, PAINTERS AND "COMPUTER GUYS" have been working in the Bishop's area of the Chancery this week preparing the new configuration of offices. Under the capable direction of Larry Lamanes, the space has remained remarkably clean and ordered during the renovation. While work continues, both Wilma Dunn and Carol Daly have set up shop in the office of the Auxiliary Bishop!

THE STONEMASONRY FOR THE NEW ELEVATOR AT THE CATHEDRAL of Christ the King is completed. The stonemasons left last Friday, proud of their handiwork. The addition complements the Cathedral remarkably well. The work of assembling the elevator begins presently. It should all be operational by Easter – fingers crossed!

JUSTIN RUISS WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO ST. JOHN'S PARISH IN GUELPH for Confirmations this Sunday afternoon. Justin is preparing for his ordination to the Diaconate this summer. It will give me an opportunity to assess his "MC" skills!

FATHER VIC McNAMARA IS BEING FETED AT A DINNER PARTY at St. Dominic's Parish tonight. It is his 86th birthday party! We offer our congratulations and good wishes, and thank him for the excellent pastoral care he has provided for so many years. *Ad multos annos!*

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde invicem, + *Douglas*, OMI