



Heart to Heart

April 15, 2011 (#22)

THE SHORT VISIT TO CORNER BROOK WAS A SORT OF CLOSURE FOR ME. Bishop Peter Hundt was surrounded by family and friends on Wednesday evening, when Metropolitan Archbishop Martin Currie lead him to the Cathedra and handed him the 100-year-old crozier of Bishop Michael Power, second Bishop of St. George's Diocese. Several of his priest friends from the Diocese, 20 bishops from the Atlantic, Quebec and Ontario regions were present, along with Archbishop Pedro Lopéz Quintana, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada. We pray for God's blessing on his ministry.

ERSILIA DiNARDO IS DIRECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY of Hamilton. She has dedicated her life to the protection and care of children. I was deeply moved by an afternoon visit to the Society's offices yesterday. Foster parents for children are often sought through ads in our parish bulletins. I met a couple of the foster parents who impressed me by their dedication and deep commitment to the children who had been placed in their care. I also met some of the young people who are remarkably wise for their years and very grateful for the help that the Society has provided. It is clear to me that the Hamilton CCAS saves lives and gives hope. The saintly director is one more inspirational leader in our community! Thank you to the Pastors for encouraging parishioners to become involved in the good work of the organization!

SHAWN GADSBY AND MAUREEN ELLIS OF ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA gave us an extended tour of the facility this morning. It is a testament to the foresight of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the generosity of major donors, the excellence of the staff, and the goodness of the volunteers. We stopped in unexpectedly to visit Father Kyran Kennedy and caught him praying his Rosary! We know the source of his holiness and goodness! The Villa was one of the worthy recipients of funds raised at the Bishop's Charities Dinner. Once again, we are impressed by the contribution of the Catholic community to the area!

PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THIS YEAR ARE BEING ANNOUNCED TODAY. I am grateful for my conversations with all of those who were approached this year. I am more convinced than ever that the priests of the Diocese of Hamilton are holy men. Thank you for your openness, honesty and availability. Thank you also to the members of the Personnel Committee whose advice was informed and helpful. May these appointments be a blessing for the parishioners and for the priests who have accepted the ministry.

OVER 200 PRIESTS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THE CHRISM MASS DINNER! It will surely be an outstanding gathering and a testimony to the unity and fraternity of the priests in the Diocese and of the Diocese. Father House has assured that there are a few "extra" place settings, so if you haven't already done so, you might want to let him know if you are planning on attending. It is the one Mass in the year when we celebrate and honour the priesthood!

POPE JOHN PAUL II WILL BE BEATIFIED ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, MAY 1ST. You might wish to pray this prayer with parishioners after the final prayer of the Sunday Mass, or at some other appropriate moment. *All holy and eternal God, we praise and thank you for the life and ministry of your faithful servant, Pope John Paul II. As he is now counted among the blessed in heaven, we seek his intercession that we may imitate the conviction of his faith, his perseverance in suffering, and his confidence in your Divine Mercy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI