



Heart to Heart

June 3, 2011 (#29)

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR BISHOP ANTHONY TONNOS was a glorious event that exceeded all expectations. It was the first summery day and a large number of priests and parishioners gathered for the noonday Mass of Thanksgiving. Bishop Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines, and Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki, Auxiliary Bishop-emeritus of Hamilton, assisted Bishop Tonnos at the altar. Also assisting were Bishop Tonnos' good friend Monsignor Dominic Pizzacalla, from St. Catharines, and our own Monsignor Harvey Roach. Thanks to Monsignor Murray Kroetsch for assuring the Mass flowed well, and to Monsignor Ed House, for arranging a wonderful dinner in the parish hall. Father Dan Miehm spoke eloquently on behalf of the priests (and Bishop) of the Diocese, offering gratitude and good wishes to Bishop Tonnos, concluding by presenting him with the framed stitching of his Coat-of-Arms which had decorated his Cathedra for the 27 years of his time as Local Ordinary. The next honour for our celebrated Bishop is the conferral of an Honorary Doctorate at St. Jerome's University on June 16th.

THE LUTHERAN, ANGLICAN, ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERCHURCH COMMITTEE (L.A.R.C.) Day of Renewal, took place last Tuesday at Siegfried Hall, St. Jerome's University in Waterloo. I was pleased to join Anglican Bishops Michael Bird (Niagara), and Terrence Dance (Huron), and Evangelical Lutheran Bishop Michael Pryse at the gathering. There was a good representation of priests and laity from our Diocese at the event. Catholic members of the L.A.R.C. Executive include, Father Mark Gatto, Father Tim Hingston, Sandy Milne, and Maureen O'Donoghue Rich. I am grateful for their commitment to this ecumenical initiative.

THE MEETING WITH PRINCIPALS AND CHAPLAINS of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board last Wednesday provided an opportunity for me to share my expectations and appreciation for the wonderful work being done in Catholic schools throughout this Diocese. They listened courteously as I spoke about some of the significant events that have shaped my own convictions about Catholic education. Their questions and comments helped me to clarify and deepen my thoughts. My thanks to Father Con O'Mahony, Episcopal Vicar (Education), who was present to support and encourage me!

PARISHIONERS AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH IN BURLINGTON have packed a 40 ft-long trailer with clothes, medical supplies, toys, playground equipment, bikes, tools, educational books, shoes, boots, microscopes, lab equipment, school supplies, firefighting equipment, safety glasses, hard hats and more, all destined for Bulembu, Africa. Students in one school contributed all their used musical instruments; another school sent all their athletic uniforms! The parish gets an "A" for missionary awareness and generosity – a great initiative!

FATHER ALEKS MAZUR, SAC, AND DEACON NICK CHERRI leave today with 40 parishioners from St. Ambrose Parish, Cambridge, and St. Gabriel Parish, Burlington, on a pilgrimage to Poland – *walking in the footsteps of Blessed John Paul II!* They will visit his hometown of Wadowice, as well as Krakow, Warsaw, Zakopane, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, and the Shrine of the Black Madonna. They will also visit Auschwitz. The Pallotine Seminary is also on their list. It promises to be a blessed journey. Please pray for the Diocese!

WELCOME TO ABBOT PETER NOVECOSKY, OSB, who is the retreat director for our first retreat for priests which begins next Monday at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre in Niagara Falls. I am looking forward to the time of prayer and quiet.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI