



Heart to Heart

March 14, 2014 (#155)

MERCY BEGETS MERCY WAS THE CENTRAL THEME of a stirring reflection by Bishop Daniel Miehme to Priests who serve in Hamilton Diocese. He went on to teach that “the best way to be a good confessor is to be a good penitent! ... A frequent encounter with the Lord’s mercy keeps us on track.” The first Day of Prayer was held on Tuesday at the Cathedral Basilica in Hamilton. The second was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo. Regretfully a wild winter storm blew in which prevented many of the Priests in the northern part of the Diocese from getting to the event. Don’t worry – we plan on publishing the text for the benefit of all!

GIFTED BY GOD – A CONFIRMATION RETREAT KIT, prepared by our own David Dayler and Anne Jamieson, has been re-published by Novalis. The first attempt at publishing the DVD contained glitches that have since been corrected by the publisher. The new and popular DVD is a helpful preparation tool for children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It can be obtained for a reduced price by ordering through our Diocesan Office for Catechesis.

OVER 100 OF THE ELECT WERE WELCOMED IN TWO CEREMONIES at the Rite of Election last Sunday. The ritual was held in two venues, St. Michael’s Parish in Waterloo for the “northern” Deaneries, and the Cathedral Basilica in Hamilton for the “southern” Deaneries. The powerful events were joyful and deeply moving for those who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation, for their Godparents and families, and for everyone who was present for the event. Thank you to Christina Ronzio, Anne Stevens, other members of the Diocesan Pastoral Offices, and Parish RCIA Team members who assisted with the preparation.

THE FIRST SESSION OF GOOD LEADERS, GOOD SHEPHERDS will take place at Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, Ontario, beginning March 25th through March 28th. 43 Priests from the Diocese have signed up for the program that takes place over a 20-month period. It is not too late to register. If you are interested, contact Father Wayne Lobsinger today! The program is run by the Catholic Leadership Institute out of Philadelphia and helps Priest develop their leadership and governance skills. Please pray for the Priests who have committed themselves to the program, that it may deepen their love for the Priesthood.

FATHER WOJCIECH KUZMA AND I ARE VISITING OUR SEMINARIANS and the seminaries in which they are studying over these next few weeks. We have 26 seminarians in various stages of formation and the visits give us the opportunity not only to hear from the seminary staff about their growth, but also to meet the men themselves and to discuss with them their preparation for the priesthood. Keep them in your prayers.

A RECENT TALLY BY DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE reports that \$11,331,833.00 was raised in the joint CCCB and CCODP campaign for the Philippines. Hamilton Diocese contributed \$751,184.00 as part of this total, the third-largest contributor after Toronto and Vancouver! Profound thanks to everyone who generously donated to the collection. It allows Development and Peace to assist Caritas Philippines with the recovery.

MOTHER CATHERINE OF OUR LADY, OCD, CELEBRATES HER 50th ANNIVERSARY of Religious profession on March 19th. A special Mass marking the milestone will be celebrated at the Carmel of St. Joseph in St. Agatha on Monday morning, March 17th. Her life has been a journey of faith, leading eventually to the Carmel where she has served as Novice Mistress and currently is Prioress. We offer our thanks for her leadership and service, and we pray for many happy years ahead!

POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ELECTION yesterday. He has described his first year as a “time of mercy”. His ministry has caught the attention of the entire world and we are all blessed by his profound pastoral spirituality and his love for God’s holy people! We pray that God will bless him with good health and much joy!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI