



THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY CONCLUDES TODAY on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Throughout Canada, Christians have been reflecting on the biblical text of Micah (6:6-8), *What does God require of us?* The Canadian Council of Churches takes the lead on preparing materials to assist the church in the preparation for ecumenical prayer services. The work of building unity of among Christians continues!

DEACON PHILIP TREMBLAY, C.R., who has been serving at St. Louis Parish in Waterloo, will be retiring from his service to the Parish at the end of January. We thank Deacon Phil for his service to the Diocese and wish him all good things in his retirement!

FATHER TED SLAMAN AND BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISHIONERS in Hamilton will welcome me tomorrow and Sunday at their Masses. I look forward to meeting parishioners at the receptions that will follow the Masses. Father Slaman has several other pastoral responsibilities in addition to the Parish, including being the Priest representative on the Diocesan Council of the Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace. A committed man he is!

STUDENT TRUSTEES WHO SIT ON THE SIX CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS in the Diocese of Hamilton will meet with me at Ardree to talk about their joys and challenges as student leaders in Catholic schools, their understanding of and commitment to their faith, and their hope for the future. I look forward to meeting these bright and energetic young leaders next Friday and encouraging them to be strong and faithful leaders.

THE OFFICE FOR REFUGEES HAS RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM PARISHES to sponsor 17 people already this year! This good work, which saves lives, goes on quietly throughout the year. Pastors are asked to contact Barb Dollak if your Parish hopes/plans to sponsor a refugee this year.

REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2013 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS have already begun rolling in! The Mass will be celebrated on June 2nd this year at the Cathedral of Christ the King. People who celebrate their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th (and every year over 60) Anniversaries are encouraged to attend. Special certificates are prepared and I look forward to meeting couples to offer personal congratulations after the Mass. It is always a happy celebration. Plan now to join us!

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS WORKSHOP FOR BISHOPS is sponsored annually by the Knights of Columbus and takes place in Dallas, Texas, during the first week of February. Bishops from across the United States and Canada gather to hear speakers on a variety of topics that often require our attention – a sort of professional development session. This will be the first time I will attend the session and I look forward to meeting brother Bishops who will be there.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI