



HOLDING SACRED THE MEMORY OF BISHOP PAUL F. REDING, seventh Bishop of Hamilton, a special Mass is being offered at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, this Sunday, December 8th, the 30th anniversary of his death. Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki will preside and Monsignor Edward Sheridan will preach. The Mass begins at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.

ON MY ARRIVAL IN ROME ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, I was invited to a concert at the Paul VI Hall in Vatican City. The concert, sponsored by the Vatican Secretariate of State, was a major fundraiser for Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome. The headliner for the concert was Andrea Bocelli. He was supported by other Italian singing stars, a fine orchestra and a powerful choir. The music was sublime and the entire evening was magical – a perfect way to begin this Roman visit!

WHEN WE VISIT DICASTERIES OR PONTIFICAL COUNCILS, we are received by the Prefect or President, plus certain staff members who are familiar with the Church in Canada. Already, we have visited COR UNUM, under the Presidency of Cardinal Robert Sarah, and the Secretariate of State and its recently appointed Prefect, Archbishop Pietro Parolin. Today, we visit the Congregation for Clergy and the Congregation for Catholic Education; tomorrow the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, and the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. Thanks be to God that Monsignor Patrick Powers, the CCCB General Secretary, has an excellent memory which keeps us organized and on the straight and narrow. These visits are interesting and informative and, for me, the experience of a lifetime!

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR FATHER JIM PROFIT, SJ. On the advice of his doctors, he has stopped treatment for his cancers. He will soon go home to Prince Edward Island to spend his remaining days with his family. We pray that the faith which has sustained him during his illness will remain strong as he prepares for eternal life.

DONATIONS FOR PHILIPPINE TYPHOON RELIEF are still being received. The Canadian Government has extended the deadline for matching donations dollar-for-dollar until December 23, 2013. Parishes are asked to forward donations for this effort to the Chancery Office no later than December 16th in order that these contributions can be matched by the government.

DECEMBER 8th IS THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, one of the major Marian feasts of the Church and of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, my religious community. Because I am in Rome, I will join the Oblates at our General House, preside at Mass with the Superior General (Fr. Louis Lougen, from Buffalo!) and gathered community, and enjoy a festive meal with them. You will be remembered specially at the Mass and when I pray in the presence of the relics (heart) of St. Eugene de Mazenod, Founder of our community. Please keep me in yours!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI