



Heart to Heart

November 14, 2014 (#182)

THE VISIT OF THE CCCB “PRESIDENCY” TO ROME is an annual event that dates back to the 1960’s, following the Second Vatican Council. This year the visit was led by the CCCB President Archbishop Paul-André Durocher from Gatineau. Assistant General Secretary Mr. Bede Hubbard was also present. I tagged along as Vice President. We complete the first week of our visit today. Already we have visited nine dicasteries (major Vatican Offices), and tomorrow morning we will meet Pope Francis at the Apostolic Palace, always a moment of grace!

THE CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP and Discipline of the Sacraments was our first stop. Archbishop Arthur Roche, a good friend of the Diocese of Hamilton, is the Secretary of the Congregation which is awaiting the appointment of its new Prefect. Archbishop Durocher presented to him the Rite of Confirmation which recently received the approval of the Conference for “recognito” of the Congregation. It is also expected that the “recognitio” for the Canadian Book of the Gospels will be received very soon. Additionally, we discussed the need for appropriate ritual prayers for funerals in the presence of cremated remains. The Archbishop emphasized that they must be given the dignity accorded to the body of the deceased, including use of the holy water and incense.

OTHER DICASTERIES VISITED TO DATE INCLUDE: the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Congregation for Bishops (our own Cardinal Marc Ouellet); the Congregation for Clergy, which showed a special interest in the ministry of Vocations and Seminary Formation; the Secretariat of State; the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization; the Pontifical Council for the Family; the Secretariat for the Synod and the Congregation for Oriental Churches. While the meetings are relatively brief, lasting no more than an hour each, the preparation and follow-up take more time. It can be said that we have been very warmly welcomed, and at each dicastery the conversation has been engaging.

THE VISIT TO ROME ALLOWS US TO PARTICIPATE in other special events. We celebrated Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Cathedral Basilica of Rome, on the Feast of its dedication last Sunday. We join the Oblate General House community for the lunch meal (pranzo) today. And we hope to visit the Canadian College in the coming week where I will meet Fr. Adrian Lee who is studying here for the coming years.

OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH on the death of Sr. Elizabeth Ann Tubb in the 51st year of her Religious Life. A native of Dundas, Sister spent many years in Administration in the hospitals operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamilton Diocese. May God give her the reward of a good and faithful servant.

WELCOME TO HAMILTON TO FATHER KEN FORSTER, Provincial of Lacombe OMI Province. He and Fr. Ken Thorson, Counsellor, are visiting Fr. Hanh Van Tran, OMI, Pastor of Our Lady of Vietnam Parish as they celebrate the Feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs. Both are welcome in the Diocese at any time!

NEXT WEEKEND WE WELCOME GERALD CYRIEN CARDINAL LACROIX, to honour his creation as Cardinal and to confer Papal Honours on 15 worthy recipients in our Diocese. It will be a joyful and historic moment for us!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI