



Heart to Heart

January 5, 2018 (#309)

BISHOP ANTHONY KROTKI, OMI, from the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay is visiting the Chancery Office for a *“Lunch and Learn”*, meeting the staff and informing us about the Diocese. The “twinning” which involves the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, the Diocese of St. Catharines, and the Diocese of Hamilton, provides support to his northern Diocese. Already the Diocese of Hamilton has provided some logistical and administrative support, some financial support, and some pastoral support, including Priestly support over Christmas and Easter, and visits from some of our Pastoral Offices. We welcome the Bishop warmly and thank him for the wintry weather he has been sending our way over the past few weeks!!!

FATHER ED HINSPERGER CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS at Hall Beach, Nunavut. He arrived in time to celebrate the 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent, and to meet Simon, who translated his homilies into Inuktituk. Father wrote to parishioners at St. Clement Parish in Cambridge where he resides when he is not “in the wilds”. *“On Christmas Day at 5:00 p.m., people were invited to the community hall for Christmas Dinner. Over 200 attended a full course hot meal at no cost. I find it amazing to see mothers and grandmothers carrying their young babies (even up to 4 years of age) on their back. On these cold days, the parka they wear has a section in the back where they place their child, and the parka has a hood that covers their baby and their own head. Here the temperature is in the -50s! May God bless in 2018!”*

JUSTIN RUISS RECEIVED THE RESCRIPT dispensing him from the Diaconate, and from the celibate state, last week. We offer our good wishes as he discerns future directions in his life. Currently, Justin is working in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and maintaining connections with La Famille Marie-Jeunesse.

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN MULTICULTURAL MASS is scheduled for January 21st, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, beginning at 1:30 p.m. This is always a lively and colourful gathering, drawing together the many cultures present in the Diocese. We pray in thanksgiving for the richness they bring to the Diocese. It is also a time to pray for the 250 million migrants world-wide, including 22.5 million who are refugees. The Mass is followed by a time of celebration in McNally Hall below the Cathedral, with spring-rolls available for all!

THE HAMILTON SERRA CLUB SPONSORS A MASS AND DINNER on Monday, January 15th, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The Serra Club supports prayer and action nurturing vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life for the Diocese of Hamilton. New members are always welcome.

MEETINGS OF THE DIOCESAN CONSULTORS, the Episcopal Board, the Pastoral Offices, and the Diocesan Finance Committee mark the early weeks of the New Year at the Chancery. The Board of St. Joseph’s Health System hold their first meeting of the New Year on January 18th. Confirmations begin again mid-month. Another year of pastoral service and administration is underway!

JANUARY IS A TIME WHEN PRIESTS OFTEN TAKE VACATION following the hectic Advent and Christmas seasons. I will be out of the office from January 6th (tomorrow), until January 15th. Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, Vicar General and Chancellor, will respond to concerns directed to the Bishop’s Office. Happy New Year to one and all! May it be a year overflowing with blessing!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Ex corde, *+ Douglas*, OMI