



Heart to Heart

January 7, 2011 (#8)

THANK YOU FOR THE GREETINGS AND GIFTS over the Christmas break. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. I will be getting down to writing personal thank you notes for Christmas gifts AND for gifts and good wishes on the occasion of my installation. I have been waiting for note cards with my new Coat-of-Arms to be printed before I begin writing. Soon!

WELCOME TO FR. TONY O'DELL, OMI, AND FR. JAREK PACHOCKI, OMI, who are visiting from Labrador City for a few days. Father Tony currently serves as Episcopal Vicar in the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador, responsible for the Labrador portion of the diocese, and Father Jarek is the Rector of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Labrador City. He has a particular gift in preparing the website for the Basilica – something worth checking out!

I MET THE DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S at a dinner that was sponsored by Father Ian Duffy at St. Joseph's Parish in Fergus. The day began with prayer and Mass (at which parishioners were also present). A wonderful meal was served, and gifts given. Thanks to Father Kevin Cull and Father Ian for organizing the event – a time to celebrate THE CALL! We pray for our seminarians as they continue their studies for another semester!

TERESA HARTNETT, DAVID DAYLER AND ANNE JAMIESON are in Orlando, Florida, these days, as keynote speakers at a conference entitled ***Fashion Me a People***. Their talk: *Family Matter: Loving, Living and Learning – Growing in Faith*. We are proud of the international recognition they are receiving!

THE OECTA/OCSTA COURSES FOR CATHOLIC TEACHERS start up again in a week or two. Fathers Con O'Mahony and Mark Gatto are among the presenters at the program offered in Hamilton. It is good to see our priests offering their expertise in the formation of good Catholic teachers for our schools!

THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE IN CAMBRIDGE (affectionately called the SOLI Sisters) welcomed me to a dinner at their residence last Saturday. Not only did they serve a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings, but I was serenaded with Christmas songs included Handel's Hallelujah Chorus! I met a number of the elderly residents who live in the seniors' residence run by the community. There are 21 members of the community, 10 of them in first formation. The Sisters live very simply indeed – and exude great joy! Thanks to Mother Dorothy for her kind invitation!

THE EPISCOPAL BOARD MET EARLIER THIS WEEK, getting back to work as soon as possible in the New Year. We reviewed a number of basic appointments that will be communicated to you in the coming days, once individuals have been contacted and acceptance received. Our next meeting is scheduled for early February.

I AM PART OF A PILGRIMAGE OF PRIESTS AND LAYMEN TO THE HOLY LAND and Rome which takes place over the next two weeks. This was one of those events planned prior to my appointment as bishop of the diocese. Among the pilgrims are priests from the Hamilton Diocese and the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador. I look forward to the time with them and pray that the experience will be grace-filled! I return to Hamilton on January 21st. I shall try to write Heart to Heart, keeping you well informed about the pilgrims' progress! Pray for us!

Ex corde,

+ *Douglas*, OMI