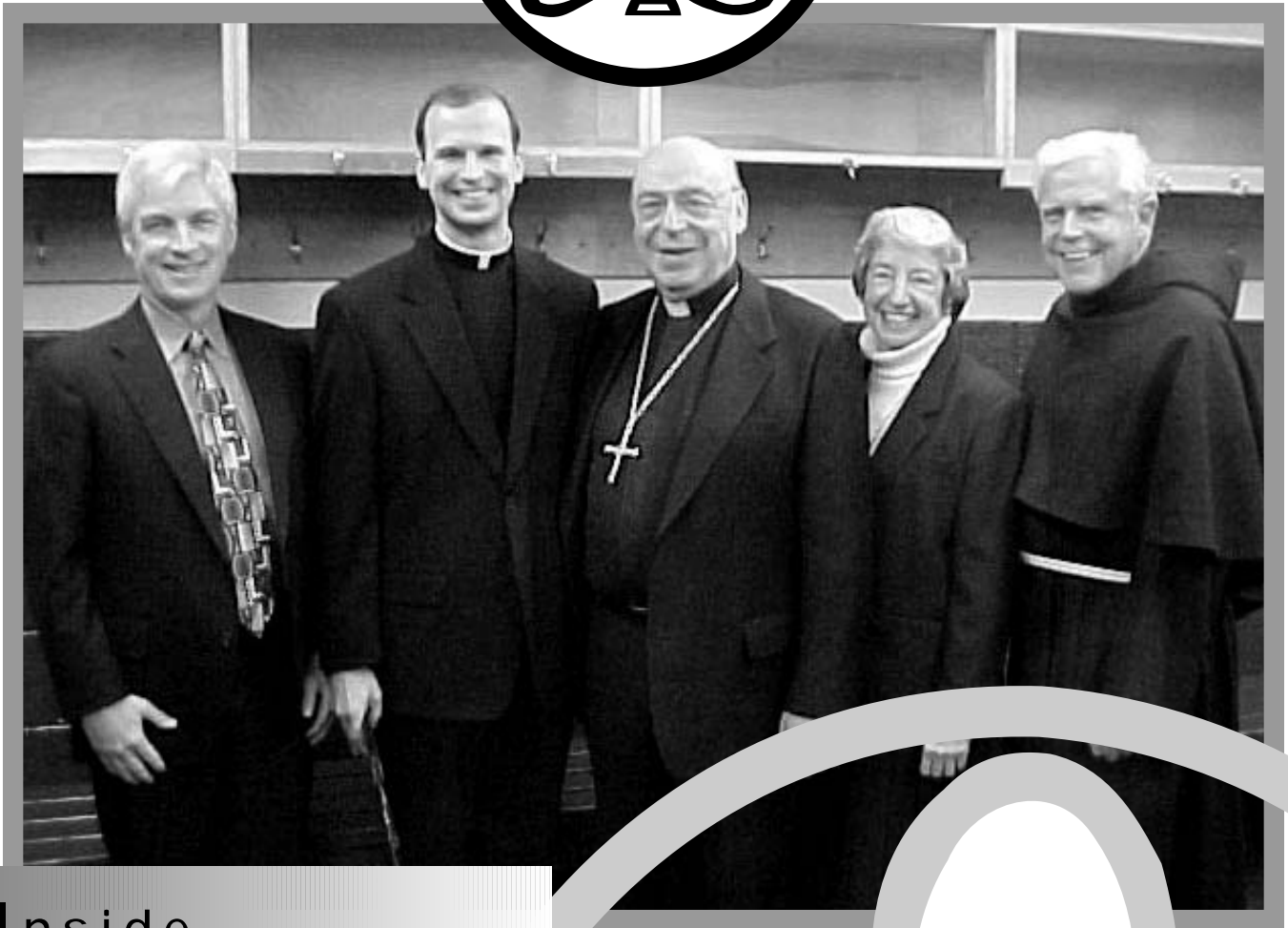


Winter Issue 2000

Companions of the Cross

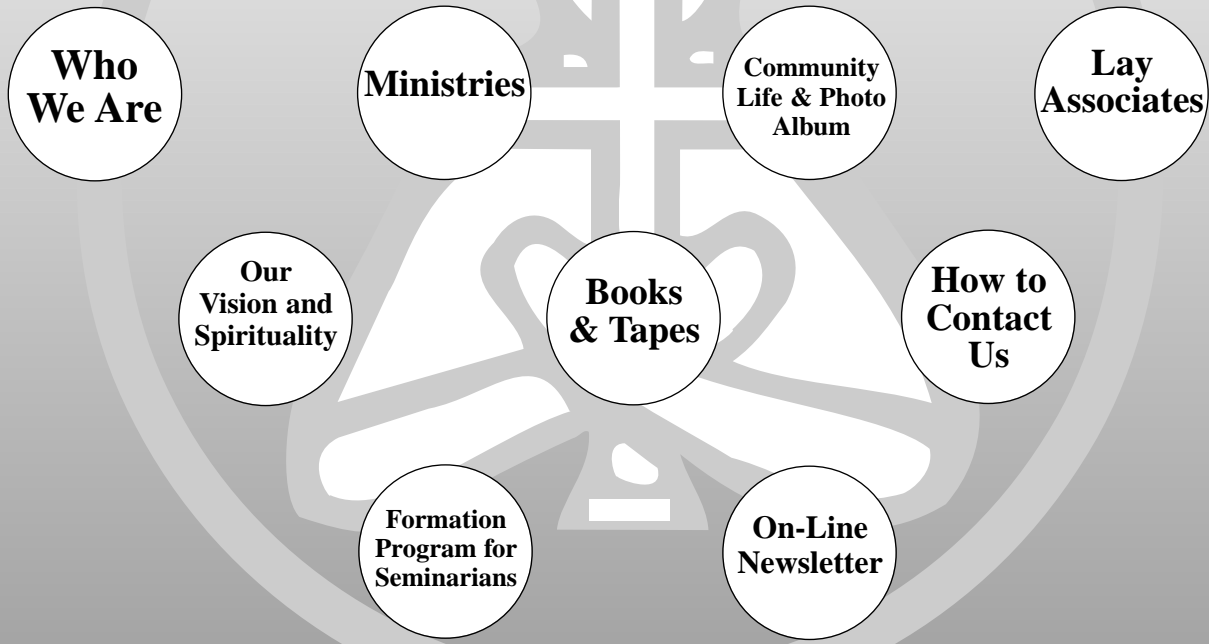


Inside
**F.I.R.E. RALLY &
LAY ASSOCIATES
BOOKLET**



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Credits

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The Companions of the Cross is a quarterly publication designed to encourage spiritual growth and to share about God's movement within a new community of Catholic priests, and candidates for the priesthood. The Companions' ministries are made possible by the prayerful generosity of its supporters, to whom we are most grateful.

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Feature

By Fr. Bob Bedard

One of the most striking memories I have retained from childhood is being part of a congregation in my home parish during the celebration of Mass. At what was then called the “elevations”, a great hush of silence would prevail throughout the church. The only sound would be the ringing of the bells.

In the little Sunday missal that most of us used at the time, a little silent prayer was encouraged. At the elevation of the Body of Christ, the words suggested were: “My Lord and my God!” (cf. The Apostle Thomas, Jn 20:28). At the raising of the Precious Blood: “My God and my all!”

I didn’t realize it at the time, but that was *lex orandi, lex credendi*. Freely rendered it is: “As we pray, so we will learn to believe.”

The lesson rubbed off, I believe, at least to some degree, on most of the Catholic church-goers of my time.

But the lesson is not so effective these days. We still haven’t got over the results of last year’s nation-wide survey. One of its findings was that of church-going Catholics, only 30% believe in the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Eucharist.

This is, to say the least, tragic. What can we do?

Maybe we should consider getting back to some *lex orandi*.

When the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus are in attendance in official garb at a Mass for an extraordinary situation – funeral, ordination, installation, anniversary, etc. – they unsheath their swords at the elevations and hold them in salute

The Bells Ring

- Lex Orandi

before Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. I am impressed. I believe that’s a good thing they do. That’s *lex orandi*.

When the thurifer (the incense boy) kneels before the altar at the consecration and incenses the sacred elements, the same point is made. That’s *lex orandi*.

I’ve been in a couple of parishes over the years where the words of institution are greeted by a few stirring notes of a trumpet. That’s *lex orandi*.

I’ve been at weekend conferences where the attendees have been encouraged to acknowledge the Real Presence now come upon the altar with an audible murmur of adoration, prayer or singing. That’s *lex orandi*.

When, at St. Peter’s basilica in Rome, on special occasions, the beautiful silver

trumpets sound at the elevation, that’s *lex orandi*.

When, in Medjugorje for the first time in 1983, the altar boys raised their hands at the elevation, I was deeply touched and edified. That, too, was *lex orandi*. Say what we will about Medjugorje, there is no confusion there about Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is *lex orandi*.

The only things the liturgy prescribes at the elevation are, for the celebrant, a genuflection and, for the concelebrants, a deep bow. To those who maintain that these latter are enough, I’d have to reply – they don’t seem to be working.

I maintain that we need to add to what the liturgy prescribes, some things the liturgy can very well allow.

The extension of the hand at the greeting (“and also with you”), the raising of the hands in praise, clapping to the rhythm of some of the songs, spontaneous praise and singing in the Spirit – all of which when done at the appropriate moments of the Mass – are not prescribed by the liturgy. But they are quite appropriate and certainly not prohibited.

I say the more *lex orandi* the better. Perhaps, if it can be encouraged, if we can help to encourage it wherever we go, we can begin to see a significant rise in the *lex credendi*. ☪

.....
Fr. Bob’s ministry has included teaching high school, full-time renewal work and pastoring St. Mary’s parish in Ottawa. He has spent the past number of years founding and working with the Companions of the Cross, a growing community of priests and seminarians.

“AS WE PRAY, SO WE WILL LEARN TO BELIEVE.”

Ottawa F.I.R.E. Rally

Sr. Ann Shields Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ralph Martin has asked me to share with you what I believe I am hearing from the Lord in recent days. To be quite honest, it is a growing fire within my heart which intensifies painfully whether I speak or keep silent.

A little history: On a cold, wet, December, Friday evening in 1994, I simply wanted to go home from work, pray a bit and then curl up with a good book by a fire. (Sounds good, doesn't it?) As I prepared to do just that, a "little voice" reminded me of an evening prayer meeting in Peter Herbeck's family basement to which I had been invited. Somehow I felt I should go ... but just for a little while I assured myself. When I arrived, worship had already begun. Halfheartedly participating for a while and becoming more tired by the minute I was about ready to leave when I sensed this thought inside me: "Tell them I am coming!" "What could that mean," I thought. "Must be some leftover thought from the Advent liturgy." But it persisted until it seemed, as with Jeremiah, that it was like a fire-within-a fire I could not contain. So I spoke out just that, "I am coming."

Everyone waited for more. Me, too, but nothing came. I said it again, "I am coming" – and left it at that, I thought. But since then, over almost four years, in a variety of gatherings, God's Holy Spirit has prompted me to say it again and again. Most of the time it is just that simple sentence. Sometimes it sounds like a trumpet. (Like when God urged me to stand on a chair in a large gathering and declare it.) More often, it's just a simple declaration.

What does it mean? Let me say first, I have no sense that this word refers to the Second Coming of Christ. It is true we do not know the day or

the hour. It is true that Christ could return at any time. So, it is possible that Christ is coming very soon. But my sense is that this coming has something to do with Pope John Paul's call to prepare for the Great Jubilee. The Holy Father tells us, with what I sense is a prophetic spirit, that there will be a revelation of the Son of Man in our time. That somehow, through God's grace, the world will see the Lord, the Messiah and King; there will be a deeper revelation in our understanding of who Jesus really is. Remember his question to Peter? Who do men say that the Son of Man is? And they said: "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He said to them: 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'" (Mt 16:13-16). Somehow by a tremendous grace that God chooses to release in the time of the Great Jubilee, we will experience some sovereign action of God that will cause us to



Ralph Martin and Sr. Ann Shields

recognize Him, to “see” Him, for millions to bow down and acknowledge His divinity, His Lordship.

At least that is as much as I could fathom until the other day ... During a staff meeting where we had Mass and a time of intercession following it, the Lord began to say more. “Thus says the Lord God, behold I come. I come in judgement; I come with justice in my hands. I come for those who have spurned my word and scorned my law; I come to speak to those who have rejected my own Beloved Son. The times will be difficult. The earth will be shaken. In that day, I want you to be ready to point the way to me. I do not want you to doubt my presence or my care. I act to cause many to return to me. You learn now to rely only on me. Depend not on the things of this world for much will be swept away in that time. Depend on me. Depend only on me. For I wish to use you to bring many back to me. Many will cry out for help, for answers in that time. Bring them to me. You must be firm and confident and sure in me, in my love, in my mercy. I will not fail you. But depend on nothing but me. The time is now almost at hand. Be ready. Sink your roots deep in me that in the day of trial you will stand firm and give me glory for I will reveal myself and every knee will bow.”

The Holy Father speaks of a new springtime for Christianity, a harvest of souls that will be revealed by the Great Jubilee. I believe that, but I believe that it will happen through great trial. This is not some kind of “millennium fever.” In a way it is just common sense. For years we have walked in a river of grace. In His great mercy God has called and wooed and won us through the life and action and power of His Holy Spirit. But many, many have not followed and, in fact, as we well know many have rejected and mocked and chosen to walk their own way even when the penalty of that sin has been evident in their bodies and in those of their children. Not only that, but they have chosen to lead many others astray. Whether it be the political, judicial, educational, economic or medical arenas, God’s law is no longer the foundation and with increasing frequency not even a guiding principle. As a nation, as a people we are committing suicide, choosing to go our own sinful, stubborn, shortsighted way to eternal damnation.

In HIS MERCY, God, as Father, cannot refrain from dealing with those who reject the life He offers and give them one more chance from His heart—even though that chance will involve suffering and pain. I believe He will come now to speak not in the language of gentleness and tenderness but in a language of chastisement. Some will only let go of sin and the ways of the world when they are removed from them through hardship and difficulty.

“ ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by Him. For the Lord disciplines him whom He loves and chastises every son whom He receives.’ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Heb 12: 5-11).

Don’t speculate on what those trials or forms of suffering will be. Don’t waste time on that. We will know soon enough. Let us spend the time sinking our roots more deeply in His merciful heart, in His will, in His ways. Let us repent of our sin, return to the Lord and wait upon His word. For in that day of trial, it will be, in great part, our love, our mercy, our peace and patience, rooted and founded in Him, that will win many to Jesus Christ.

May Jesus, the only Beloved Son of the Father, be revealed in that day of severe mercy and may countless men and women be converted to Him and know true Life. Come, Lord Jesus!

Sincerely in His Name,

Sr. Ann Shields

This letter is taken from the June 1998 Renewal Ministries Newsletter. Used with permission.



Ottawa F.I.R.E. Rally

JUMP OUT OF THE POT

By Christine Labrosse

Are you a frog in a pot of water? Slowly as the heat increases the temperature of the water, are you boiling to death? Do you know it?

This was the challenge put to about 2,000 of us at the F.I.R.E. Rally in November at the Civic Centre in Ottawa. The F.I.R.E. Team, made up of Fr. Michael Scanlan, Sr. Ann Shields, Ralph Martin and Fr. Dave Pivonka gave an excellent day of exhortation and thought-provoking talks.

The talk that struck me the most was the one by Sr. Ann Shields in which she asked us whether we were like a frog in a boiling pot of water. Unfortunately, when you slowly boil the water, the frog doesn't realize he is dying. She likened this to our spiritual life as we head into the Great Jubilee year called for by our Pope. She said that the Holy Spirit is coming to alert

us to the fact that the water is getting hot. God wants to set us free and call us out of that pot, into the marvellous freedom of a deeper life with Him.

It was so great to hear this because there is so much talk these days about fear and impending doom with the new millennium coming upon us. We need to wake up and look and see what is happening. We need to get our eyes off our problems and the worries and concerns about family, church and the world and get our eyes firmly fixed on Him. God is so merciful He is giving us a wake up call – we will see the victory of God if we are alert and looking into our own lives as well as the lives of others.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to turn us outward and get focused on the things of God that are important. I like to think of it as the "eternal perspective". It is so easy to lose the Kingdom of God perspec-



Seminarians praying with people

tive. There are so many things in this world that are so distracting – so many negative things – so many places where we don't see God's work at all. But, the Pope is calling us to look for the new springtime of Christianity in this Jubilee year. I really want to see that – I look forward to that in hope. I am anxious to see the outpouring of grace and mercy God has planned for His people. What an exciting time this is to be alive!

Like any good father, our heavenly Father needs to discipline us to bring us back into His arms again. I know in my own life there are many times when I find myself going off on my own tangents, usually selfishly motivated ones, and forgetting what God is calling me to, to serve and love Him. As He disciplines me, He draws me back to Himself and I am starting to get the message. The message is that He wants me to bring the good news



Seminarians praying with people

to those around me and those I encounter in the course of my daily life.

Sr. Ann challenged us by asking “What is your vision?” “How often do you talk about heaven?” She encouraged us to **CHANGE OUR PERSPECTIVE!** When our perspective is on His Kingdom, everything will be taken care of for us – we will not have to worry. *“Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides. Enough then, of worrying about tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself”* (Mt 6:33-34).

Sr. Ann closed by encouraging us to allow the Holy Spirit to light the fire again in a new way upon each of us willing, that we might be a light for those who are boiling to death, floundering and lost. In other words, **TRUST IN HIM!** Come on frogs, jump out of the pot and into the fire of His love!

Diane Naipaul and Bill McEachern of His Mercy Ministries are to be thanked for the organization of this very successful event. Should you have any uplifting experience you had at the F.I.R.E. Rally and you would like to share it with them, please contact Diane Naipaul at (613)830-0593.



.....
Christine Labrosse is the Managing Editor of the Companions of the Cross Newsletter and of The Bread of Life magazine. She and her husband Charles worship at St. Mary's parish.



Fr. Michael Scanlan



Seminarians worshipping at the rally



Worshipping at the rally



Lay associates corner

By Fr. Jeff Shannon

In this current edition of the CC newsletter, our attention is directed to the article immediately following. Throughout the course of this past year, the components and vision of the Lay Associates have been slightly enhanced and further developed to more accurately reflect the progress and growth of the Companions of the Cross, and of the Lay Associates. And so, as a result, a new pamphlet for the Lay Associates has been printed and a copy of it has been included in this newsletter beginning on the next page. It is hoped that this will, not only instill a desire for more of you to become Lay Associates, but also provide strength and encouragement to those who have already embraced the Lay Associates as committed members. If you would like a copy of this booklet, please contact our office at (613)798-9327.

The Lay Associates' prayer meetings, begun last fall, are off to a great start and will continue into the early summer. In January, we focussed on healing, and received prayers for healing, and we hope to encourage more of the same at future meetings . . . come on out and be strengthened in your walk with the Lord and meet other Lay Associates and future Lay Associates! (The Meetings are open to everyone!)

If, after reading the pamphlet following here in the newsletter, a desire to become a Lay Associate "wells up" within you, then please attend a special three part track on "Being a Lay Associate". This will occur at our prayer meetings in March and April with commitments made at our first Friday mass in May, if one so desires. If you cannot attend, please write to me so that we can make alternate arrangements.

Maybe you're the next to become a Lay Associate of the Companions of the Cross!? Hope to see you all sometime soon! ☺

Those who became Lay Associates in 1999:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Allan Young | Paule DeGrace | Cathie Attwater |
| Renata Bush | Georgina Civka | Tim Doyle |
| Oliver Locke | Tara Long | Jolanta Haig |
| Ken Pascall-Jobity | Richard Haig | Shirley MacNeil |
| Charlene Pascall-Jobity | Diana Brand | Johanna van Essen |
| Patricia Dodwell | Gemma McHardy | Ann Norton |
| Dawn Mulholland | Michelle Barret | Mary Olszewski |
| Odette Regimbal | Robert Jackson | Raymond Jackson |
| Anne Rodrigues | Terry Dalton | Dorothy Dalton |
| Madeleine Thomson | Marjorie Webster | Clifford McIsaac |
| Josette Nyvlt | Nancy Skipper | Sheila Donnelly |
| Marie McIsaac | Rob Hayes | Shirley Hayes |
| Kathy Stevenson | Theresa Stellar | Nellie Maillet |
| Ralph Maillet | Kimberly Lalonde | Jennifer Ashworth |
| Alberta Smith | Warner Smith | Pierre Desrochers |
| Jen Ashworth | Jeanne Syrenne | Elsie Lichtenwald |
| Frank Costello | Moira Taylor | Brenda Lepage |

Fr. Jeff Shannon is the Chaplain for the Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross. He is also Administrator of Holy Family Catholic Community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4-5
Tudor Hall
Lay Associate Annual Retreat

March 2
St. Maurice - 7:30 p.m.
Prayer meeting format for each week. Topics to be announced at retreat.

March 16
Holy Rosary - 7:30 p.m.
Special three part track for inquiring LA's - begins March 16 and runs for both April meetings.

April 6
St. Maurice - 7:30 p.m.
Second part for inquiring LA's

April 27
Holy Rosary - 7:30 p.m.
Third part for inquiring LA's

May 5
St. Mary's - 7:30 p.m. Mass
"Foundation Day" with Companions of the Cross

Lay associates booklet

Who We Are

All of us are called to be disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. At our baptism we were made members of His Body, the Church. All of us share in the glory of being “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God” (1 Peter 2:9). All of us have received special gifts from the Holy Spirit to use for the building up the Body of Christ. As St. Paul tells us “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord...Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Cor. 12: 4-5,7).

We see this fact foreshadowed in the variety of ways in which people assisted Jesus in his earthly ministry. The Apostles were specially chosen to be his closest disciples. But Jesus had other friends and disciples as well. Jesus was friends with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). We hear of how others followed Jesus and helped out in his ministry: such as those who were part of the mission of the “Seventy-Two” (Luke 10:1-23); and how Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and John, and others had “followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs” (Matthew 27:55-56).

In a similar fashion, the history of the Church shows us that there have been different ways and means by which lay people, in living out their baptismal vocation in the secular arena, would sometimes feel led to identify and associate in a deeper way with the life and ministry of various communities of priests and religious. This was because they wanted to embrace the same vision and spirituality of some particular community (i.e. Franciscans, Carmelites), but in the lay state. Some of them became known as “third order seculars,” although today they are more typically referred to as “lay associates.”

The Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross

Mission Statement



So then, our Lay Associates strive to deepen their faith in Christ Jesus and their zeal for the Kingdom of God by endeavouring to emulate the spirituality and vision for ministry of the priests and seminarians of the Companions of the Cross. Lay Associates are called to support the Companions of the Cross in a variety of ways: by prayer and intercession on behalf of the community; friendship; material aid; and even assistance in ministry, where possible. Being a Lay Associate is one way of identifying with the life and ministry of this young community, and as such, it is a tremendous source of encouragement and hope to

the priests and seminarians involved in this new work of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the Church.

What's Involved:

To become a Lay Associate one must be a Catholic, either married or single, at least 16 years of age, who is willing to embrace the vision and spirituality of the Companions of the Cross, as explained below. It is not necessary to live in geographical proximity to a Companions' parish or other foundation. The Lay Associates are not a “community” unto themselves, but are individuals and families who wish to be “associated” with the CCs by a sharing in their spiritual life and ministry to some degree. There are no required meetings to attend, but all are welcome to participate in the special joint CC - Lay Associate gatherings which take place several times per year (see below).

The Vision and Spirituality of the Community:

According to Fr. Bob Bedard, the Founder of the Companions of the Cross, every community of people called together by the Lord will find that he has fairly specific instructions as to how he wants the members to respond to him. This will comprise and define their spirituality.

The Companions of the Cross believe the Lord gave us his basic directions in this regard as we persevered in meeting together in our early days. Though our spirituality is continuing to evolve, we feel the principal elements are already in place.

Continued on page 8...

Continued from page 7...

The foundation of the "vision" can be delineated as participation in the renewal of the Church through an effective evangelization founded on looking to the Cross - the power and wisdom of God (cf. 1 Cor. 1:23-24). Concretely this entails: (1) trusting in the Lord and giving him permission to move as he pleases; seeking his wisdom, his "now" word, and waiting upon it, with proper discernment, not making any major moves without it; (2) profound openness to the Holy Spirit, the power of God, and the various ministry gifts through which the Church is empowered; a strong conviction that God desires to touch and inflame the lives of all his people; (3) the renewal of the Church through the renewal of the person. Personal conversion, discipleship, empowerment, and "calling forth" of individuals to ministry comprise the chief strategy for renewal. Social and institutional changes will flow more easily from a renewed people. Personal conversion is the necessary first step.

The components of this vision include: a fully Catholic spirituality imbued with an evangelical heart and the fire of Pentecost; surrender to the Lordship of Jesus; adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; openness to the ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit; evangelization; consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church; simplicity of lifestyle; community involvement; concern for the poor; and other forms of outreach ministry and hospitality.

Living Out the Commitment:

It is our belief that embracing the spirituality and vision for ministry of the Companions of the Cross will lead Lay Associates and others to greater growth in intimacy with God. It will also result in a greater blessing for the world, bearing much lasting fruit. Living out the com-



mitment to be a Lay Associate entails a willingness to do the following:

(1) Daily Personal Prayer & Intercession

The highest possible priority must be placed upon the individual's daily quiet time with the Lord. It is here that the Lord is enabled to deal most effectively with his adopted son/daughter.

We consider an hour a day to be the ideal, realizing that this may be a long term goal dependent upon family responsibilities, personal circumstances, etc. Therefore someone who is just beginning to pray seriously may have difficulty in finding and spending an hour in prayer on a regular basis. We encourage those who are starting to set a realistic goal and to strive to be faithful to that while gradually adding to the time as it becomes possible.

We want to make a distinction between prayer and "prayers." The latter would be those composed by others and recited by us. The Rosary would be an example of this. Many find it an invaluable assistance in their relationship with the Lord. It can have a very gentle, calming effect upon the human spirit, disposing us more effectively to hear the Lord. We recommend it. But what we have in mind for our personal time with the Lord is spontaneous prayer, speaking to the Lord in our own words. And, since prayer is meant to be communication between God and me, I have to give him a chance to speak, too. This will mean that part of my prayer time will be spent simply trying to listen to the

Lord. We will say with Samuel: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). As we persevere daily with a time of silence, we will probably begin to get a gradually clearer idea of how the Lord wants to communicate with us.

Part of our personal quiet time with the Lord, will be spent bringing before him the needs of the community. The priests and seminarians are on the firing line full-time every day and can expect the regular attacks that all those in the midst of spiritual battle will undergo. What a blessing for them to know that they are held before the Lord daily by a large group of Lay Associates.

As some of the Associates themselves are called into more and more service and ministry, they, too, will need prayer support. So everyone, members of the community and Associates alike, are urged to pray daily for one another's needs.

(2) Reading Scripture

The Bible is the written Word of God, and "all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, correc-



tion, and training in holiness" (2 Timothy 3:16). A quiet reading of the inspired Word can be made a most useful part of personal prayer time. In any case, we strongly encourage a systematic reading of Scripture every day. For one who is just beginning to open up to the treasures of the written Word, we suggest a programmed approach. Consultation could be had with one or more of the many good Bible study guides. Attendance at a solid Scripture teaching series can also go a long way to getting us well started.

