



Heart to Heart

March 23, 2012 (#66)

A JOYFUL CROWD GATHERED AT CHURCH OF OUR LADY IN GUELPH last evening for the homecoming of newly created Cardinal Thomas Collins. Following a time of prayer and thanksgiving at which Cardinal Collins addressed the congregation. Mr. Don Drone, Director of Education for the Wellington Catholic District School Board, Mrs. Karen Farbridge, Mayor of Guelph, and Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, offered words of congratulations and good wishes to the Cardinal. The Diocese presented the Cardinal with a beautiful mosaic of the Icon of Christ the Teacher as a sign of our deep and abiding respect and pride. My personal thanks to Monsignor Kroetsch, Father Dennis Noon, Anne Gibbs and Pam Aleman for their competence and good work in preparing both the dinner and the Evening Prayer.

MONSIGNOR VINCENT KERR SPEAKS ONLY IN THE SUPERLATIVE about the care and attention provided by the personnel at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton during his recent stay. He was discharged on Wednesday afternoon following several days of testing. He will meet with the medical team early next week to determine a treatment plan. Thanks to all who have sent messages of support and the promise of prayers. It is a consolation for him and for us all!

THIS SUNDAY IS SOLIDARITY SUNDAY, A TIME TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. Following upon comments made in my Lenten letter, I encourage parishioners to be particularly generous this year in support of the many good works of CCODP. The support given to the Global South is vital for many valuable projects promoted by dioceses there which benefit the poorest of the poor. Bishops often express their gratitude to the Canadian Church for support received. Please be generous! Attached is a letter from the CCCB in support of Development and Peace. [Click here to read.](#)

A WARM WELCOME TO MRS. MONICA VERIN who began work with the Diocese on March 15th. Monica is the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Catechesis and the Director of Discipleship. Mrs. Carol Daly has been providing the necessary assistance to introduce her to the responsibilities of the office. We wish her well in her new duties.

THE BANQUET PRIOR TO THE MASS OF CHRISM ON MONDAY APRIL 2nd, will begin with refreshments at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be served promptly at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Mass of Chrism at 7:00 p.m. Priests and deacons are reminded to bring your own stoles. PLEASE remember to inform your Dean of your intention to attend the dinner.

PHOTO SESSIONS FOR THE DIOCESAN PHOTO DIRECTORY have been held in each of the Deaneries and the response has been very good. If you have not yet had your picture taken, there will be a photo session on Monday, April 2nd, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral Auditorium. All priests, Sisters, pastoral associates, Chancery staff, Parish secretaries and High School Chaplains have been invited to participate in this Diocesan project. Publication of the Directory is expected in the Fall of 2012 – an important milestone in our history!

THE NEW OFFICES OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOMECARE WERE OFFICIALLY OPENED and blessed at a ceremony yesterday. The new centre is bright and spacious – able to accommodate the over 300 staff of the Homecare services. The good work of visiting the sick in their homes, begun so long ago in Hamilton by the Sisters of St. Joseph, carries on into a bright future!

ON MONDAY WE CELEBRATE THE ANNUNCIATION, the patronal Feast of our Diocese. I will be celebrating the morning Mass at the Cathedral. Please offer prayers in thanksgiving for the blessings that God showers upon us – and pray for graces in the coming months!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde invicem,

+ *Douglas*, OMI