



MR. ROBERT O'BRIEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC CEMETERIES of the Diocese of Hamilton, has announced his retirement effective October 1, 2011, after 60 years of faithful service. The Catholic Cemeteries are celebrating his retirement at a reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2011, at Our Lady of Victory Mausoleum (Reception Room) in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. We join the Cemeteries' personnel in wishing both Bob and Jane O'Brien all good blessings!

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION MASS for Catholic School Boards in the Diocese of Hamilton is scheduled for September 29th. Students, parents, teachers, administrators and trustees from each school board will begin gathering at the Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. for a brief welcome ceremony and talk. Supper will be served at 5:00 p.m., and Mass will begin at 6:30 p.m. Priests are invited to concelebrate. This is an important opportunity for us as a Diocese to celebrate the good things that are happening in Catholic Education and to pray for its strong and secure future!

THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has received more than \$4.7 million from Catholics across the country in response to the emergency situation in the Horn of Africa. Mr. Michael Casey, CCODP Executive Director, has sent a letter of thanks to the Bishops explaining that all contributions received before September 16th were matched dollar-for-dollar by the Canadian government. Thanks to parishes and groups within our Diocese who have sent contributions!

THE FIRST SESSION OF CONVERSATIONS AT ARDREE was held yesterday. It was a serious yet congenial encounter – providing an opportunity for each priest to speak. The day passed too quickly! Next week two more sessions will take place (Wednesday and Thursday). Thanks to Monsignor Murray Kroetsch and Father Con O'Mahony for providing the informational support.

THE FRANCO-ONTARIEN FLAG FLIES OVER HAMILTON CITY HALL these days, almost 36 years after it was first raised at the University of Sudbury in 1975. The flag is a symbol of the French-speaking community in Ontario, the largest group of French-speakers in Canada outside of the Province of Quebec. I was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the Diocese. On a related note, congratulations to the Parish of Notre-Dame-du-Perpetuel-Secours in Hamilton, which celebrated its 60th anniversary last weekend!

ALL THE WAY TO DENVER, COLORADO, FOR CCCB EXECUTIVE MEETINGS with the Executive of the USCCB (US Bishops)! I leave on Sunday morning for the gathering and return on Tuesday evening; it seems like a long way to go for a short meeting but it does provide occasion for the officers in Canada and the United States to get to know one another and to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.

CYO CELEBRATED THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LAST WEDNESDAY, marking the end/beginning of another great year for the organization! I was there to give The Bishop's Medal to three worthy recipients. The development of Camp Marydale is proceeding with an opening now foreseen for the summer of 2012!

THE BREAD OF LIFE RENEWAL CENTRE is sponsoring a renewal day tomorrow afternoon at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Oakville. Theme for the day is *Tell the Story*. I will be one of the keynote speakers and presider at the Mass. I look forward to meeting participants and organizers!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde,

+ *Douglas*, OMI