The Scriptures are an irreplaceable compendium of God's Word to us. He can speak to us through them. One of the most consistent testimonies coming from people who have just surrendered their lives to the Lord for the first time in any serious way is the manner in which the Scriptures seem simply to come alive for them. A previously un-experienced hunger for God's Word begins to motivate them to get into the Scriptures and learn the ways of God. Part of our quiet time with the Lord should include some prayerful reading of the Bible.



(3) Frequent Participation in the Sacraments

Jesus commanded the Church to make present again and again his saving sacrifice upon the Cross. He gave us the Eucharist. The Church has responded faithfully and has developed the practice of celebrating the mysteries of the Lord every day. We urge all Lay Associates to take advantage of every opportunity to offer Mass and receive Holy Communion, the very body and blood of the Lord (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:27).

As well, we recommend a regular celebration of the Lord's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Every month would seem to be a desirable goal.

The Sacraments can be powerfully anointed moments in our lives as we soldier on with the Lord to our eternal goal. We want to pray, it is obvious, with the Church. We will celebrate the sacred mysteries together as the Lord leads us and will include the Liturgy of the Hours, even done in a communal setting as this becomes possible for us.

(4) Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Mary is the mother of our Saviour. She was prepared with exquisite care for her role. She is a model for us without parallel in how to respond to God. She followed to the letter the promptings of the Holy Spirit and ministered in her day. She was given by Jesus, her Son, almost with his dying breath, to John who represented, we believe, the whole Church. She was taken up into glory and has continued to follow the Lord's directions as he has directed her to minister to his people, even to being a prophet in our own day.

She is mother of the Church. Like any mother, one of the things she does best, when we let her, is keep us together, with our eyes focused on Jesus. She is a gift from God. Consecrating our lives to Jesus through Mary's Immaculate Heart is one further way we can call upon her role in the order of grace to help us joyfully persevere in our journey of faith. The prayerful recitation of the Rosary and other approved Marian devotions can be a great help to us all.

(5) Service

Lay Associates are called to be servants of

Continued on page 10...



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the Lord. As a result, all Associates are encouraged to undertake some form of ministry or service as circumstances permit. What the Lord has gifted us with is to be shared, not hoarded. In the case of parents with young children, it is likely that most of their service to the Lord would be directed towards their families.

However, in order to keep our lives in proper balance, each one's service needs to be discerned. There is an ever-present temptation for those who are on fire for the Lord to undertake too much. Over-extension can lead to frustration and burnout, things the Lord wants us to avoid.

Where possible, such service may take the form of collaborating with the priests and seminarians of the Companions of the Cross in their various ministries and apostolates. Such collaboration is not always feasible, but would always be welcome.

(6) Keeping a Spiritual Journal

A spiritual journal is not a diary. It is the place where I record my questions to the Lord, my hopes, my fears, my apologies, my frustrations. It is likewise the place where I jot down what I think he may be saying to me.

Many people are reluctant to keep a journal because they fear the time required will be too demanding. It doesn't have to be. Some days, a line or two will suffice, Some days perhaps nothing at all. Other times, as inspiration seems to take over, longer entries will be appropriate.

The journal is a valuable record for me as to how the Lord is directing my life. Reviewing it from time to time can help to keep me on track. Looking backwards is very often the reminder I need about God's now word for me. Without a journal, that can be very difficult.



(7) Financial & Material Support

We ask that Lay Associates consider making an annual contribution of some sort, in conjunction with their other gift giving to their parishes and other charities, to the work of the Companions of the Cross. As a relatively new community in the process of getting established, our material needs are great in many areas, especially the housing and education of our seminarians. By making a financial donation, or gift in kind, you are expressing your support for us in a very tangible manner.

Although the notion of "tithing" is a very biblical concept, we wish to make it clear that we do not "require" a set amount or even that you donate anything at all! Any gift you may wish to make should be freely given. "Everyone should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). Your generosity in this important area would be most welcome and appreciated!

(8) Share Groups

Lay Associates are invited to consider joining a small faith sharing group or community of some kind in their local area. Typically, such groups comprise a half dozen people or so, with whom one can share the struggles of life and give and receive ministry for personal needs and purposes of mutual encouragement. The priests and seminarians of the community meet in small share groups on a regular basis and can readily testify to the



wonderful way they are blessed and strengthened by such encounters. We need other brothers and sisters to support us in our pilgrimage of faith through life. These small group meetings usually take place about twice a month and ordinarily last about an hour and a half.

(9) Fasting

The fast is a long-neglected area of response to God's call upon the Church. We would like to help resurrect it. It is a powerful intercessory tool before the Lord, particularly when done in corporate fashion. Our recommendation is that we undertake a fast on Friday, the day when Jesus achieved his (and our) victory over sin and death.

There are many ways to fast. Not all can manage twenty-four hours on bread and water, or on water alone. But different modifications are possible: skipping a meal or two; no food between sunrise and sunset; cutting down on portions or on favoured items. For those whose medical



situations do not allow them to tamper with their food programs, other forms of fasting are possible in the areas of television, radio, or newspapers. Coming voluntarily away from some of the things we normally depend on makes it possible for us to come into more dependence on God.

(10) Attending Communal Celebrations (When and Where Possible)

All are welcome to attend the following joint gatherings of the Lay Associates and the Companions of the Cross. They are an opportunity to pray, fellowship and socialize with one another, and thus strengthen the bonds of friendship and community. These gatherings are currently held in the Ottawa area only. They are as follows:

September 14th: Feast of the Triumph of the Cross Mass (the community's feast day and occasion for lifetime commitments by the priests and seminarians

who are ready to definitively join the community). A Reception follows which is hosted by the Companions of the Cross.

Early Advent: Lay Associates join in a "Brothers' Meeting" of the community, which is a time of prayer, praise, teaching, and fellowship. A Reception follows which is hosted by the Companions of the Cross.

February: Lay Associates Retreat (Friday Night & Saturday). A great time of prayer, praise, teaching, and fellowship. These events have proven to be great blessings for all who attend! The annual Retreat is definitely a "highlight" of the year.

First Friday in May: Celebration of Mass in honour of the "Founding" of the community by Fr. Bob Bedard. A Reception follows which is hosted by the Lay Associates.

In addition to the above mentioned "joint" gatherings, there are usually a number of "Lay Associates only" special meetings held throughout the year. These meetings afford good opportunities for new people to find out more about the Lay Associates and learn about the spirituality of the Companions of the Cross. Please contact our office for details as to the time and place of these sessions (see right).

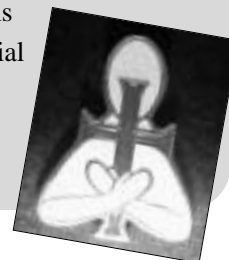
Know
the Lord,
Be the
Church,
Serve
the Poor

How to Join:

People who are interested in finding out about how to join are asked to call our main office at (613) 728-3175 and speak to the current Chaplain of the Lay Associates. If you require more information you may want to read some of Fr. Bob Bedard's books (i.e. *Catholic Discipleship*). We strongly recommend that before joining you at least read Fr. Bob's book *We are Called to be Companions of the Cross*.

It would also be a good idea to subscribe, free of charge, to our quarterly CC Newsletter. To subscribe to our CC Newsletter or to order these books please write to our main office at 199 Bayswater Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 2G5, Canada, or else e-mail us at compcros@cyberus.ca.

A complete inventory of books and tapes available for ordering, as well as much more information about the community, is available on our Web Site at www.companionscross.ca. As a sign of membership, new Lay Associates are presented with a special "pin" which is similar to the cross which the CC priests and seminarians wear (the official symbol of the community).



Companions Video P

Greetings in the Lord! We are pleased and excited to announce that our first ever community video has been completed and is now ready for viewing. This video was produced professionally by Michael Hanley, producer of our Food For Life television program. Many thanks to Mike for a job well done!

The new video – pictured on the next page - serves as a great “introduction” to the Companions of the Cross. It features narration by Fr. Bob Bedard, Fr. Roger Vandenakker, and Fr. Charles Orchard, accompanied by a cast of thousands (of angels, that is!). In only 20 minutes, this video manages to pack in a lot of interesting information about our history, spirituality, ministry, and life together.

During Lent 2000, we will be mailing to all of our donors a free copy of the video (donors being those who have contributed \$20.00 or more to us in the last year). Others can order copies from our main office for a donation of at least \$12.00 each (which includes shipping and handling costs). An order form is included on the next page.

We are asking you, our dear supporters and benefactors, to pass the video around to other Catholic friends, family, and parishioners, especially those who haven't heard much about us. Maybe you can organize a get together in your home with some friends, or in your parish hall after a weekday Mass, to view and discuss what's happening with this new community in the Church. You can even call us for some extra newsletters or pamphlets to pass out on such an occasion. It's a great way for you to help “spread the word” about who we are and what we stand for as a new community of priests and seminarians. Who knows, this video may inspire some young man who has been thinking about a possible vocation to the priesthood! We also plan to distribute the video to all the bishops across Canada, as part of an effort to explain more clearly what we're all about. In addition, the video eventually will be available for viewing on our web site at www.companionscross.ca (at the bottom of the “Who We Are” section).

Last year we tried “Operation Pen Pal”; this year it's: “Operation Blockbuster”!

Dale Balkovec of our CC Office is in charge of helping to coordinate the distribution of this video project. Thanks go out to our Fund-Raising Committee who helped spearhead the project, especially John Clifford and Doug Lambe. The jacket cover was designed by Pauline and Maggie from Brushworks (who recently designed our community's Year 2000 calendar).

As always, we count on you to continue to pray and support our work in many ways. I know that the Father will bless our efforts. We are not trying to “blow our own horn,” but to exalt the Lord Jesus and be a sign of hope and a force for renewal in the Church today. I hope that all who view this video will be blessed by it and inspired to keep praying to the Lord of the Harvest to send more labourers into his vineyard.

May the Holy Spirit in this Jubilee year bless you all!

Rev. John Vandenakker

Rev. John Vandenakker
(Moderator)

project is Launched

Companions Video meets with critical acclaim!



“TWO THUMBS UP”

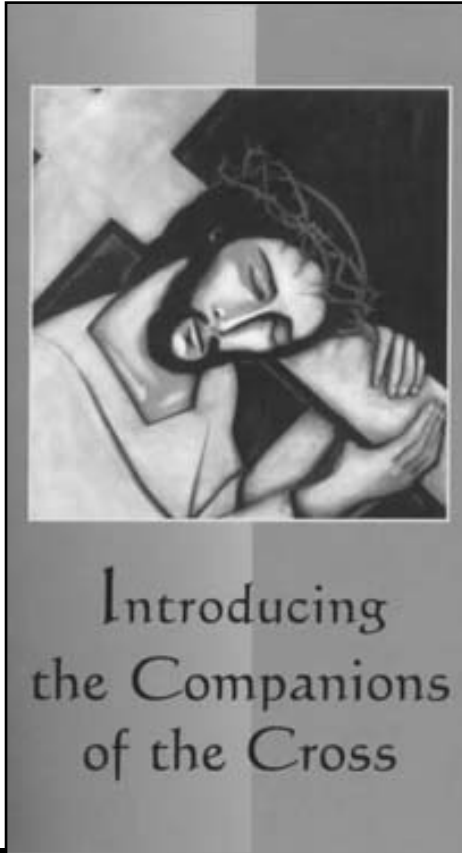
- Pope John Paul II

“It’s only 20 minutes long, but it seems to go on forever”

- Former CC seminarian

“Fr. Charles’ (head) Shines”

- Holy Rosary parishioner



“More exciting than a Senators hockey game”

- Fr. Bob Bedard

“★★★★”

- Michael Hanley

“Fr. Roger Vandenakker is so inspiring!”

- Diny Vandenakker



INTRODUCING THE **Companions of the Cross**



You may order the video, *Introducing The Companions of the Cross*, by contacting our main office at (613) 798-9327. Or complete the order form below, and mail to:
Companions of the Cross - 199 Bayswater Ave. Ottawa, ON K1Y 2G5

VIDEO ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Introducing the Companions of the Cross*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone number: _____

I have included a minimum donation of \$12.00 for each video requested (includes shipping & handling).
Please make cheques payable to: Companions of the Cross

Can God Provide for Us? Can He Deliver Us?

By Steve Varga

In October 1999, Jesus Gathers His People, a Catholic Faith Community, whose Pastor is Fr. Bob Poole, hosted a conference in Vanier, Ontario. Among the speakers were Fr. Bob Bedard, founder of the Companions of the Cross, Bill McEachern from His Mercy Ministry and the keynote speaker was Fr. Rick Thomas, S.J. from El Paso, Texas where he is involved in a many-faceted ministry to the poor: The Lord's Farm, The Lord's Store, prison ministry, etc.

Fr. Rick addressed us and our guests at Jesus Gathers His People from Friday through to Sunday. By the time he left us for El Paso, we were convicted of our inadequacy in trusting in God's Providence and in trusting completely in His power. Fr. Rick convicted us of needing to cast our cares on the Lord (Rm 8:28) and he showed us through numerous examples that God will provide for all our needs and that He cares for us deeply. He witnessed to us the importance of giving (Lk 6:38) and that in turn it would be returned to us well-packed, shaken down and overflowing.

He cited a story of a modern day tax collector who wanted to close down The Lord's Store that provided for the poor. When this man came to the store he was convicted by God and ended up running the store. This same person came to understand and act on Jesus' message in Luke 6:38. He then began to give away all his belongings with the exception of his

car and house, because the mortgage on them was too large. From the very day he put his last two dollars into the collection plate, during the Eucharistic celebration, his car never ran out of fuel and the pantry in his house never ran out of food.

Fr. Rick remarked that if parishes learned to give up Bingo and other fundraiser projects and learned to give to the poor and the needy then the powers of hell would be defeated in no time and people would flock to the Lord and His Church in droves. He pointed out to us that all the gold, silver and riches of the world belong to God. He said to rely on God and listen to Him. If God wants something He will pay for it, if He doesn't want it then we must pay for it. We must learn what God



Fr. Bob Poole, Director of English speaking section of Jesus Gathers His People

wants and give up what we want. Fr. Rick is convinced that on the very day the Church gives up greed and her possessions the kingdom of darkness and Satan will be defeated.

In one of his talks, Fr. Rick reflected on spiritual warfare. He pointed out the existence of two invisible kingdoms, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. He brought back to our mind the message of Jesus Himself that the "Kingdom of God is among you, repent and believe the Good News". It is a very simple message, so why is it that we have such a hard time believing it and why do we try to complicate it? Fr. Rick reminded us that the reason Jesus came into the world is to destroy the kingdom of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). He said the two kingdoms exist side by side and sometimes we find ourselves in the Kingdom of God and other times in the kingdom of Satan. He said evil comes into our lives by invitation only and this invitation is sin in our lives. The devil manifests himself by discord, gossip, division and sins of every kind. It is important that this invitation to Satan is revoked by deliverance from sin, from obsession or sometimes from possession. Fr. Rick warned us that we are not to try to deliver a person from such bondage unless that person is willing to repent and turn to God. If repentance does not take place, then in Jesus' words the demon will return with seven more demons, more evil than himself and then the state of the person will become worse than before. Fr. Rick prefers to put people on self-deliverance through prescribed scripture passages, then the Lord will deliver that person by the word of God when the final repentance takes place.

Yes, the message is very simple, the Kingdom of God is here, repent and believe. Fr. Thomas pointed out that deliverance or any other major work of God can best be accomplished with the support of a strong prayer army. In El Paso when ministry takes place one group prays in



Fr. Rick Thomas

tongues, another group prays the Rosary, yet another group ministers with songs of praise, while the prophets and those gifted with discernment, or with the gift of knowledge are standing by to deliver the message from God to the group doing the hands-on ministry. Fr. Rick gave us an example of this process when he and a group of believers went to minister to prisoners in El Paso, Mexico. When they entered the prison yard inmates, who were packed into cells of 20 or 30 prisoners each, started to curse and ridicule them. What to do? They began to pray, some prayed in tongues, some prayed the Rosary, some sang praises to God. They kept this up for approximately three hours. At the end of that time all of the inmates quieted down, and weeping was heard from every cell. God did the battle for them and softened the soil so that the word of God could be sown.

Fr. Rick culminated his visit to us with the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. When the time came for the Liturgy of the Word, he called the children from their seats to the front of the altar railing. At the

end of each reading he addressed the children and explained the word of God to them. The interesting result was that the children understood the homily and the adults also had an excellent understanding. This caused me to reflect on the saying of Jesus, "Unless you become like little

children, you will not enter the Kingdom of God". At the end of his homily Fr. Rick asked the children, "Do you want to see Jesus?" They all answered in the affirmative so he prayed over them and a good number of them rested in the Spirit.

The whole weekend was an awesome experience for all of us who attended the talks. Perhaps I could best sum up the weekend by Fr. Bob Poole's remark: "We have been challenged right out of our socks". ☺

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Steve Varga is a member of Jesus Gathers His People, a Catholic Community. He has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal since 1971. He was a member of the Pastoral Team of Catholic Charismatic Services of Ottawa for four years. He presently teaches at Immaculata High School and is looking forward to his retirement in June 2000. He has completed a four year Permanent Diaconate formation program, at the end of which he decided not to seek ordination for the time being. He is actively involved in ministry at Jesus Gathers His People as an Elder and Facilitator of the RCIA program.

Companions of the Cross MASS CARDS



The Companions of the Cross are pleased to present our Mass Cards. If you would like to have a Companions of the Cross priest celebrate the Eucharist for your special intention, simply contact our offices and request a specially designed Companions of the Cross "Mass Card".

For an offering of five dollars, a Mass Card will be sent directly to you, or to someone else (upon your written direction), while a record of your special intention is maintained by our Community.

To obtain the Mass Card(s), simply fill out the form below and mail it in to our CC Offices at:
 199 Bayswater Ave.,
 Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 2G5
 (Please make cheques payable to "The Companions of the Cross")

Intention:

Requested By:

(for additional Mass Cards, please record your other intentions on a separate sheet of paper when mailing in this form.)



Feature

By Fr. Sean Wenger

Houston Foundation Update



Houston Team from L to R: Fr. Ed Wade, Fr. Christian Riesbeck, Fr. Frances Frankovich, Fr. Sean Wenger (Mark Goring not pictured here).

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the team sent to Houston was Fr. Francis Frankovich, Fr. Ed Wade, Fr. Christian Riesbeck, Fr. Sean Wenger and Mark Goring. The team arrived in Houston in the first week of September after a long drive.

Fr. Christian and Mark are ministering in Queen of Peace parish. It's an inner city parish and somewhat bigger than originally anticipated. At the last census it had more than 900 families. There are five weekend Masses, three in English and two in Spanish and the Spanish Masses are standing room only.

The parish has a school of 125 students with a new principal who having read Fr. Bob's book *Companions of the Cross*, decided to apply for the job at Queen of Peace. The parish has a CCE program with over 750 children. This is a tremendous field for evangelization. There are also RCIC and RCIA programs at the parish. There is a Spanish young adult group that meets Sunday afternoons and a Spanish prayer group on Tuesday nights. Both groups are very excited about the call to evangelize. Mark is leading a youth group on Saturday mornings and will use the "Alpha for Youth" program. Alpha is an evangelistic program that is being used very successfully around the world and

across many Christian denominations. Companions' parishes in Canada have used it very successfully.

Fr. Christian and Mark are putting to good use the seven weeks of Spanish training they had this summer as they do a fairly good portion of their ministry in Spanish. The workload is great especially for Fr. Christian as a new pastor. There has been much feedback that people are pleased with this youthful duo and happy to see some spiritual goals set for the parish. As well, after a recent parish penance service some of the priests noted that there is something happening among the people here. The Spirit of God is at work drawing



Above: Fr. Francis with his trusty VW (made it all the way to Texas!) Right: Mark Goring

"The Spirit of God is at work drawing people back to himself and to the Church."



The priests at the Center find themselves busy meeting people and discovering the resources available there. Additionally whenever confession is offered many people want to receive this sacrament.

people back to himself and to the Church.

At the Catholic Charismatic Center it can be said that in many ways Fathers Francis, Ed and Sean are still settling in. The last few months have been given to meeting people, learning the rhythm at the Center and generally getting a feel for the community here.

The regular weekly schedule includes a noon Mass in English on Tuesday and Friday, a Mass Wednesday at noon in Spanish, a Healing Mass Thursday night, a Spanish Mass Friday and the 10:30am Mass Sunday morning.

There are different ministries operating at the Center. When you walk in the door, especially on Sundays, there's always a line of greeters to welcome you to the Center. Prayer teams minister healing after the three large masses at the Center: the Healing Mass Thursday, the Spanish

Mass Friday and the Sunday morning Mass. As well there are different Bible Studies offered and a regular Life in Spirit seminar for those from around the city. There's a ministry to children Sunday mornings, a small youth group and a group of young adults meeting Sunday night. As well, many young couples come to the Center to have their children baptized. Currently both Spanish and English teams are being trained to evangelize these people when they come.

