



**“TODAY, BEING THE DAY OF MY APPOINTMENT AS APOSTOLIC NUNCIO to Canada, I would like to present my respectful and fraternal greetings, through your Grace, to all the Bishops of this great Country.”** So began the letter of Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi to Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, following the announcement by Monsignor Maurizio Bravi, P.H., the Charge d’affaires, a.i., earlier this week of his appointment as the Nuncio to Canada. At the time of his appointment, Archbishop Bonazzi was Apostolic Nuncio in the Baltic Countries, residing in Vilnius, Lithuania. We pray for the new Nuncio, that God will bless his ministry to the Church in Canada and to the Government of Canada during his time with us!

**THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR FAMILY MINISTRY WAS OVERWHELMED** by the number of responses by parishioners to the Questionnaire for the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the *Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization*. Over 1400 responses were received from across the Diocese! The Office will review the responses, prepare an executive summary, and forward the responses along with the summary to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Conference, in turn, will receive the responses from other Canadian Dioceses and forward them to the Offices of the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in Rome. An *Instrumentum Laboris* (Working Paper) will be prepared for the participants at the Synod, to help focus comments during the Synod which occurs next Fall. Thanks to all who took the time to prepare thoughtful and helpful responses to the questions! It will surely help the synodal process.

**MOST OF OUR SEMINARIANS, MANY OF OUR PRIESTS**, and several young men who aspire to study for service as Priests in the Diocese will gather at the Cathedral Basilica NEXT Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. The event is being organized by Father Wojciech Kuzma, the Diocesan Vocation Director. We are heartened by the large number of young men who desire Priesthood and who are daring to respond to the call to serve God and the Church in this way!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DEACON PETER GITTENS** on the recent publication of his new book by Scholars’ Press. The book is titled *Mary More or Less: Anglican and Catholic Mariology of John Henry Newman*. Deacon Gittens works closely with Father Mark Gatto in preparing the formation program for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Hamilton. The new book is testimony to his theological acumen and thirst for knowledge!

**THE BISHOP’S LEVEE FOR NEW YEAR’S DAY TAKES PLACE IN THE HALL** of the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to greet Priests and parishioners at the beginning of the New Year, to offer in a very personal way good wishes and God’s blessing for the New Year. Thanks to Master Knight Frank Gallant and to the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree of the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the event again this year! Come-all-ye! Come to say hello!

**THE CHANCERY OFFICE STAFF GATHER TO PRAY AT A THANKSGIVING MASS** this morning and to enjoy a festive meal together afterward. We are truly blessed to work in such a happy environment, with colleagues whose principal interest is the well-being of the Parishes in the Diocese, the spiritual growth of parishioners, and the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the Diocese. Every day I offer thanks to God for the privilege of working so closely with so many good people for such a noble goal!

**THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF HEART TO HEART FOR 2013!** The next issue will be published on January 3, 2014. In the meantime, I wish a Blessed Christmas to each and to all, and the blessings of peace to everyone on the World Day of Peace, New Year’s Day. We have much to be thankful for – let us make “Thank You” the expression that marks our life every day and especially during the coming holy days.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI