



Heart to Heart

March 16, 2012 (#65)

MONSIGNOR VINCENT KERR IS UNDERGOING TESTS AT ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL for a yet undetermined ailment. He was admitted to the hospital late Wednesday evening and testing began immediately. We pray for an early diagnosis and a rapid recovery.

PLEASE NOTE: THE *CHRISM MASS* IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2nd, 2012 and planning is underway for the annual Chrism Mass dinner which precedes the Mass. Because we want to assure that there is a meal for everyone who attends, it is imperative that you inform us of your intention to come to the dinner. We sent out invitations last year, with relative success. This year we are counting on you to take the responsibility of contacting us. **IF YOU WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO CONTACT YOUR DEAN (or his secretary) TO INFORM HIM OF YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND, ONCE HE HAS THE TOTAL FOR HIS DEANERY, HE CAN INFORM MONSIGNOR EDWARD HOUSE. WE NEED THE NUMBER OF PRIESTS, DEACONS AND SEMINARIANS.** Deans are asked to call Linda Welton, Cathedral Secretary (905-522-5744) no later than March 29!

SEVEN MEMBERS OF OUR LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATION travelled to Ottawa last weekend to participate in the annual Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network Conference. Archbishop Terrence Prendergast (Ottawa), Archbishop Richard Smith (Edmonton) and Archbishop Paul-André Durocher (Gatineau) were among the speakers at the event. The participants also joined a number of practical workshops on youth ministry issues. Congratulations to John Spatazzo (Hamilton CYO Director) who served on the organizing team for the successful event. And thanks to those who made the trek to Ottawa – it augurs well for youth ministry in our Diocese.

FOUR OF OUR SEMINARIANS ARE STUDYING AT ST. PETER'S SEMINARY IN LONDON. Father Kevin Cull, Vocation Director, and I travel there today for our annual visit and meetings with the Seminary staff. Preliminary reports indicate that all four are doing very well. We expect to celebrate the ordination of one priest and one deacon who are completing the necessary requirements at the Seminary this year.

THE ANNUAL PRAYER DAY FOR OUR PERMANENT DEACONS TAKES PLACE at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kitchener tomorrow. Father Mark Gatto will discuss with the Deacons our hope to “repatriate” the formation program to Hamilton in order to help develop an appropriate program to meet our current needs. The Diocese has 35 permanent deacons and 10 in the process of formation. We are expecting to ordain several to the Order of Deacons in early June.

PASTORS ARE ASKED TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO the special celebration that will take place on Thursday evening at Church of Our Lady in Guelph. We will pray with and offer our good wishes to Thomas Cardinal Collins, son of the Diocese, who was elevated to the College of Cardinals last month. This will be his first visit to his home since the event. It promises to be a joyful and historic gathering. We are grateful to Salt and Light who will be live streaming the event. Please contact Pam at paleman@hamiltondiocese.com or 905-528-7988 ext. 2234 if you are interested in live streaming the event on your Parish Website or if you would like to have a live screening in your Parish.

THE S.S.N.D.'S ARE MEETING IN AN HISTORIC CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS in Canandaigua, New York, in the coming days. On Wednesday I have the privilege of presiding at the closing Mass with them. The delegates will be electing a new Leadership Team for their integrated (USA/Canada) Province, which will be inaugurated in July 2012. Please pray for the School Sisters of Notre Dame in a special way these days.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde invicem, + *Douglas*, OMI