



Heart to Heart

November 18, 2011 (#48)

A WARM WELCOME TO ARCHBISHOP PEDRO LÓPEZ QUINTANA, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, who joins us this weekend for the patronal celebration of Christ the King at the Cathedral! During the celebration he will confer Papal Honours on nine worthy recipients from across the Diocese. The honourees exhibit the remarkable good work that is done throughout the Diocese, benefitting both the Church and the broader community. I congratulate the recipients and thank them for their contribution to our Diocese.

FR. RAYMOND MODESKI IS ECSTATIC about the remarkable success of the first annual fundraising dinner held in the Halton region of the Diocese last week. The principal beneficiary of the evening was *The Catholic Children's Education Foundation* which received a \$25,000 donation from the evening's participants. Those present also offered good wishes on the occasion of my first anniversary as Bishop of Hamilton. Thanks to the organizers from the Halton Catholic District School Board, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League, and parishes in the area. As the old saw goes: "A good time was had by all!"

CONVERSATIONS AT ARDREE FINISH UP NEXT WEEK. Each of the nine small group gatherings of priests began at about 10 a.m. and continued till about 3 p.m. Lunch provided time not only for a meal and personal interaction, but also to have a good look around Ardree, the Bishop's residence. The two major topics of conversation for this round included the Draft Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation and the final preparations for the introduction of the third typical edition of the Roman Missal which will take place on the evening of November 26th, the First Sunday of Advent! Once completed, we will assess the value of these get-togethers and determine whether and when the sessions will continue.

THE BOOKKEEPERS AND SECRETARIES OF OUR PARISHES met at the Chancery this week, and at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kitchener last week, with Heather Whalen from Hoecht Galvin Kai, our Diocesan Auditors. They were updated on salary protocol, and CRA expectations for parish reports. The event gave them the opportunity to get to know one another and the administrative staff at the Chancery. They all must be thanked for their commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the accounting work which is so important for our parishes and Diocese!

THE SENIOR STAFF OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE meet monthly to review business and development issues at the various cemeteries and to discuss matters of mutual concern. I met with the group yesterday morning for the first time, and gained a good understanding of the scope of their activity. They are all very committed to the work and have served the Diocese faithfully for many years. My eyes have been opened to another important facet of our Diocesan outreach! We care for people from before their birth to after their death!

BISHOP MICHAEL BIRD, ANGLICAN BISHOP OF NIAGARA, and his wife Susan, invited me to a fine dinner earlier this week. The Bishop has been very kind to me since my arrival in the Diocese, and it was a pleasure to meet his wife who makes her own important contribution to the disadvantaged of our local community.

3000 GRADE EIGHT STUDENTS IN THE HALTON CATHOLIC District School Board gathered at Mary Mother of God Parish in Oakville this week for their annual Youth Rally which takes place over three days. I presided at the closing Mass on Wednesday afternoon, giving me an opportunity to share some of my thoughts and ideas with the young people and to learn some of the "new" music! Among the "supporters" was Mrs. Alice-Ann Lemay, Chair of the Halton Catholic District School Board, who served with a Halton police officer as a cross-walk guard for the young people. I'll bet they didn't know they were so well protected!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI