



## *Heart to Heart*

January 6, 2012 (#55)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ARCHBISHOP THOMAS COLLINS**, son of the Diocese of Hamilton who was named Cardinal by Pope Benedict the XVI earlier today. The Consistory will take place at The Vatican on February 18<sup>th</sup>. It is exciting news for the entire Church in Canada, but particularly for us, members of the Metropolitan See.

**EPIPHANY GREETINGS FROM OWEN SOUND!** A bright star in the night sky led me to the northern part of our Diocese to meet the parishioners in Cape Croker and Owen Sound! Father Dave Reilander, Pastor, and Father Jason Kuntz, Associate, invited me here and are my hosts this weekend. They will assure that I am where I should be for the various events. If the weather and camel cooperate, I should be safely home at Ardree on Sunday evening.

**THESE EARLY DAYS IN JANUARY ARE OFTEN VACATION DAYS** for many of our priests. A good rest is well-deserved after the busy Advent and Christmas seasons. I wish safe travel and a restful time to those who are taking a break. Thank you for your ministry over the season. Special thanks to those who are “covering” and taking the Masses; you make the break possible.

**THE PERSONNEL BOARD MEETS NEXT THURSDAY** to review the responses to the questionnaire mailed to priests last autumn. This meeting will provide an overview of possible personnel appointments this year. It is a meeting which requires much sensitive discernment and much careful reflection. Pray for us.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SLOVENIAN PARISH** on the recent notice of the success of their application for a grant from the Trillium Foundation. The grant will provide financial assistance in the construction of an access elevator to the church. News of their success should give hope to other parishes which have made similar applications.

**THE MEDALS AND PARCHMENTS FOR THE PAPAL HONOURS** are being presented to the recipients over the coming days. Gloria Settini received her award at the Chancery Christmas gathering. Dominic Sergi received his on Christmas morning at the 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the King. Mr. Robert O’Brien will receive his medal this Sunday morning at a Mass at Holy Rosary Parish. Sr. Anne Anderson, CSJ, will receive her award at the upcoming meeting of the Board of Directors of the St. Joseph’s Health System. Ersilia DiNardo will be presented her award at the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Children’s Aid Society. Mr. Frank Voisin and Mr. Frank Clifford will be presented their awards at an evening Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo. Dates and times for the other recipients have yet to be finalized. Again we offer our congratulations and thanks to those who have been honoured.

**THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL OFFICES** takes place next Friday morning. While discussion is always wide-ranging, the particular focus of this month’s meeting will be possibilities and plans for the Year of Faith announced by Pope Benedict XVI several months ago, and the Year of the Family as proposed by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family. The Diocesan Pastoral Offices provide support and encouragement to our parishes and chaplaincies, and provide helpful resources for our efforts to evangelize and serve.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde,

+ *Douglas*, OMI