



Heart to Heart

November 29, 2013 (#141)

CONGRATULATIONS TO VICTORIA DOCOUTO AND MATTHEW ODEM who will marry tomorrow at a ceremony at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Hamilton. Vicky is the Administrative Assistant to Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, the Diocesan Chancellor, and she prepares *Heart to Heart* for distribution every Friday morning. We wish them a long and happy life together!

THE OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY HAS PUBLISHED THE QUESTIONNAIRE in preparation for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, which will be held in Rome next Fall. The responses received at the Chancery by mid-December will be collated by the Office and forwarded to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops by the end of December. The responses from Canadian Dioceses will form part of a response from Canada and will be forwarded to the Synod Office in Rome by the end of January. The time-frame is tight, but not impossible. Thank you for your interest and participation.

THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MET TODAY to review several ongoing financial, administrative and legal matters. It was one of the longer meetings this year for the Council. Thanks to Jim Long and John O'Brien, whose service ensures that our Finance Council receives the best information possible so that they are able to provide advice and make recommendations.

THE TILE AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CHANCERY IS DONE! The floor looks bright and will be easy to keep clean. Thanks in a special way to the personnel for their patience during the "messy" stage. Thanks also to Moe Kowal and Larry Lamanes for overseeing the project for us. The meeting rooms will soon be set up again and ready for "full occupancy".

PRIESTS ARE REMINDED OF THE ADVENT PRAYER DAYS scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The first day is scheduled to take place at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton on Tuesday, beginning at 10 a.m. The second will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo, again, beginning at 10 a.m. Father Earl Talbot will share reflections. Confessors will be available.

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING MARKS ITS 80th ANNIVERSARY at a quiet Mass of Thanksgiving on December 19, 2013, at 8:00 a.m. There is a faithful group of parishioners who gather daily for the Mass and to pray for the needs of the Diocese. We are blessed to have such a beautiful mother church for our Diocese.

A REMINDER TO PARISHES THAT CHRISTMAS MASSES may not be celebrated before 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This policy has been in place for some years. It is included here because we have received inquiries.

I LEAVE ON SUNDAY EVENING FOR A TWO WEEK VISIT of the CCCB Presidency to the Roman Dicasteries. Bishop Lionel Gendron, P.S.S., from St. Jean-Longueuil Diocese near Montreal, and CCCB General Secretary, Monsignor Patrick Powers, will be on the visit with me. We are scheduled to have a meeting with Pope Francis in the last half of the visit, which will be a special experience. You will be remembered in my prayers at the Tomb of St. Peter! Keep me in yours.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI