



## Heart to Heart

January 23, 2015 (#190)

**FATHER ANGUS SMITH DIED LAST SATURDAY** and was buried yesterday at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington. The Mass for Christian Burial was celebrated at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hamilton, presided over by Bishop Daniel Miehm. Father Ted Slaman preached the homily. Father “Gus” served the Diocese as Director of our Missionary Co-op Office for many years and as a Parish Priest. He had a concern for those in special need and provided many years of ministry at the Barton Street Jail. May God give him the reward promised a good and faithful servant.

**OUR SYMPATHY TO DEACON SHAWN PANIO**, on the death of his father, Mr. John Panio, last Sunday in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Basil’s Ukrainian Catholic Church in Regina tomorrow morning. We pray for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his family.

**PARISHIONERS FROM OUR VARIOUS CULTURAL PARISHES** and missions gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King last Sunday afternoon to mark the annual Day of Prayer for Migrants. Bishop Daniel Miehm presided at the colourful and joyful event. The Readings were proclaimed and music and acclamations sung in a variety of languages. Many participants wore their “national dress”, adding to the festive character of the gathering. Thank you to Barbara Dollak, Director of our Office for Immigration and Refugees and to her planning team for organizing what is always a moving celebration!

**“LOVE IS OUR MISSION: THE FAMILY FULLY ALIVE”**, is the title of a book published by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a catechesis in preparation for the 2015 World Meeting of Families scheduled to take place there in September (21-27). The Office for Family Ministry in the Diocese of Hamilton is providing a copy of the book to each Parish Priest. The book, and a six session study guide, can be used for adult faith formation. Information for high school and elementary students can be found on the Hamilton Diocese website, on our [World Meeting for Families page](#). It could be an excellent Lenten study series and a way to prepare for what is promising to be an historic event for the North American continent.

**GOOD NEWS FROM THE CCCB NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE:** The Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments has issued the *recognitio* for The Book of the Gospels! The approval follows a lengthy preparation by the CCCB English Sector Liturgy Commission and a careful review by the Congregation. It is expected that the liturgical book will be published later this year and authorized for use in Canada immediately. Our own Office for Liturgy will prepare introductory sessions to assist Priests, Deacons and musicians in the proper use of The Book of the Gospels, including signs of reverence and the manner of proclaiming the Word of God in the liturgy.

**MY BRIEF VISIT TO VIETNAM HAS EXCEEDED ALL MY EXPECTATIONS!** The long journey home begins later today. The visit quickly became a sort of pilgrimage to the home of the Vietnamese Martyrs. I celebrated Mass in a Parish where 27 Christians were martyred – parishioners came out in large numbers. In Ho Chi Minh City, I celebrated the English-language Sunday morning Mass in the “packed” Cathedral, which included the recently-appointed American Ambassador to Vietnam. The visit of Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples, to the country was the occasion of a Mass at the Cathedral in Hanoi and a special plenary meeting of the Bishops of Vietnam. They were very welcoming and spoke highly of Priests from Vietnam who are serving in Canada, and in particular in the Hamilton Diocese. I enjoyed many meals of Vietnamese fare – all well-prepared, nicely presented, and delicious. (How do they stay so thin?!) I am preparing this issue of Heart to Heart overlooking the South China Sea, where many Vietnamese sailed away on small overloaded boats in the hope of finding a peaceful productive life in other lands. This visit has been a blessing for me – and I am grateful to Father Hanh Van Tran, OMI, Pastor of Our Lady of Vietnam and Holy Family Parishes, and Vietnamese Martyrs Mission, for organizing such a blessed experience.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI