



Heart to Heart

December 9, 2011 (#51)

A FEW PERSONNEL UPDATES:

- ... **MONSIGNOR BILL O'BRIEN** is recuperating at Atrium Villa following a triple by-pass yesterday.
- ... **FATHER BRENDAN MCGRATH** is appointed Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Hamilton.
- ... **FATHER JOE PEZHATHUMKAL, S.A.C.**, is appointed Chaplain at St. Joseph's Villa, following the return to India of Father Charles Charlose, CMI.
- ... **FATHER WALTER SCHNARR, C.R.**, celebrates his **100th** birthday on December 14th, 2011. Greetings can be sent to him at 265 Westmount Road North, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7. We pray for God's blessing on all our brother priests!

THE NEW ARCHDIOCESE OF HALIFAX-YARMOUTH is now officially established with the recent fusion of the Archdiocese of Halifax and the Diocese of Yarmouth. Archbishop Anthony Mancini is the first Archbishop of the new Archdiocese. This has been a long and careful process – a new beginning for the Church in Nova Scotia.

DURING MY VISIT TO GLENELG AND DURHAM LAST SUNDAY, I met Michael and Patty Black, parents of seminarian Bradley Black, and his *nine* brothers and sisters. Their music and song entertained those gathered for a hearty “farmer-cooked” dinner last Sunday afternoon. It was a joyful Advent gathering!

AND AT ST. AMBROSE PARISH IN CAMBRIDGE, I was welcomed at the Fernandes' home for yet another delicious meal prior to a parish celebration of the Patronal Feast. Following the Mass there was a fine reception at which I was able to meet many parishioners – one who knew my Godfather, Jack Minor, many years ago!

ARCHBISHOP HANNA ZORA AND FATHER NIAZ TOMA, Pastor of the St. Thomas Chaldean Community in Hamilton, stopped in for a visit this week. Archbishop Zora was recently installed as the Eparch of the Mar Addai Chaldean Catholic Diocese of Canada, based in Toronto. The Eparchy is comprised of seven parishes across the country.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES of the Diocese of Hamilton gather tonight for their annual Christmas celebration. I look forward to joining them because it provides another opportunity to thank them for the fine service they provide to those cemeteries that fall under their care!

MONDAY IS THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, named Patroness of America by Pope John Paul II following the Synod of America. I will be celebrating Mass in Spanish with Father Stephen Crowley at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Kitchener on Sunday morning, and with Father Jerzy Tomon and the Spanish community at St. Joseph's Parish in Guelph on Sunday afternoon. There are several Spanish-speaking communities throughout the Diocese.

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in Milton, will be blessed on Tuesday morning! We pray for the administration, teachers and students that a good Catholic education will provide knowledge and virtue that will benefit them throughout their life!

MY MOTHER ARRIVES NEXT THURSDAY to spend the Christmas season with me at Ardree. I look forward to celebrating the holidays with her and the Oblates who have moved into the residence today for the winter months.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI