



Heart to Heart

September 19, 2014 (#174)

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ends at noon today. This year's meeting was held at the beautiful Chateau Mont-Sainte-Anne, not far from the Shrine of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec. The decision of Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte to end aggressive treatment for health issues and enter palliative care marked our meeting and was the focus of many prayers. The joyful celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the establishment of the first Parish in "New France" (most of North America) brought us together on Sunday along with hundreds of proud parishioners and Priests of the Archdiocese of Quebec. Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)* was the backdrop for many of our discussions. Looking ahead we are preparing for the Year for Consecrated Life which will begin in November this year. We are ready for the Third Extraordinary Synod on the Family which begins next month and will be the foretaste of the 2015 General Synod on the same topic. We pray for both events. The five-day plenary meeting passed quickly and the heavy agenda was concluded joyfully.

WELCOME TO FR. MARK PISAREK, OMI who arrived at the Oblate community house (St. Lawrence Parish Rectory) last week. He will be in the Diocese for the coming year improving his English and learning about Canada and the Catholic Church here. Born in Poland he has served as a Priest in the Ukraine and Belarus. He is preparing to serve the First Nations people in the Northwest Territories. We welcome him heartily!

SISTER EILEEN SCHULLER, O.S.U., a pre-eminent scholar of the Dead Sea Scrolls and a professor at McMaster University has been named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the country's highest academic honour. She is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies and also the Senator William McMaster Chair in Social Sciences. We offer her our warm congratulations and very good wishes.

THE ANNUAL MASS FOR VOCATIONS will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon at 1pm at St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener. The Mass will be a fine opportunity to pray for our 33 seminarians and for those who are discerning the possibility of a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life. We should also pray that the Lord continue to bless the ministry of Fr. Wojciech Kuzma, our Vocation Director and Director of Formation.

ARCHBISHOP GUIRE POULARD FROM PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, has been invited to Canada by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace to promote their Fall Campaign *Sow Much Love*. He began his visit by speaking to the Canadian Bishops at the conclusion of their Plenary Meeting. The Fall Campaign continues their effort to ensure "food for all", launched earlier this year by Pope Francis.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE is a pro-life activity which will be held in Kitchener-Waterloo and Halton over the coming weeks. Special Masses at St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener on Monday evening and St. Patrick Church in Burlington on Wednesday will seek God's blessing on the event!

THE FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL BOARD WILL SPONSOR the annual Diocesan Mass for Catholic Education. The Mass draws together representatives from the seven Catholic Boards in the Diocese of Hamilton. Join us at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Thursday, September 25th at 5:00pm for an evening of prayer and celebration at the beginning of another school year.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI