



Heart to Heart

October 4, 2013 (#133)

OUR SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO THE CARMELITE SISTERS at the Carmel of St. Joseph in St. Agatha, on the death of Sr. Marie Agnes (Horne) of the Holy Trinity. Sr. Agnes suffered a long debilitating illness before her unexpected and peaceful death last weekend. A funeral Mass was celebrated yesterday at the Carmel and she was buried in their cemetery. May she know the reward of a good and faithful servant.

THE DIOCESAN MASS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WAS CELEBRATED last evening at St. Pius X Parish in Brantford. Hosted this year by the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, the Mass brings together representatives from the seven Catholic School Boards, St. Jerome's University, and the Diocese, all committed to provide the best Catholic Education from the beginning to the end of life! This is the sixth year for this supportive initiative. As we reflect on the "new evangelization" during this Year of Faith, we acknowledge the blessing of Catholic Education in the Diocese and throughout the Province of Ontario!

IMMIGRATION CANADA HAS CALLED ON PRIVATE SPONSORING AGENCIES (like the Diocese of Hamilton) to submit an "Expression of Interest" for their 2014 Syrian Initiative. They have opened up 1000 additional private sponsorship spots for Syrian nationals who have fled (either to Lebanon or Jordan) the conflict in their country. To date, parishes and private sponsors have requested that we hold 35 spots for this purpose. Please contact Barbara Dollak if this program interests you and you would like to participate. Our final request must be submitted to Immigration Canada by October 31, 2013, and the program will begin in January 2014.

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS ASSISTS PARISHES with materials for sacramental preparation and catechetical correspondence courses for children not attending Catholic schools. Over the past two months, the Office has sent over 1200 correspondence programs and over 5000 other catechetical books, magazines, and DVD's to Parishes as they work to support families in preparing their children for Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY are completing a Board retreat at Kingbridge Conference Centre in King City today. Father Con O'Mahony, the Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Education in the Diocese, also serves as a member of the Board. They are reflecting on their duties as Directors of a Catholic University, and the things that make the University distinct amidst all the other educational institutions in the Diocese. I will preside at a Mass of Thanksgiving at the end of their days together this afternoon. It is a worthy initiative!

FATHER CHARLIE JORDAN HAS INVITED ME TO REGINA MUNDI PARISH in Hamilton to preside and preach this weekend. It is also the occasion to formally bless the recently completed renovations and additions to the "plant". I had occasion to visit it earlier this year and was impressed by the practical improvements that have been made. It should be a pleasant weekend!

THE WELLINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD holds their annual Bishop's Dinner next Thursday evening in Guelph. The fundraiser supports many positive initiatives that help students throughout the year. I look forward to the energy, enthusiasm and fun that pervades the evening – and a good cause as well!

DEVEREAUX CEMETERY IN GEORGETOWN WILL BE OFFICIALLY DEDICATED tomorrow at a ceremony jointly celebrated by the Town of Georgetown and the Diocese of Hamilton. The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton have entered into an agreement with the Town to provide the services for the public cemetery.

St. Francis, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI