



Heart to Heart

June 24, 2011 (#32)

THE PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH, PATRON OF CANADA, IN ACTON, held a special celebration on Tuesday evening, completing their 150th anniversary celebrations that began two years ago! Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League of the parish, and with the capable support of the local Knights of Columbus, a shrine of the Holy Family was erected behind the parish church. It was blessed prior to the celebration of Mass. Father Bob Bulbrook, beloved Pastor, was beaming at the end of the evening!

SEVERAL SEMINARIANS FOR THE HAMILTON DIOCESE, working in the area for the summer, gathered at St. John's Parish in Guelph, for the first of several "gatherings" that will bring them together during the summer months. It gave time for prayer, for a meal and for fraternal conversation about a variety of topics. Thanks to Father Ed Henhoeffler for hosting this first gathering and thanks to Father Kevin Cull for organizing these events, which nurture the communion among our candidates for the priesthood.

SEMINARIAN MR. JOHN REDMOND WILL BE ORDAINED DEACON at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish in Hamilton at 7 p.m. tonight. He has been studying at St. Peter's Seminary in London and will be serving as a Deacon during July and August at St. Joseph's Parish in Guelph. We are grateful for his commitment to serve with us in the Diocese and we pray for God's blessing on his ministry in the coming year.

DEACON MICHAEL MATEYK, MISSIONARY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, will be ordained to the priesthood at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo tomorrow morning. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m., and priests are invited to concelebrate. His parents live in the parish and are justifiably proud of their son. We pray for his ministry and we pray for the good work of his community!

I WILL BE VISITING OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH IN HAMILTON on Sunday morning, celebrating the Masses and meeting parishioners. This will be a special visit for me given that the Oblates of Mary Immaculate once served the parish and I visited there several times in the early 1980's, when the saintly Father Don Brennan, OMI, was Pastor. I am grateful to Father Michael King for the invitation and look forward to renewing my friendship with parishioners. The visit will surely bring back happy memories.

A FOND FAREWELL TO FATHER DONAT GIONET, C.J.M., who celebrates his final Sunday Mass as Pastor of Sacré Coeur Parish in Georgetown this weekend! Not only is Father Gionet retiring as Pastor, but he is returning to his Eudist community in New Brunswick. We are deeply grateful for his faithful leadership and generous ministry among the Francophone community in the Hamilton Diocese over these many years. I look forward to bringing greetings from the Diocese and expressions of our gratitude at what will surely be an emotional goodbye.

MR. ALLAN CALVERT, SECRETARY FOR THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC Social Service Organizations, is retiring from his position with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. Because of his fidelity to this particular diocesan service, he will be awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honour at a quiet farewell event which will take place at the School Board Office in Hamilton on Monday morning. We wish him a well-deserved retirement.

MOVING DAY FOR PRIESTS TAKES PLACE NEXT WEEK! I wish you all "safe landing" in your new digs!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde,

+ *Douglas*, OMI