

Heart to Heart

April 21, 2017 (#282)

BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM WAS INSTALLED AS BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH in a beautiful ceremony on Wednesday. Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kingston, presided over the installation and led him to the Cathedra – the Bishop's Chair. (The Diocese of Peterborough belongs to the Metropolitan Province of Kingston – an ecclesiastical jurisdiction.) During the ceremony Bishop Miehm was greeted by Priests, Deacons, Religious women, lay faithful, and young people, all wishing him well. At a meal following the celebration, he was welcomed by the Mayor of Peterborough and other civic and educational leaders. We continue to pray for him – it is a big change in his life!

THE CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN continues to advocate for doctors and health care professionals who do not want to participate in Physician Assisted Suicide in Ontario. Close to 30,000 letters were sent directly to elected officials and many communities personally met with their local MPP on this matter. Sadly, the amendment to protect the conscience rights of doctors and nurses was defeated – so no protection will be in Bill 84!

MOTHER CELESTE, PRIORESS OF THE CARMEL OF ST. JOSEPH in St. Agatha, Sr. Sarah, and Sr. Mary Michael, will be travelling to St. Louis to meet with Father General and other members of the Carmelite Generalate from Rome. 160 Nuns from across the United States and Canada will meet from April 24th through April 30th. Such gatherings are a time of joy, prayer, and reflection for the Nuns. The Carmel of St. Joseph welcomes a Postulant from the Kitchener-Waterloo area in early May – a blessing!

THE PILGRIMAGE FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, sponsored by Kairos, kicks off in Kitchener on Sunday, April 23rd, at 1:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Church (57 Stirling Ave. N., Kitchener). The pilgrimage continues to May 14th in Ottawa. At 2:30 p.m. anyone who wishes is invited to join the walkers on the first leg of the journey, walking part or all of the way to Cambridge. Short notice – and a worthy activity!

OUR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATES gather again on Saturday to continue their formation. Father Mark Gatto, Program Director, will work with the First Year candidates on Missiology, and Father Paul Baillargeon, Chancellor of the Diocese of London, will work with the Year Three candidates on Canon Law. Stephen Barringer, from the Archdiocese of Toronto, will share information on Nursing Home Ministry. Sounds like another full and interesting day. We pray for the Permanent Deacon candidates and their wives.

THE ORDINATION OF FOUR MEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD will take place on Saturday, May 6th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Priests are invited to concelebrate and participate in the "laying on of hands". Mark your calendar now! Our four Deacons are completing their retreats in preparation for the event. We pray for them.

THE VISITA AD LIMINA APOSTOLORUM BEGINS IN ROME ON MONDAY. Bishop Anthony Tonnos, Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki and I leave on flights for Rome this evening, arriving Saturday morning. Sunday is a day for adjustment. The visits to the Dicasteries begin first thing Monday morning. Our meeting with Pope Francis is scheduled for NEXT Friday morning. I will give highlights in next week's Heart to Heart. Pray for us – for safe travel and for spiritual renewal during this special time. Priests and parishioners from the Diocese will be in our prayers during these days. We return on May 4th.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + Douglas, OMI