



Heart to Heart

May 11, 2012 (#73)

THE JESUITS IN EASTERN CANADA REJOICE IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT that Father General has appointed Fr. Peter Bisson as their Provincial. The transition in leadership will take place on May 31, 2012. The appointment was announced by Father Jim Webb, S.J., who resigned the position earlier this year due to his deteriorating health. We pray for both men and for the Jesuits in Eastern Canada, particularly those who live and serve in the Diocese of Hamilton!

ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED THAT MR. BRUCE RODRIGUES, former Superintendent of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, and currently serving as Director of Education for the Toronto Catholic District School Board, is the recipient of the Chancellor John Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership. In his current role, Mr. Rodrigues leads the largest Catholic school system in the world! We offer our congratulations to Mr. Rodrigues and to St. Jerome's University.

CONFIRMATIONS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE. Tonight I celebrate at St. Clement's Parish in Cambridge, with the students of École Père-René-de-Galinée, and on Sunday I celebrate with the young people of Queen of Peace Croatian Franciscan Centre in Norval. We are completing our planning for Confirmations for the Fall 2012-Spring 2013 pastoral year. Dates should be announced prior to the end of May. With the change of age of Confirmation from Grade 8 to Grade 7, there is a larger number of celebrations to accommodate.

NEXT WEEK I WILL BE DIRECTING A RETREAT FOR PRIESTS from the Archdiocese of Toronto. The retreat begins on Monday evening and continues through to Thursday at noon. Please pray for the priests – and say a wee one for me!

THE SERRA CLUB OF HAMILTON SPONSORS their annual *Altar Servers Awards Evening* at the Cathedral of Christ the King. I will be returning briefly from the Retreat for Priests in order to present the awards to deserving servers. I have been told that there are 157 servers from the Brant, Halton, and Hamilton Deaneries who will be honoured! It is a remarkable number of committed young people who generously give themselves to the service of the Church. Thanks to the Serrans for sponsoring such a thoughtful event!

FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY I & II ARE WINDING UP FOR THIS YEAR. Participants are grateful for the formation the program provides and the transformation it encourages. Thanks to David Dayler from our Discipleship Office for coordinating the program which helps so many parishioners deepen their faith and improve their ministry! We'll have to wait and see what interesting follow-up he has in mind for the coming pastoral year!

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS IN OUR DIOCESE held many and varied events and celebrations for *Catholic Education Week in Ontario* which concludes today. I participated in a few and was impressed with the enthusiasm and joyful spirit of the students and teachers in our schools. Thanks also to the Parish Priests who supported events in their Board. It is a great opportunity to "lean in" and celebrate the fact we have such a wonderful way to educate so many fine young people to become leaders for the future!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde invicem, + *Douglas*, OMI