



Heart to Heart

December 2, 2011 (#50)

THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION held an event at Assumption College in Brantford on Tuesday morning to help students better understand the issues surrounding Aboriginal Residential Schools. Fr. Dave Wilhelm, Dean of Brant, represented the Catholic perspective. He was proud of the interest and questions of the students and judged the event to be a success. It is a concern that we must promote further!

THE TWO OBLATES ARE BREATHING EASIER now that the Advent Prayer Days are over. Their reflection on the centrality of the Eucharist was well received – and the time of prayerful Reflection, Reconciliation and Adoration was appreciated by the participants. It is also a valuable experience in priestly fraternity.

ARCHBISHOP PAUL-ANDRÉ DUROCHER was well and truly enthroned at a 2-1/2 hour Mass held at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Gatineau on Wednesday evening. Radio-Canada taped the event for later broadcasting. The Archbishop's homily was a "barn burner", and had us all enthralled, We offer our prayers for his ministry there.

I'LL BE CELEBRATING SUNDAY MASS AT GLENELG and Durham this weekend, fulfilling a promise made several months ago. I am looking forward to visiting the parish and its missions under the pastoral care of Fr. Les Szczygiel. It looks like rain – but that's not snow (!), so the drive should be pleasant!

NEXT MONDAY IS DEDICATED TO CHRISTMAS CARDS! One of my pleasures at Christmas is sending and receiving Christmas cards. Don't know why; just do! So Monday is set aside for that purpose. Ardree will be filled with Christmas music and cards stacked in special piles. Once that pleasant task is done, I'm ready for the "Season"!!!

THE DIRECTORS OF OUR SIX CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS meet at the Chancery on Tuesday. The annual meeting gives us the opportunity to review matters of mutual interest and concern. A good relationship between the Diocese and the Boards has been carefully nurtured over the years and continues to be a most important connection for all of us.

THE PATRONAL FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE is a good occasion to celebrate with the Parish of St. Ambrose in Cambridge. They are celebrating the feast with a dinner and Mass next Wednesday evening. I'm looking forward to meeting parishioners there.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S LIFECARE CENTRE IN BRANTFORD has planned a tour and lunch for me next Thursday. These healthcare facilities are yet another way that the Church has served, and continues to serve, the needs of citizens. The Lord's call to "heal the sick" is responded to in these centres!

CONFIRMATIONS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE! I'll be at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hamilton on Saturday. I am grateful for the assistance of the Bishops Emeriti, the Vicars and the Chancellor, in making this Sacrament a special experience of faith for our confirmandi.

THE EPISCOPAL BOARD MEETS NEXT THURSDAY afternoon! Pray for us!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI