



Heart to Heart

June 14, 2013 (#124)

SINCERE THANKS TO FATHER RON COTE FOR 25 YEARS-PLUS of arranging the Retreat for Priests in Hamilton Diocese. This has been a remarkable commitment to the spiritual well-being of the Priests of the Diocese! Father Earl Talbot, Episcopal Vicar for Priests, has assumed the responsibility for the coming years. This year's retreat preacher, Father Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., was outstanding – an example of the high quality expected for the future!

FATHER RAY MODESKI WAS SURPRISED AND HONOURED by the Halton Elementary Schools OECTA last evening with an Honorary Membership Award which recognizes outstanding service to Catholic Elementary teachers in the Halton Region. The award was presented by Richard Brock, local OECTA President, who spoke glowingly of Father's pastoral care, joyful presence and support of the teachers at all times. We offer our congratulations!

THE CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR LIFE AND FAMILY (COLF) has released a statement reacting to the Quebec Government Bill on end of Life Care. Their statement is entitled, ***WE MUST NOT GIVE ANYONE – ESPECIALLY NOT OUR DOCTORS – THE POWER TO KILL.*** The Bill includes medical aid in dying (a euphemism for euthanasia) as part of palliative care. The complete response from COLF can be read on their website <http://www.colf.ca>.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS ARE HAPPENING ACROSS THE DIOCESE over these final weeks of June. It is so nice to see the young graduates dressed in their finest and their parents and educators filled with joyful pride at the important events! Our congratulations and best wishes to the graduates as they set out with confidence into what we pray will be an exciting future. Given the firm foundation of a good Catholic education, we expect that the graduates will make a major contribution to the community on whatever path they choose. May God bless each and all of the graduates of 2013!

JOE AND STEPHANIE MANCINI, FOUNDERS OF THE WORKING CENTRE, in Kitchener, welcomed Father Con O'Mahony, Monsignor Murray Kroetsch and me for a visit last week. The remarkable work that is accomplished through the Centre and related venues is a blessing for hundreds and hundreds of people and for the entire community. The Mancini's faith and their commitment to reach out to others inspires many and moved us deeply. We saw Father Toby Collins, CR, and friends sweating under the hot sun to create a garden space to provide food for the community. We left with our minds awakened and our hearts filled!

A MEETING WITH CATHOLIC FAMILIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT MY HOME tomorrow afternoon. 16 people selected from the various Deaneries in the Diocese will gather to discuss the blessings and challenges of family life in our time. The event continues a series of "conversations" that have been held at *Ardree*, the Bishop's residence, over the past two years. Thanks to Teresa Hartnett and Lena Settini from our Diocesan Office for Family Ministry for organizing the event.

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON, as part of their annual fund-raiser dinner this year, auctioned off a "Dinner for eight with the Bishop", prepared by the well-known La Cantina Restaurant. The winners of the auction are bringing parents who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently – so it will be a happy family event. Both Bishop Miehm and I look forward to welcoming them, and to enjoying a fine meal together!

THE CEMETERY GUYS ARE DOING A FINE JOB of sprucing up the Catholic Cemeteries after the tough Winter and long and cold Spring. Hours of hard work are evident as we gather to celebrate Masses at each one of the cemeteries over these early summer weekends. I will be at Resurrection Cemetery tomorrow morning – and the weather looks promising – to pray with parishioners for their loved ones who have died. May they rest in peace.

Our Lady of the Annunciation pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI