



Heart to Heart

January 18, 2013 (#103)

THE FIRST YEAR PERMANENT DIACONATE PROGRAM meets for a weekend retreat at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre in Niagara Falls. At Mass on Saturday, five men will be accepted as candidates for the Diaconate, beginning several years of formal preparation. Our prayers and good wishes go to: Gerard Byrne, Taek-John Han, Edward MacIntosh, Rene Marechal and John Moss.

ST. MARY'S PARISH IN BRANTFORD EXTENDS THE WELCOME MAT this weekend. I will join them for Mass on Saturday evening and twice on Sunday. Receptions afterward will give me the occasion to greet parishioners. My thanks for Father Mariusz Durbajlo for the invitation.

THE LUTHERAN ANGLICAN ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERCHURCH COMMITTEE sent a letter to all parishioners signed by the four Bishops in November concerning the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which begins today. Together we are invited to celebrate our common love for God while seeking to understand our differences. You are encouraged to participate in at least one gathering in order to pray with the Lord: "*May they be one!*" The week of prayer concludes next Friday, January 25th.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CANADIAN BISHOPS meets in Ottawa next Tuesday and Wednesday. I am using the opportunity to visit family and friends in Ottawa for a few days before and after the meeting...time to share with them the good news from the Diocese of Hamilton!

THE CONGREGATION FOR THE LAITY PUBLISHED a document late last year entitled *The Vocation of the Business Leader*. Several Catholic business people have been invited to meet with me at Ardree (Bishop's Residence) on January 29th to discuss the blessings and challenges of being a Catholic in the business world. Father Bill Ryan, S.J., a member of the Jesuit Forum and a well-known economist, will facilitate the meeting. It should be an interesting discussion.

SAVE THE DATE! THE YEAR OF FAITH CONFERENCE is scheduled to take place on April 13, 2013, at the Convention Centre in Hamilton. The focus of the Conference is a reflection on the Sacraments. Father Bill Burke, Director of Liturgy and Acting Director of Catechesis for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, will help us reflect on the experience of ritual actions and the signs and symbols which the Church uses in the celebrations of the Sacraments. More information will be sent to the parishes in the coming weeks. Plan now to attend!

A FURTHER REMINDER TO PARISH PRIESTS ABOUT OUR LENTEN LITURGIES: During this Year of Faith, the *Year A Readings* will be used at all Masses on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. These will help everyone to prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. Homiletic Resources will be made available prior to Lent.

THE EX CORDE FOUNDATION IS STARTING TO RECEIVE GRANT REQUESTS from parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton. The Foundation hopes to make its first grants on March 25th, Feast of the Annunciation. If your parish hopes for a grant, you might start thinking about making the request soon.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI