



Heart to Heart

January 4, 2013 (#101)

THE NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE AT CHRIST THE KING CATHEDRAL was a fine gathering of parishioners from several Parishes across the Diocese. Thank you to those who dropped in to share greetings and good wishes for the New Year. Thanks especially to Sir Knight Frank Gallant, Master of the Ontario 8th District of the 4th Degree, and his team of organizers for their excellent preparation. May all experience God's rich blessings in 2013!

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH IN OAKVILLE was the first Parish I visited in the New Year. The 10 a.m. Mass on January 1 provided an occasion to bless a new statue of Our Lady, a new Christmas Creche, and new Stations of the Cross. The Mass and blessings were followed by a delicious breakfast prepared by the Catholic Women's League, fulfilling their hospitality ministry at the beginning of the year. Congratulations to Father John Van Hees on completing the Parish renewal!

PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE ARE REMINDED that your Diocesan e-mail accounts (hamiltondiocese.com) have been active for several months. All official messages from the Chancery Office are being forwarded to these accounts. Please check them regularly. If you have not yet set up your account, or if you have any questions, Pam Aleman, Coordinator of the Communications Office, can assist you (paleman@hamiltondiocese.com).

ST. MARY'S PARISH IN HAMILTON IS MY SECOND PARISH VISIT OF THE YEAR. On Saturday evening I will join Father Octavio Cidado, Father Felix Nwatu, and Sr. Maria Mendes for dinner, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at 7 p.m. It will be an opportunity to pray in the Parish that served as the Diocesan Cathedral for many years.

THANK YOU FOR THE MANY GOOD WISHES received on the occasion of my 15th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination (January 2)! These have been blessed years wherever I have served. I am especially grateful for the welcome and support I receive here in the "great and glorious" Diocese of Hamilton.

THE DIOCESE OF CORNER BROOK AND LABRADOR IS DEVASTATED by the recent and tragic death of Father Biju Antony, M.F. The fine young Priest from India, who has served in the Diocese for most of the 10 years since his ordination, was killed when he lost control of his car on a snowy highway and slid into a snow plow a short distance from Deer Lake on January 2. A passenger in the vehicle was also killed. We pray for the Bishop, Priests and lay people of the Diocese.

INFORMATION ABOUT ADOPTION AND FOSTERING will be provided by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton at a meeting at Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School, 470 Murray Lane, Ancaster, on January 23, beginning at 7 p.m. This is a wonderful "life-saving" service of the Society. Check out the Society's website for more information. (www.hamiltonccas.on.ca)

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONTINUES IN THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR of the Church with the celebration of the Epiphany this Sunday and the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on January 13. As the season continues, let us pray fervently for one another.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI