



Heart to Heart

April 29, 2011 (#24)

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK BEGINS NEXT WEEK, MAY 2nd – 6th! The theme for the week is *Celebrate the Spirit!* It is an opportunity to celebrate the blessing of Catholic Education at all levels. In our Diocese, we are fortunate to have schools at the elementary, high school, AND university levels. It is a perfect opportunity to thank those who assure that Catholic Education contributes to the life of the Church and the broader community. We pray for God's blessing on the education community, and most especially on the students who are the reason for the entire system. I will celebrate a Mass at Hamilton's Cathedral High School on Monday morning to mark the beginning of the week.

THE INCOMING CHANCELLOR OF ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY AND HIS WIFE, James and Sandy Beisnessner, along with the President of the university, Rev. Dr. David Perrin, joined Monsignor Vincent Kerr, Father Con O'Mahony, and myself for a lunch at the Bishop's Residence yesterday afternoon. It was an opportunity for us to congratulate him on his recent appointment. This is an important time for him to get to know the Catholic community and to hear the concerns, thoughts, and ideas of the broader community. His term begins in September.

WE ARE A WEEK AWAY FROM THE ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD of our two deacons, Brad Markus and Paul Hrynczyszyn. They are on a retreat this week in preparation for the big event. Please keep them in your prayers – along with our other seminarians and the six men who are preparing to begin their seminary training in September. Father Kevin Cull has sent a letter to Pastors encouraging you/them to bring potential candidates (16 or over) to an *Ordination Day Gathering*, on May 7th, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – it is a wonderful way to encourage vocations!

THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE TAKES PLACE IN OTTAWA ON MARCH 12th. As in past years, the Diocese of Hamilton has sponsored a bus to facilitate the transportation of students from our schools who wish to participate in the March. Attached to this letter is a message (in English and French) from the *Catholic Organization for Life and Family* (COLF) in support of the March and reflecting on its importance. You might want to make reference to it in your week-end bulletins prior to the event. Parishioners might be interested to take part in the event.

MONDAY NIGHT IS GOING TO BE A BUSY NIGHT IN KITCHENER/WATERLOO! In addition to giving appropriate attention to the results of the Federal Election, AND watching the NHL televised hockey game, "yours truly" will be the guest speaker at the **Bishop's Banquet**, sponsored by the Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation. The proceeds from the fundraiser will support the faith formation programs within the Waterloo Catholic Schools. Who knew so much would be happening at the same time when the date was set last year?

SPEAKING OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS: DO ENCOURAGE PARISHIONERS to get out and vote on May 2nd. It is a vital part of the democratic system – what makes it work. We enjoy what many other countries are still struggling for - let's make it work.

Blessed Pope John Paul II, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI