



Heart to Heart

January 3, 2014 (#145)

THANK YOU FOR THE MANY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND GIFTS sent my way over the past few weeks. I am grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. The Masses over the Christmas season have been very well attended and, for the most part, the wintry weather did not negatively affect participation. Thank you to Pastors, Associates, visiting Priests, Deacons, musicians and other liturgical ministers, for your dedication and service which have made the liturgical celebrations both welcoming and memorable. To those who may be taking a little “break” in the coming weeks, we offer our wishes for safe travel and lots of well-deserved rest!

THANKS TO THE 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN THE HAMILTON AREA for sponsoring the annual LEVEE which took place in the Auditorium of the Cathedral Basilica on New Years Day. A large number of 4th Degree Knights provided an impressive Honour Guard that assured order and dignity to the event. It was a pleasure to welcome Pastors and parishioners who took time to drop in, to offer greetings, and to enjoy Christmas goodies! I was particularly pleased that Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina and his wife Carol, and Hamilton Police Chief Glenn De Caire and his wife Karen, dropped in to visit. Thoughtful indeed!

THE POLISH PRIESTS’ ASSOCIATION MEET ON MONDAY for their annual Christmas lunch at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga, Ontario. Because the Assumption Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (headquartered in Toronto) is largely composed of Polish Priests, and because there are a large number of Polish Priests in our Diocese, I am grateful for the invitation to join them for the celebration. It provides a perfect opportunity to express gratitude for the ministry provided to the Diocese of Hamilton, and throughout Canada, by large numbers of Polish Priests!

AFTER A FEW QUIET DAYS AT THE CHANCERY, meetings and events begin in earnest next Monday. The meeting rooms at the main entrance are out of commission for two more weeks, awaiting the completion of furnishing repair and renewal. Thanks to groups whose meetings might be affected by this disruption. We are grateful for your understanding. Everything should be back to normal very shortly!

THE HAMILTON DIOCESE WEBSITE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTING over the past few weeks. Chris Adamczyk has ensured that the site is updated regularly, bringing new and interesting features. It is worth checking out: www.hamiltondiocese.com.

FATHER BILL TRUSZ, PASTOR AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH, in Winona, hosts a one-hour radio program on Radio Maria every Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. He often invites special guests to the program, providing listeners with interesting perspectives on the life of faith. I look forward to being one of those guests next Wednesday. Father Trusz has placed the program under the patronage of St. Therese of Lisieux, making it a true missionary effort.

PARISHIONERS AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH IN WATERDOWN will soon be hearing the joyful sound of bells calling them to prayer and praise. The new carillon arrived this week and will be ringing soon. Listen for them!

I BEGAN MY 17TH YEAR AS BISHOP YESTERDAY, JANUARY 2ND. Thank you for your prayers and good wishes.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI