



THE DOORS OF MERCY AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA HAVE WELCOMED HUNDREDS of people since the beginning of the *Year of Mercy* in December. Crossing this threshold is symbolic of our desire to enter into the heart of God – the fount of mercy and compassion. Last weekend, pilgrims from St. Andrew Parish, Oakville, and St. Mary Parish, Brantford, passed through the doors, spent time in prayer and enjoyed a tour. Many have participated in the *Pilgrim Sundays* held in the Cathedral Basilica. Walter Gretzky, another recent visitor, delighted the staff of the Cathedral with stories and autographs. To arrange a pilgrimage for your Parish, please contact Fr. David Wynen, Cathedral Rector. During the summer months the Cathedral Basilica will welcome pilgrims from Tuesday through Thursday from 12:00 noon to 2 p.m.

THE FIRST CLASS OF PERMANENT DEACONS in the Diocese of Hamilton celebrated the 10th Anniversary of their Ordination on June 10th. Bishop Anthony Tonnos, who ordained the class, presided at the Anniversary Mass. The Deacons have provided helpful service in many Parishes over the past ten years and have provided much charitable service. Congratulations on the Anniversary!

ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY IN WATERLOO was presented with the *Ex Corde Medal* at the recent Convocation. The award is given by the 219 member *International Federation of Catholic Universities* and was conferred this year to honour the rich history of the University which is celebrating 150 years since its founding by the Congregation of the Resurrection. Congratulations to University President Katherine Bergman and to the University! At the same Convocation, Luis Gabriel Juarez received the prestigious *Zach Ralston Award* (named after Father Zach Ralston, C.R., Academic Dean from 1966-1970), and the *Diocese of Hamilton Award*, presented by Father Con O'Mahony, Episcopal Vicar for Education.

THE ONTARIO-KENTUCKY PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION honoured their Jubilarians last week at St. Joseph Parish in Brantford. Fr. John Miles celebrated 65 years of Priestly Ordination, Fr. Pat Aiello and Fr. John Lesousky marked 60 years, Fr. James Wahl, 50 years, and Fr. James Link, 40 years. Fathers Aiello and Link were present for the event! We add our congratulations!

THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE HAVE ACCEPTED ANOTHER MISSION in Peterborough Diocese, in response to an invitation from Bishop William McGrattan. Sister Bernadette Caron, has been appointed Principal and Sister Mary Catherine Perdue, Vice-Principal, of Wayside Academy, a Private Catholic School in the Diocese. They are extending their mission of educating youth to the Diocese of Peterborough. We pray for God's blessing on this new initiative.

PAM ALEMAN, MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS for the Diocese, was elected President of ARCCC (Association of Roman Catholic Canadian Communicators) at their recent Annual General Meeting. We wish her well in the position! She has all the gifts necessary to be successful!

FATHER PHILIP CHIRCOP, S.J., THIS YEAR'S RETREAT DIRECTOR for the Diocesan Priests, sent a note of thanks for the experience. *I left the Carmelite Spirituality Centre yesterday, after having finished the second retreat with the Priests of your Diocese. I return to my Jesuit community in Toronto blessed with the many scents and textures – oh so beautifully unique and yet so amazingly interwoven – of the stories of the priests present for both retreats, stories filled with hope even when laced with pain, “rooted and grounded in love”. ... In this moment, with deep gratitude, Philip.* We thank him for the wonderful opportunity to experience the mercy of the Lord!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI