



Heart to Heart

October 7, 2011 (#42)

THE 62ND ANNUAL CATHOLIC CEMETERY CONFERENCE is taking place in Nashville, Tennessee these days. It is a gathering of the Cemetery Directors and staff from several US and Canadian diocese. John O'Brien and I are here from our Diocese. I was the presider at this morning's Mass. The convention is an opportunity for speakers to share ways to enhance the pastoral as well as the business dimension of the work of the Catholic cemeteries. We return on Sunday.

158 PRIESTS ARE REGISTERED for this year's Priests' Seminar so far! It promises to be an excellent session to focus attention on our personal healthcare concerns. You are reminded to schedule a visit with the nurse for confidential testing and personal advice. Jubilarians will also be duly honoured during these days.

CONVERSATIONS AT ARDREE (#4) takes place Tuesday. These sessions are proving to be excellent occasions to meet other priests and to talk about pastoral matters, especially concerns and success stories. To date over 50 priests have participated! This has been a wonderful way for me to get to know the priests more personally and to listen to them individually.

THE BROTHERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD hold their 13th annual Harvest Dinner next Thursday evening. It is their major fund-raiser for the year – something that people look forward to attending. The Brothers are the major social service provider in the City of Hamilton, I'm told – a remarkable bit of information that can only bring pride to the Catholic community.

THE CATHEDRAL WAS FULL LAST SUNDAY for the annual Mass sponsored by our Office for Refugees and Immigrants. Various cultural groups accepted responsibility for a part of the Mass demonstrating the cultural diversity of our Diocese – all united in the Church as sisters and brothers in Christ. While the weather was inclement, the spirit in the Cathedral was enthusiastic and joyful. Thanks again to Barbara Dollak and her committee for organizing the event which is a reminder of the first Pentecost experience!

CHECK OUT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE for a new item from our Office for Catechesis called *Resources for Schools for the New Roman Missal*. It is a program to help schools prepare students for the new translations of the Roman Missal. It may be helpful in your parishes. Even neighbouring dioceses are using it!

MONSIGNOR MURRAY KROETSCH IS TRAVELLING THE COUNTRY preparing dioceses for the new translation of the Roman Missal. To date 126 priests have signed up for a workshop he is presenting in our own Diocese. This workshop will ensure priests are ready for the Advent Masses. Don't miss it!

THANKSGIVING MASS on Monday will be a prayer of gratitude to God for the past incredible year – and for the many gifts that have been showered upon me since becoming Bishop of Hamilton. Serving with you and for you is a rich blessing for me. I thank God and I thank you!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde,

+ *Douglas*, OMI