



THE CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION (C.R.) MOURNS THE DEATH of Father Jerome Kroetsch, Assistant to Father Sam Restivo, Provincial Superior. Father Kroetsch's death followed a brief illness. He was present last month at their community event for those celebrating special ordination anniversaries, his 50th among them. The community is suffering from a number of recent and unexpected deaths, so as we pray for the repose of the soul of Father Kroetsch, we also pray for the consolation of the community.

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION took place last evening at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. It was hosted by the Wellington Catholic District School Board this year. The Mass draws together the seven Catholic Boards in our Diocese to pray for God's blessings at the beginning of another school year. This year, the Directors of the English Catholic Boards, the President of St. Jerome's University and I, signed a partnership agreement entitled *Partners in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Hamilton*. It deepens our commitment to work together ever more closely in the cradle to grave process of Catholic Education, responding to the Lord's great commission: "Go out to the whole world ...".

THE CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO) HELD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Wednesday evening at Marydale Park. It was the first time many of us saw the remarkable developments at the Park. It is an exceptional facility which offered the summer camp experience to almost two thousand young people this past summer! The AGM is the occasion for conferring the Bishop's Medal Award on three deserving volunteers and the Peggy Walton Award on worthy young CYO participants and leaders. Catherine Hartnett, daughter of our own Teresa and her husband Joe, was one of this year's recipients! Father Michael King, Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Hamilton, is a Board member. Congratulations to John Spatazzo, Executive Director, and Sergeant Shawn McCowell for an excellent evening, and to the entire CYO community for a successful summer!

DR. KATHERINE BERGMAN, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY, was the guest of honour at a reception held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Beingessner, University Chancellor. Invited guests congratulated Dr. Bergman and wished her well during her service at St. Jerome's.

A SYMPOSIUM FOR PRIESTS IN THEIR MIDDLE YEARS (*over 6 years – under 15*), sponsored by the Commission for Priests of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), is scheduled to begin on Monday, November 19th, at the Mount Carmel Centre in Niagara Falls. It begins with Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. and continues till Friday morning, November 23rd. Father Ronald Knott, from the Archdiocese of Louisville will speak on the theme "Made Holy By Our Shared Ministry." Registration forms are available from my office. Please register early. It helps with planning.

THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS takes place next week (Monday to Friday) at Mount Gabriel, near St. Jerome, Quebec. As usual, the agenda is packed, with *yours truly* presenting the budget for 2013 – an awesome task! CCCB Bishop participants at the upcoming Synod on the New Evangelization, which takes place in Rome next month, will present their interventions – an interesting part of our session. Pray for us!

OOOPS – IT'S 40 DAYS FOR LIFE NOT 30, as announced in last week's edition of *Heart to Heart*. The annual LIFE CHAIN takes place on September 30th. That's where the numbers got crossed! No matter – time to take LIFE issues seriously.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI