



Heart to Heart

August 26, 2011 (#36)

HIS EMINENCE ALOYSIUS CARDINAL AMBROZIC, Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto, died early this morning after a lengthy illness. He was a priest for 56 years, bishop for 35 years, and served as 9th Archbishop of Toronto from 1990 to 2006. We pray for his repose. Details of his funeral will be sent out on Monday.

ALSO, FATHER JIM SCOLES died last week and was buried from St. Peter's Church in Ayton. Our thanks to Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki who was principal celebrant at the funeral. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Fr. Scoles' family.

WELCOME TO OBLATE FATHERS Tony O'Dell, Jaroslaw (Jarek) Pachocki and Father Neil Haight, who will be staying with me for the coming year. They have just completed over ten years of service in Labrador City and have been given a sabbatical year by the Oblate Provincial. They are enjoying some summer sun and water at the cottage these days! It is expected that they will join me at Ardree by the end of September. They are open to help out if you are looking for short term replacement over the winter months.

DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES for the school boards within the Diocese of Hamilton will be joining me in the garden at Ardree for an "end of summer" luncheon tomorrow afternoon. About 60 guests are expected. The gathering will provide an opportunity to thank them for their commitment to Catholic Education and for creating the learning environment where the lives of our young people are changed to become leaders for the future of our world!

I WILL BLESS THE STATUE OF ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA at St. Matthew's Parish, Oakville, at this weekend's Sunday noon Mass. It is a beautiful representation of one of Pope John Paul II's modern saints! After Mass there will be a gathering of the seminarians (and wannabees!) for the Diocese of Hamilton sponsored by Father Mark Gatto, Pastor of the parish. Thanks again to Father Kevin Cull for organizing these happy summer gatherings.

MOMMA'S COMIN'! She has been called "the First Mother of the Diocese of Hamilton"! That would be my mother, Natalie. She will be visiting from next Tuesday to the Tuesday after Labour Day. It means I will be on part-time service at the office. We intend to visit the area a bit and enjoy some of the sights. I'm told there is a giraffe at a Safari Park in the Diocese - you might find us there one day!

THANK YOU FOR EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS on the recent and sudden death of my brother-in-law, Gordon Kemp. My sister Susan and he had be present for my installation back in November. A recent bowel obstruction was determined to be a cancerous growth that was inoperable. Their family (4) live away from home now and were a wonderful support to their father and mother.

FAR FROM QUIET, IT HAS BEEN A RATHER BUSY SUMMER FOR THE BISHOP! Barbeques from Sauble Beach with the Beaupre's, to St. Jerome's University with Father David Perrin, President, and Board members, to sailing on Lake Erie with Father Bill Foote and his wife, and on Georgian Bay with Leon and Margery Frisch and Father Dave Reilander, to experiencing the Stratford Players production of Camelot with Fathers Cull, Duffy and Lobsinger, to a voyage on the Chi-Cheemaun to Manitoulin Island with a happy group of priests! The weather has been remarkably beautiful! And there is still another week to go until the Labour Day weekend!!!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde,

Douglas, OMI