



THE ELECTION OF CARDINAL JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO AS POPE FRANCIS was exciting and moving news for Catholics in Hamilton and around the world. Jesuits, Franciscans, Latin Americans, and Argentinians in particular, rejoice enthusiastically at this good news. The President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC), speaking on behalf of the Bishops, pledged love, fidelity and support to the Holy Father as “he now unites and guides us on our pilgrimage to the Father.” Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Vice President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), promised prayerful support and good wishes to the Holy Father. We pray for Pope Francis, that his ministry will be richly blessed as he leads us all in the way of the Lord.

IT IS NOW OFFICIALLY THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING! On February 25, just three days before the end of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, and with his blessing, the Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton was formally given the status of Minor Basilica. This was the desire of Bishop John T. McNally, who built the Cathedral in 1933, but the formal decree was never issued – until now. The decree arrived at the Chancery Office the very day of the election of Pope Francis! The new status of our Cathedral will be celebrated in an appropriate way later this year.

FR. JAMES PETRIE HAS BEEN APPOINTED PASTOR OF ST. BENEDICT’S PARISH in Milton, effective April 20, 2013. His appointment follows the recent announcement of the election of Bishop Daniel Miehm as Titular Bishop of Gor and Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton. My personal thanks to Father Petrie for generously accepting this pastoral responsibility. He will remain Dean of the Hamilton Deanery until a new Dean is appointed following the personnel changes in June.

SISTER VERONICA O’REILLY, CSJ, WILL BE INSTALLED as Congregational Leader of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada at a ceremony in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Peterborough, Ontario, on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19. The new Congregation unites the CSJ’s of Pembroke, Peterborough, London and Hamilton. This is an historic moment in the life of the community. I look forward to celebrating with the Sisters, giving thanks for the great gift they have been in the Diocese of Hamilton for over 150 years!

THE CELEBRATION IN HAMILTON, BERMUDA, LAST WEEKEND, acknowledged the remarkable commitment and dedication of the Congregation of the Resurrection to the service of the Prefecture Apostolic of the Bermuda Islands which subsequently became the Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda. At a banquet which followed the Mass of Thanksgiving, the Very Reverend Sam Restivo, Provincial Superior of the Ontario-Kentucky Province, spoke of the service provided by members of the community over the past 60 years and of the blessing it has been in the life of the Province and in the lives of the Priests and Bishops who have served there. Again, we offer our congratulations and good wishes.

THIS IS SOLIDARITY SUNDAY, an opportunity in Lent to share the blessings that God has showered upon us with those in other parts of the world who suffer. In a letter to Canadian Catholics, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Richard Smith, reminds us to support generously the work of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. We attach the letter for your information and interest.

THE DATE OF OUR YEAR OF FAITH CONFERENCE ON THE SACRAMENTS is fast approaching (April 13, 2013). Pastors are encouraged to invite parishioners, especially those engaged in ministries to participate in this significant event during the Year of Faith. Registration information is available on our Diocesan website.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI