



Heart to Heart

November 11, 2011 (#47)

I AM TOTALLY INVESTED IN THIS DIOCESE, IN YOU! My family loves me, and they understand that you come first. My Oblate community knows that I am here in Hamilton, and they know that you come first. I have many good friends who have been close to me for a long time, and they know that you come first. I promise to spend myself for you – heart, soul and strength; because, without becoming maudlin, I believe that spending myself totally for you is spending myself totally for HIM. Everything I do for you and for the Diocese of Hamilton is a blessing for me. I can only hope and pray that it will be a blessing for you. Please never stop praying for me.” (At a first anniversary dinner, November 7th, to priests in the Diocese.) Sincere thanks to all who sent good wishes on the occasion of my first anniversary as Bishop of the Diocese!

FR. STEPHEN CROWLEY HAS BEEN APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR at St. John’s Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Kitchener following the recent resignation of Fr. Juan Montoya from service as Pastor. I offer my thanks for his openness to accept this new role and wish him well in his ministry.

MR. JUSTIN RUISS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO REGINA MUNDI PARISH in Hamilton, to assist Fr. Charlie Jordan, as he prepares to complete his studies for the priesthood at St. Augustine’s Seminary. He will serve in the parish until the beginning of the next semester in January. News of his return to the seminary has been received with joy from all directions.

AT THE SUPPER OF THE LAMB, is the title of a book by Father Paul Turner which is being used by many parishes as a resource for adult formation on the Mass. Other parishes are planning to use the resource, along with the Facilitator’s Guide which was developed by our Pastoral Offices, for similar study groups in the new year. To date over 700 copies of the book have been purchased by parishes in our Diocese – and the orders keep coming in!

I VISITED ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HAMILTON yesterday morning and met the Principal, teachers, staff and students. I had the opportunity to hear from several of the student groups and organizations, including the Student Council – a promising group of young and responsible leaders. The spirit in the school is remarkably lively – buoyed by their successful athletic program and faith development program! It was an impressive – even inspiring – experience!

MR. PAT NOON, DIRECTOR OF THE CO-OP MISSIONARY PLAN is already working on the 2012 program. Planning starts now. Pastors who have not participated in the plan or who have withdrawn in the past for one reason or another, are strongly encouraged to join again this year. It is a practical and concrete way for parishioners to assist “the young Church” growing in other parts of the world. If you are able to participate, please give Mr. Noon a call soon. The blessing will redound on your parish!

A CLERGY PHOTO DIRECTORY FOR THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON, a follow-up to the 2003 and 2008 editions, is now in the preparatory stages. A small group is working on organizing the project and will be in touch with you about times and dates for photo shoots. Such a publication will surely assist us in getting to know one another better – especially those who have arrived more recently in the Diocese!

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL IN OAKVILLE will be blessed on Monday morning. It is another sign of growth in the community and the commitment of the Government of Ontario to Catholic Education. I look forward to the event – the first secondary school that I will bless since my arrival as Bishop of Hamilton!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI