



Heart to Heart

January 13, 2012 (#56)

MY VISIT TO CAPE CROKER AND OWEN SOUND LAST WEEKEND was a wonderful experience. The weather was Spring-like and there was very little snow! People are surprised at the unseasonable weather, but no-one is complaining. The visit to Cape Croker was especially pleasant because it was an occasion to meet Deacon Ron Johnson who administers the parish community. He was the first Permanent Deacon to be ordained in the Diocese, hence the Dean of Deacons!

SERRA, SERRA, SERRA! The Serra Clubs in Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo invited me to their January meetings. I met the Hamilton club on Monday-past, and I will meet the Kitchener-Waterloo club next Wednesday. In addition to praying for vocations, Serrans promote vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life in very concrete ways. My thanks for the encouragement and support they provide to Father Kevin Cull, our Vocation Director, and to our seminarians.

MEMBERS OF THE HAMILTON SERRA CLUB WHO LIVE IN HALTON are establishing their own club which will meet at Mary Mother of God Parish in Oakville. Father Michael Anderson will be their Chaplain. The first meeting will be on January 26th at 5:30 (for Mass), followed by dinner and the meeting. Pastors in Halton who know of parishioners who are planning to attend the meeting are asked to alert Gerry Woodman (gwoodman@cogeco.ca) so they can be adequately welcomed. Support for the new club is encouraged and appreciated!

THE 2012 BISHOP'S CHARITIES DINNER DANCE is being planned by representatives from several Knights of Columbus Councils in Hamilton and area. I am told that tickets are sold before they are printed! It is a gala evening of good food and conviviality – and it supports some remarkably good works! Thanks to the Knights who are on the organizing committee. The date for this year's event is Saturday, February 25th. Plan to be there!

I WILL CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION TWICE AT MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH in Oakville tomorrow. These are the only celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Diocese in January. I look forward to meeting the young people of the parish who have been preparing for the event!

FATHER CHRIS RUSHTON, OMI, AND FATHER HANH VAN TRAN, OMI, will be guests at Ardree next week. Father Chris is the Pastor in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and he serves the Innu in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish, Labrador. He has been a guest speaker at the Priests' Seminar in the past. Father Hanh is the Pastor of the Basilica of Our Lady in Labrador City. Both are taking the opportunity of the "slower" post-Christmas period to visit the "south". We welcome them warmly!

SANDOR KOLLARICH, CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, guided a photographer from The Hamilton Spectator up the Bell Tower of the Cathedral of Christ the King to give them a good look at the new light at the top. The view is spectacular, and the photos are beautiful! The photographer was daring enough to climb to the very top – something I did not do when Sandor guided me on the same "tour"!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde invicem, + *Douglas*, OMI