



Heart to Heart

September 9, 2011 (#38)

BIG “DOINS” IN FERGUS THIS WEEKEND! The newly constructed parish church (St. Joseph’s) will be blessed and dedicated at a Mass on Sunday afternoon. Following six years in the planning stages, it will be an exciting day for the Catholic community – in fact for the entire community – who have watched the building go up over the past year. Congratulations and thanks to Father Ian Duffy who has been the “overseer” and attended to the finer details of the work and who can only be justifiably proud of the result. The project was a labour of love accomplished by a large number of people – a glorious place of prayer and worship and a sign of the centrality of Christ in the community!

CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN TO BISHOP TONNOS on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary of Priesthood. With the personnel at the Diocesan Chancery, Bishop Tonnos enjoyed a breakfast at which this milestone was praised and celebrated. Cecile Rosier, his faithful housekeeper, was also present, providing an opportunity to greet her once again!

I CELEBRATED MASS WITH THE GERMAN COMMUNITY at St. Mary’s Church in Kitchener yesterday. This Catholic group remains faithful to their German roots and gather regularly at the parish for Mass and other events. It was good to meet them and to hear their many stories of “the early years”! *Alles ganz gemütlich passiert!*

TOMORROW I WILL JOIN THE PERMANENT DEACONS at a barbeque at the home of Deacon Nick Cheri who is the Coordinator of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese. We have 35 Permanent Deacons in our Diocese at present, six more who are preparing for ordination in the Spring of 2012, and another six who are preparing for ordination in the Spring of 2014. Applications for those who will begin the program NEXT September are being received till the end of December this year.

THE ANNUAL CLERGY GOLF TOURNAMENT TAKES PLACE ON MONDAY, followed by a hearty dinner! Several of the priests of the Diocese are avid golfers, while others just enjoy the day in the outdoors. I, on the other hand, enjoy the dinner – see you there!

THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS MEETS NEXT TUESDAY, the first meeting of the pastoral year and the last meeting for four of the members. Four of the six Deans complete their term with effect at the end of Tuesday’s meeting. I thank each of you for your faithful service. The names of the newly appointed Deans will be announced in next week’s *Heart to Heart*.

THE WELLINGTON DEANERY MEETS NEXT THURSDAY, chaired by Father Ken Miskiewicz, Dean and Pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish in Guelph. I will be participating in the gathering and look forward to hearing the concerns and the initiatives of the priests and parish workers as the new pastoral year begins.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL SURGICAL CENTRE takes place next Wednesday. There will be a formal ceremony during which I will bless several operating rooms. This will be another opportunity to acknowledge the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph, but also to honour the current administration for making the Hospital the place of healing and care that it is.

REGISTRATIONS FOR THE PRIESTS’ SEMINAR ARE FLOODING IN; if you have not already done so, it would greatly help the work of the Seminar Committee were you to register at your earliest convenience. I take a particular and personal interest in the matter as I wish to affirm and strengthen the Presbyterate of our Diocese.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde,

+ *Douglas*, OMI