



**THE FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI'S** decision to retire on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. was received worldwide with shock and deep sadness. The Ash Wednesday Mass was an opportunity for all who participated to demonstrate their gratitude – and ours – to the Holy Father for a lifetime of service “in the vineyard of the Lord” (as he likes to say). The Diocese of Hamilton was well represented at these events by Father David Wynen, who is studying at the North American College during these exciting and historic times.

**ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH SYSTEM CELEBRATED AN IMPORTANT EVENT** yesterday, prior to the meeting of their Board of Directors. The event occurred at the site of the West 5<sup>th</sup> Campus on Hamilton Mountain. It was a celebration of the final year of construction before the opening of the new Margaret and Charles Juravinski Integrated Healthcare Centre, which is scheduled to open on February 14, 2014. So far, every step of the construction has been on time. It is a Valentine gift worth waiting for!

**A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY IN WATERLOO** visit Peru each year. It is an opportunity for them to grow in awareness and sensitivity about the particular needs of the Global South. Last year, in Cuzco, they met a young man named Ricardo. He was born with a partial leg and so walked with a prosthesis. Because it fit poorly, a walk to school that took other children an hour, took Ricardo three! Deeply moved by his story, when they returned home the students started to raise funds for a new prosthesis. They are nearing their fundraising goal and plan to bring the leg with them when they return this year. Faith in action!

**ST. PAUL'S PARISH IN BURLINGTON, THE LARGEST IN THE DIOCESE,** welcomes me for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation tonight, tomorrow morning and afternoon, and next Saturday morning and afternoon. The Pastor, Father Ed Henhoeffler, has everything well organized! I look forward to the events.

**KERRY ROBINSON IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** of the *National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management* which is dedicated to promoting excellence and best practices in the management, finances, and human resources development in the Catholic Church in the United States. She and the chairman of their investment committee, Mr. John Eriksen, will be spending a few hours with us in Hamilton on Monday. Their brief visit will provide an introduction to an important support organization for the Church. We look forward to welcoming her!

**THE LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS** will take place at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10 a.m. and at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>, also beginning at 10 a.m. Our own Father Ted Hughes, Regional Chaplain of Correctional Service Canada is the guest speaker. Priests who plan to attend are reminded to inform the host parishes of their intention so that sufficient food is prepared.

**THE CCCB EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR DOCTRINE** has published an interesting pastoral letter entitled *The Second Vatican Council: What was it and why is it important today?* It is posted on the CCCB website ([www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)) and printed copies can be ordered through the CCCB Publications ([publi@ccb.ca](mailto:publi@ccb.ca)). A certain number are available for parishes through our Discipleship Office. It is well worth the read!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI