

Heart to Heart

April 1, 2011 (#20)

THIRTY PRIESTS GATHERED AT HOLY CROSS PARISH IN GEORGETOWN, at the invitation of Father Dave Wynen, to bid farewell to Bishop Peter Hundt as he takes on responsibility for the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador. The church was filled with well-wishers who stayed after the Mass to speak to their former pastor and seek his blessing. I was glad to have to opportunity to offer the good wishes of the Diocese. The installation will take place in Corner Brook on April 13th.

THE CHRISM MASS IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:00 p.m. ON APRIL 18th at the Cathedral of Christ the King. The Chrism celebrations will begin with refreshments at 4:00 p.m. and dinner at 4:30 p.m. in the Cathedral auditorium. Please be sure to RSVP an invitation that has been sent to you by Father Edward House, Rector. This facilitates ordering the appropriate number of meals. I look forward to seeing you all there!

THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION FOR SIX OF THE SEVEN SCHOOL BOARDS in our Diocese met with Monsignor Vincent Kerr, Father Con O'Mahony and myself at the Chancery this week. There was a wide-ranging, full and frank conversation around several topics. The commitment of these leaders to the vision and mission of our Catholic Schools is impressive. These meetings have been going on for some time and keep us all well-connected in the midst of busy schedules and sensitive concerns!

INTERVIEWS CONTINUE WITH A VIEW TO FINALIZING CLERGY CHANGES this year. This is the "first round" for me, and I am impressed by the openness I have experienced during these sessions. The Personnel Board will meet again next Friday to review responses; we are hoping to have the appointments published mid-month. A prayer or two for God's blessing on the process would be appreciated!

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENGLISH AND SPANISH CURSILLO MOVEMENTS visited this week. They are enthusiastic groups who are doing an important service of evangelization within our Diocese. The Cursillo weekend is an intense experience of Christian community, prayer and catechesis which revitalizes and renews participants. You might wish to encourage parishioners to consider making one!

THE PARISH COUNCIL AND FATHER AMBROISE OF ST. PHILIPPE PARISH in Burlington welcomed me to a fine dinner this week, and presented their hopes for the parish into the future. There is a great spirit in this French-language parish, and I was impressed by the work they had put into their plans.

AND I HAD MY FIRST VISIT TO ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH in Hamilton. Several parish leaders joined Father Janusz Roginski, Father Alex Mazur and Father Joe Pezantumkal for a delicious Italian meal! The parish has made a major contribution to the life of the City of Hamilton and continues to thrive thanks to the ministry of Father Janusz!

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO) meets in Toronto next week (Monday through Wednesday). This will be my first meeting with brother bishops in the Province and I am looking forward to the experience. Pray for us.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + Douglas, OMI