



Heart to Heart

November 22, 2013 (#140)

THE CLOSING MASSES FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH will be celebrated Sunday afternoon, November 24th. Bishop Daniel Miehm will preside at the Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Formosa at 3 p.m.; Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki will preside at the Mass at Our Lady Immaculate Church in Guelph; and I will preside at the 4 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton. All are invited to pray with us in thanksgiving for the blessing of the Year of Faith in our personal lives, throughout the Diocese and in the Church universal!

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR FATHER ROBERT WALZ who continues his battle with cancer. He is still at home in Fergus and being assisted by a good neighbour, Lise. Any and all prayers are deeply appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER EILEEN OF OUR LADY, OCD, who marks her 50th Anniversary of profession as a Carmelite this month. A special Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated tomorrow afternoon at the Carmel of St. Joseph, in St. Agatha. We offer our good wishes. *Ad multos annos!*

OUR SYMPATHY TO FATHER ANDREW CZARNY, a Priest of the Ukrainian Eparchy with bi-ritual faculties, who assists occasionally in our Brantford Parishes, on the sudden death in Poland of his father, Mieczyslaw Czarny. Father Andrew and his wife Elzbieta have flown home for the funeral. We pray for safe travel and the repose of his father's soul.

ABOUT 150 PRIESTS (PASTORS AND ASSOCIATES) PARTICIPATED in the *Conversations at Ardree* over the past three months. The final event for the year took place earlier this week. Each one's story of "the roots of his vocation" was very moving and inspiring. I consider myself blessed to have heard them all! The discussion was always lively and encouraging. Thanks to one and all for your active participation.

THANKS TO BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM AND MR. JOHN O'BRIEN for organizing and speaking at the *Convocation* which took place on Wednesday at Holy Family Parish in Kitchener. The focus of this first *Convocation* of the current pastoral year was a review of the updated Diocesan Protocol and Policy in Cases of Alleged Sexual Misconduct. The second part of the session provided information regarding insurance matters. Thanks to Dale Ricker and Monika Slomczewski, representatives Catholic Mutual, for providing some practical information.

THE TINTINNABULUM (BELL) WILL BE BLESSED during the 11 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday. It is a special bell, proper to Basilicas, that is rung to announce the arrival of the Pope when he visits. We are well prepared!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE CCCB meet next week in Ottawa. I leave on Monday afternoon to be there for the meetings which begin on Tuesday. I will be home by Thursday evening. The Executive and Permanent Council attend to the concerns of the Conference between the Plenary meetings. Pray for us. It also gives me the opportunity to enjoy a meal with my mother – and to offer her a Christmas gift or two (not to be opened before December 25th)!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI