



A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE ADORNS THE CHANCERY ENTRANCE FOYER, reminding staff and visitors alike that we are in the sacred season of Advent, preparing for the beautiful feast of Christmas. Little by little, over the coming weeks, Priests, pastoral staff, and parish choirs will ensure that everything is ready for the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace. The Advent season is a time to open our hearts to welcome Him. We do that by treating others with a similar love that the Father showers upon us each day! Thanks to those who prepared the beautiful crèche!

MONSIGNOR MURRAY KROETSCH AND MONSIGNOR EARL TALBOT represented the Diocese at the annual visit to the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince last weekend. Monsignor Pierre Philippe Jean Pierre made sure that they saw all the important diocesan sites, especially the seminary that the Diocese assists. Under the leadership of Archbishop Guire Poulard, the Archdiocese has been recovering slowly from the earthquake that devastated the city in 2010.

AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DIOCESE AND ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA HAS BEEN SIGNED for the completion of the *St. John Vianney Residence at the Villa*. The eight suites for Priests of the Diocese are already under construction. Priests will soon be invited to submit their names to indicate interest in living in the residence. It is expected that the renovation will be completed by the end of May. Villa personnel are looking forward with excitement to welcome Priests of the Diocese back to the facility!

THE YEAR OF MERCY BEGINS ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th, with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Holy Door at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King will be opened at a ceremony to be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday evening, December 13th. In a Pastoral Letter sent to Parishes earlier this week, some of the highlights of the year are outlined for the information of parishioners. The year promises to be an opportunity to experience God's mercy and to be sharers of God's mercy with others. Enter into the spirit of the year, ready to receive the graces it offers!

THE ANNUAL VISIT OF THE PRESIDENCY TO ROME IS AT ITS HALF-WAY POINT. Bishop Lionel Gendron, Monsignor Frank Leo and I met Pope Francis yesterday morning. He is still "recovering" from his whirlwind visit to Africa which ended on Tuesday. He was enthusiastic about that visit and about the upcoming Year of Mercy. He also spoke joyfully about his remarkable visit to Washington, New York City, and Philadelphia earlier this year. Our visit also gives us the occasion to meet with other curial officials to discuss current topics of interest and concern to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

FATHER ADRIAN LEE CONTINUES HIS CANON LAW STUDIES at the Gregorian University in Rome. We met for a meal at the Canadian College in Rome earlier this week, and will get together again on Sunday. I will celebrate Mass at the College and he and I will head to a restaurant where he can inform me about his studies. He looks forward to returning to Canada at Christmas for some family time – and some rest.

THE STAFF OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON get together next Friday for their annual "Christmas Party". It is always a time of celebration and an important opportunity to thank the "Cemetery guys" for their good work in caring for families at a very vulnerable time in their lives and for providing quality care for their loved ones who are buried in one of our cemeteries or entombed in one of our mausolea. The cemeteries look beautiful at any season! Enjoy the evening.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!