



Heart to Heart

April 12, 2013 (#115)

SACRAMENTS AND SACRAMENTALITY IS THE THEME of the Year of Faith Conference which takes place on Saturday at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Priests and parishioners from across the Diocese will gather to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Sacraments and to *Rediscover the Joy* of believing and celebrating our faith together. The exciting day begins at 9 a.m. If you have not already registered and are still interested, you are very welcome!

FATHER ANTHONY CIAVARRO IS IN ICU AT HAMILTON GENERAL HOSPITAL for serious medical attention related to breathing difficulties. Your prayers are requested for his rapid recovery. My thanks to those Priests who will be “covering” at St. Eugene’s Parish while Father is away.

A WARM WELCOME TO MR. CHRIS ADAMCZYK who has accepted a position as Digital and Social Media Communications Manager with the Diocese of Hamilton. He will have primary oversight of our website and related communications. He comes to us from Salt & Light Television where he was responsible for their website. He will begin his service on May 6.

OUR SEMINARIANS AT ST. AUGUSTINE’S SEMINARY are welcoming Father Wojciech Kuzma and myself for a visit today. We will meet with seminary directors and with each seminarian, getting a sense of how the year has gone for them. We are blessed with excellent young men who desire to serve Christ and the Church in the Diocese of Hamilton. Keep them in your prayers!

THERE ARE CONFIRMATION MASSES AT SEVERAL PARISHES almost every night. For the next two months, the Bishops and members of the Episcopal Board will be travelling to Parishes throughout the Diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. For the most part, the transition to Grade 7 as the age for Confirmation will have been completed by June. Thanks to the Pastors, lay pastoral assistants, and teachers in our schools for ensuring that the transition was as smooth as it was and that the students were so very well prepared for the Sacrament!

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOLS across the province gathered at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa for the annual Student Leaders Conference, sponsored this year by the Catholic District School Board for Eastern Ontario. I spoke at the conference last night, replacing a speaker from the United States who was unable to travel. I am always impressed by the number of promising young leaders in our schools. It bodes well for the future of Catholic education AND for the good of society!

ST. JEROME’S UNIVERSITY IS PLANNING A BUILDING PROJECT that could begin as early as this time next year. The major construction is a new student residence that will house 360 students, along with a renovation of other university space. The University will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2015, and the plans demonstrate its vitality into the future!

MY SISTER JANE, AND HER DAUGHTER EMILY, WILL BE GUESTS at my home this weekend. Emily is participating in a basketball tournament in Hamilton, and we will be enjoying some quality time together between games. I expect to watch at least one of the games – expecting, of course, that she will be the high scorer!

Our Lady of the Annunciation pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI