



## *Heart to Heart*

January 11, 2013 (#102)

**CONFIRMATION CELEBRATIONS BEGIN AGAIN FOR THE NEW YEAR** this weekend. I will celebrate tonight, tomorrow morning and afternoon at Mary Mother of God Parish in Oakville, and on Sunday afternoon at St. Ambrose Parish in Cambridge. Please pray for the young people who are preparing for this wonderful Sacrament!

**MOST REVEREND JOSEPH-AURELE PLOURDE, EMERITUS ARCHBISHOP** of Ottawa died late last week. He was 97 years-old. His funeral was celebrated at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa this morning. Because I served in the Archdiocese for many years under his leadership, I attended the funeral (and will return in time for tonight's Confirmation!). We pray for the repose of his soul.

**FATHER ROBERT HETU WILL BE FORMALLY INSTALLED AS PASTOR** of St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish in Acton at Sunday Mass. The rite is an excellent opportunity to teach about the role and responsibility of the Pastor. It also provides an occasion for me to visit the Parish and renew my acquaintance with parishioners.

**THE MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA** in Hamilton Diocese are invited by the League leadership to renew their membership during these first months of the New Year. Like so many Priests in the Diocese, I love the League and strongly encourage every woman in the Diocese to consider membership in the League. The first purpose of the League is the spiritual growth and development of its members. The League also has an excellent reputation for developing forward-thinking resolutions for the consideration of governments at every level. Because they are the largest grassroots organization of women in the country, their resolutions are taken very seriously. Finally, their hospitality ministry in our Parishes is second to none!

**NEXT WEEK THE SERRA CLUB OF KITCHENER-WATERLOO** will hold its annual Religious Life Banquet as a way of supporting and thanking those who have made the commitment to Religious and Priestly life. The Serra Club of Hamilton will also have its regular Mass and dinner. The Serra Clubs in the Diocese provide great encouragement for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. May God bless your many efforts this year!

**ARCHBISHOP RICHARD SMITH, PRESIDENT OF THE CCCB**, has written to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo to offer prayers and encouragement for the meeting which is scheduled to take place today in Ottawa. In the letter, the Archbishop outlines many initiatives taken by the Catholic Church over the years, and he cites Pope Benedict XVI, who wrote in his Message for the 2013 World Day of Peace, of our current challenge, which is to secure "the duty and right to an integral social and communitarian development" which is "part of God's plan for mankind". (*Blessed are the Peacemakers, January 1, 2013*). May our newest Canadian Saint and Protectress of Canada, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, intercede for us!

**MANY OF THE PARISH PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE USE THE OCCASION** of a quieter pastoral schedule in January to take a brief vacation. May your travel be safe and the time be restorative! Thank you for your ministry over the Christmas season!

**MOVIE GOERS ARE WELL ADVISED TO SEE *LES MISERABLES***, a wonderful story about 19<sup>th</sup> century France. You might note that the Bishop is a "good guy"! The story is uplifting and deeply moving. Don't miss it!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI