



## *Heart to Heart*

June 15, 2012 (#78)

**FATHER MICKEY PRIEUR, PROFESSOR AT ST. PETER'S SEMINARY**, completes the second Retreat for Priests in the Diocese of Hamilton at the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Niagara Falls. We welcome him to the Diocese and thank him for sharing his wisdom and insights with the Priests who participated in the session. The excitement around the Wallenda tightrope crossing over Niagara Falls was no distraction at all for the retreatants!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER ANDREW NICOLAIDIS** from St. Basil's Parish in Brantford, who was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church last Saturday evening during the Mass at Christ the King Cathedral in Hamilton. The father of three was sponsored by his wife and joyfully supported by the gathered community. My thanks again to Monsignor House who makes all good things possible!

**THE BLESSING OF THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES** in the Diocese of Hamilton takes place tomorrow in Halton Hills. Holy Redeemer Cemetery will provide peaceful rest for parishioners from the region. Thanks to Father David Wynen, Pastor at Holy Cross Parish in Georgetown, and to John O'Brien and our entire cemetery staff who have made this possible.

**ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH IN HAMILTON CELEBRATE THEIR PATRONAL FEAST** on Sunday morning. I will join Father Janusz Roginski, SAC for the Mass, the procession and the dinner. This will be my first experience of the St. Anthony Procession in Hamilton! I know it is an historic celebration.

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRO-LIFE GROUPS FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE** met with Teresa Hartnett, Director of the Diocesan Family Ministry Office, to discuss common concerns and initiatives and to share plans for the coming pastoral year. During a brief greeting, I presented the recent document published by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) in conjunction with the CCCB, entitled *The Unborn Child: A gift, a treasure and a promise – A Reflection On Abortion*. Pro-Life Groups in the Diocese work tirelessly and in a caring and respectful way to spread the message of the value of all human life from conception to natural death.

**ALLIANCE FOR LIFE HAS PRODUCED TWO LIFE-AFFIRMING COMMERCIALS** which will be televised on major provincial networks for the coming three months beginning June 18<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that these commercials will change the hearts and minds of viewers on the issue of abortion. Watch for them!

**DR. BILL WEBSTER FACILITATED A GRIEF EDUCATION TRAINING SESSION** at the Chancery this past week. Twenty-seven participants benefitted from the program sponsored by the Family Ministry Office. Topics covered included the theology and practical components needed to run an effective grief program in their own communities. Our Family Ministry Office has excellent resources should you be looking for some.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS** have my full attention for a good part of next week. I will participate in meetings of the Finance Committee, the Publications Committee, the CCCB Executive, and the CCCB Permanent Council. The Executive meets with representatives of the Canadian Religious Conference as part of our time together. I'll enjoy a dinner with my mother on Monday evening, always a delight. I'll be back home later Thursday evening.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI