



## *Heart to Heart*

December 21, 2012 (#100!)

**FATHER FRANK RUETZ, C.R. DIED ON SUNDAY MORNING.** He dedicated his life to Catholic Education and continued to serve until his death. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday morning at St. Louis Parish in Waterloo. We offer our sympathy to Father Sam Restivo, C.R., Provincial Superior of the community.

*“WE PRAY FOR GOD’S GIFT OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION IN NEWTOWN and its surrounding communities. We pray also that the people of our two nations discover a rebirth of love and a renewed appreciation for the gift and value of each human life and every human family.”* From a letter of Archbishop Richard Smith, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, to Timothy Cardinal Dolan, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, following the tragic killing of 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Together we pray.

**THE FATHER KYRAN KENNEDY CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE** is the new name of the central administration building of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. The new title, recommended by Board Chairman Pat Daly and approved at a School Board meeting on Tuesday evening, was proposed in remembrance and gratitude for Father Kennedy’s significant contribution to Catholic Education spanning more than four decades. A ceremony, with representation from Father’s family, will be planned to mark the naming.

**ST. BONIFACE GERMAN CATHOLIC PARISH IN HAMILTON** celebrates the Anniversary of its establishment on the First Sunday of Advent each year. This year, to accommodate my calendar, the celebration took place on the Third Sunday of Advent. While the community is dwindling in numbers, their spirit is strong. Father Andrew Lopatniuk provided a warm welcome at Mass, and Ms. Zita Keugle, Parish Council Chair, did so at the meal afterward. The choir was in full form and the singing continued (Bavarian style) in the Parish Hall. A wholesome meal (German fare) was served to a packed hall!

**THE BROTHERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FED 3000** at their Annual Christmas Dinner at The Hamilton Convention Centre last Sunday. Servers included federal, provincial and civic politicians, the Hamilton Chief of Police and his wife, and a host of volunteers from around the community. Over 900 volunteers contributed time to set up, serve, and/or clean up after the event. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their annual appearance and gifts were provided to everyone after the meal.

**ONCE AGAIN, CHCH TV WILL BROADCAST CHRISTMAS MASS AT MIDNIGHT** from Christ the King Cathedral. It will be re-broadcast on Christmas morning at 8 a.m. Monsignor Edward House works closely with the TV studio to ensure the quality of the production. Thanks to Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton for helping to make the program possible and to the producers at CHCH TV for making it all happen!

**COME ONE, COME ALL, TO A NEW YEAR’S DAY LEVEE** to take place in the Hall of the Cathedral of Christ the King from 2 to 4 p.m.! I look forward to greeting Priests and parishioners from across the Diocese and exchanging wishes for God’s blessings in 2013. Thanks to the 4th Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus under the capable direction of Master Knight Frank Gallant for organizing and sponsoring the event! See you there!!!

*“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN AND ON EARTH PEACE among those whom He favours!”* May this message of the Angels to the shepherds those many years ago be the heart of the experience for you and yours during these Christmas days! Let us pray for one another – always! The 101<sup>st</sup> issue of Heart to Heart will be on January 4, 2013.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI