



Heart to Heart

March 2, 2012 (#63)

THE BISHOP'S CHARITIES DINNER WAS A HAPPY GATHERING OF CATHOLICS and friends of the Catholic community in the Hamilton area last Saturday evening! Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring such a wonderful event that benefits so many good works in the Hamilton Diocese. Planning for next year's event has already begun!

ST. ANN'S PARISH IN ANCASTER HELD THEIR PARISH MISSION which marked their 60th anniversary of foundation. Because the parish was established by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, both Father Jarek Pachocki, OMI, and Father Tony O'Dell, OMI, were invited to preach the mission. By any standard, the mission was a great blessing for the parish and for the two Oblates – an appropriate way to mark the anniversary.

THOMAS CARDINAL COLLINS WAS WELCOMED BACK TO THE ARCHDIOCESE of Toronto last Wednesday with a Mass which he presided in St. Michael's Cathedral. In addition to a large number of Canadian bishops and priests from the Archdiocese, civic leaders from many of the cities and towns within the Archdiocese were represented. In his customary manner, the Cardinal spoke eloquently about the call to conversion and to holiness, a fundamental Lenten theme. We expect a large number of friends and parishioners to gather at Our Lady Immaculate Church in Guelph when the Cardinal returns to his home parish on March 22nd, the first time he has visited the community since his elevation.

THE CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION HELD THEIR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER last evening. It was another great success – drawing support from across the region. The Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, was one of their special guests for the evening. It was the 40th anniversary of the one-to-one program, a remarkable program that makes summer camp available for children with disabilities. 9-year-old Dante was the Honorary Camper this year. His father gave a very moving tribute to the CYO, encouraging support for the program and Marydale Park!

JOHN O'BRIEN, JIM LONG, ART SMITH AND I WILL TRAVEL TO CHICAGO early next week for meetings with personnel from the Chicago Catholic Cemeteries. We will be discussing their operational and administrative structures which should provide helpful insight as we review our own structures. It will also afford the opportunity for me to renew friendship with Cardinal Francis George, a brother Oblate who served as Assistant General of the Oblate Congregation for 12 years in the 1980's and 90's.

FATHER FRANK FREITAS AND PARISHIONERS AT ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION in Cambridge will welcome me to the parish this weekend. I will celebrate all four weekend Masses in the parish, giving me an opportunity to meet a large number of people. Should be a busy and happy occasion.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS FOR THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS in the Diocese gather in our Board Room for a meeting next Thursday. I look forward to meeting them and welcoming them to the Chancery. They do the important work of communicating the good work that is going on in our Catholic schools, highlighting the value of Catholic education!

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS: The Diocesan Finance Committee meets next Thursday morning to review the budget for this year, and to provide advice and direction on several financial matters. The Personnel Committee meets next Thursday afternoon to review the status of proposed clergy changes for this year. The Diocesan Pastoral Offices have their monthly meeting next Friday morning to review past and future activity in the offices, with special attention to plans for The Year of Faith. That meeting is followed in the afternoon by a meeting of the Episcopal Board. Next week promises to be a busy one!!!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde invicem, + *Douglas*, OMI