As with any change in leadership not everything has been smooth but there is a growing sense of excitement. People know that something new has begun. There is a hunger among people to hear the word of God authentically and boldly proclaimed and an awareness in many that this formation needs to be rooted firmly within the Catholic tradition.

Fathers Francis, Ed and Sean have also committed a substantial amount of time to praying and meeting together to seek God's continued vision for the Center. There's no doubt that these three men are differently gifted but many people have noted there is a real complementarity between them (must be grace!).

On a final note, all those living together at Queen of Peace are in agreement that although the transition has been difficult and the ministerial challenges are great, it is a great blessing to be here together as brothers. It may seem to "take" time from our time for ministry but it is in fact a source of strength and real growth. May the Holy Spirit continue to lead all that happens here. ☺

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Fr. Sean Wenger is one of the priests at the Houston Foundation. He was ordained in 1995.

The Companions of the Cross Seminarists 1999-2000



Galen Bank
Glenavon, SK



Daren Bryk
Edmonton, AB



Brian Christie
Sarnia, ON



Phil Cummings
Kitchener, ON



Wade DeCoste
Mattie Settlement, NS



Tim Devine
Kitchener, ON



Terry Donahue
Oakland, NJ



D'Arcy Dufresne
Kitchener, ON



Patrick Dursi
Halifax, NS



John Fletcher
Buffalo, NY



Jerry Gauvreau
Lindsay, ON



Mark Goring
Pembroke, ON



Jason Gould
Stratford, ON



Richmond Guillermo
Saint John, NB



Geoff Guitard
Campbellton, NB



Randy Hendriks
Vineland, ON



Jeremy Heynen
Alymer, ON



Dan Jeffrey
Nepean, ON



Andy Korvemaker
Regina, SK



Jean Lafrance
St. Malo, MB



John Likozar
Toronto, ON



Erik May
Grand Rapids, MI



Jim McKay
North Bay, ON



Anthony Melatti
Montreal, QC



Mike Minifie
South Mountain, ON



Chad Parsons
Columbia, MO



Dave Robinson
Vernon, ON



Nick Simoni
Innisfail, AB



Ben St. Croix
Kenora, ON



Fernando Suarez
Batangas, Phil.



Todd Thibau
Yarmouth, NS

The Companions of the Cross

Priests 1999-2000

* denotes candidate membership



Fr. Bob Bedard
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1955



Fr. Daniel Cross
Fruitport, MI Ord. 1999



Fr. Francis Donnelly*
Montreal, QC Ord. 1979



Fr. Francis Frankovich
Riverside, CA Ord. 1968



Fr. Dennis Hayes
Guelph, ON Ord. 1986



Fr. Brian Hennessey
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1997



Fr. Bill Hunt
Miami, FL Ord. 1993



Fr. Pierre Ingram
Guelph, ON Ord. 1995



Fr. Rick Jaworski
Winnipeg, MB Ord. 1990



Fr. Ross Lambton
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1995



Fr. Yves Marchildon
Victoire, SK Ord. 1996



Fr. Jim MacGillivray*
Kingston, ON Ord. 1969



Fr. Scott McCaig
Kamloops, BC Ord. 1995



Fr. Charles Orchard
Cobourg, ON Ord. 1995



Fr. Bob Poole*
London, England Ord. 1988



Fr. Christian Riesbeck
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1996



Fr. George Sammut
London, ON Ord. 1999



Fr. Jeff Shannon
Sudbury, ON Ord. 1997



Fr. Mark Slatter
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1991



Fr. Marc Syrenne
Saskatoon, SK Ord. 1997



Fr. John Vandenakker
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1985



Fr. Roger Vandenakker
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1989



Fr. Ed Wade
Philadelphia, PA Ord. 1972



Fr. Sean Wenger
Vernon, BC Ord. 1995



Feature

From Rhode Island:

Vignettes of Divine Providence in the Ocean State



Newport Mansion at sunset

By Daniel Jeffrey

"No speech, no word, no voice is heard, yet their span extends through all the earth, their words to the utmost bounds of the world" (Ps 19:3-4).

The sun seems to burst like a lightning flash into the blue universe of a sky that is slowly deepening into twilight hues over the ocean. As I approach Brenton Point along the New England coastline my windshell ripples and snaps like the canvas of a sailboat. Deep within the vault above, a half moon has reached the apex of its orbit. To a jeweller's eye it would seem like a fragment of polished pearl, a diadem set within the indigo hemisphere capping the world. The warm colours of

sunset intensify upon the spires of castellate mansions and then fade as the Lord stoops down to bless each home with peace, one by one. How beautiful His promise in Isaiah, "For behold, all past troubles shall be forgotten and hidden from My eyes." The sky is luminous and filled with mystery, an icon into eternity beyond the blue of Mary's veil. It is the things of the Spirit that last forever: pearls of great price in the fields of our soul, treasures from the hand of Divine Providence.

West Providence, Rhode Island, is a maze of winding streets, small businesses and dense housing. Over 17,000 people, spanning 52 cultures and 34 different countries, live in the immediate neighbourhood of St. Charles Borromeo Parish. In this section of inner city, walks after dark are strongly discouraged as violence occurs intermittently without warning, fuelled to a large degree by the crazy-making brought on by the dictatorship of addictions. Many of the poor suffer from mental illness or physical and spiritual suffering. It is in this neighbourhood of need that the Church finds herself.

"...Light shines in the darkness, and darkness could not overpower it ...The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone..." (Jn 1:5,9).

"...I shall pour out a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look to Me..." (Zc 12:10).

By 1978 when Fr. "Jake" Randall arrived at St. Charles, the parish was in danger of being closed. However, through the guidance of the Spirit and the Word of God, the parish began to flourish under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Word is our daily food, the light that illuminates every path and the true rock upon which decisions are made and kept. Wisdom speaks to her children through the Word and the Holy Spirit is given permission to do what He wills. The parish shines as though on a hilltop in the midst of the inner city.



Adoration Chapel, St. Charles Parish



Waiting to receive Thanksgiving baskets

"He is like a shepherd feeding His flock, gathering lambs in His arms, holding them against His breast . . ." (Is 40:11).



One turkey per household: Distribution of food on Thanksgiving

The more than 30 ministries operating at St. Charles are strengthened by various prayer opportunities in addition to daily Mass including: perpetual adoration, Spanish prayer group, Spanish youth group, English prayer group, the Jesus Club for children and the Legion of Mary. People are experiencing Jesus' healing and peace. Each ministry experience is really a walk beside Jesus, watching Him work. The ministries I am involved in include, "The Spirit and the Word" radio broadcast, the Jesus Club, providing assistance in the rectory, St. Vincent de Paul and soon, helping to teach Life in the Spirit seminars. Among my most powerful ministry experiences are those that involve the Jesus Club. On a September mission weekend we saw entire families fall down together in the Spirit at the simple prayer of a child. On a recent

December retreat near Hartford, we witnessed the power of God transform nearly 200 youth from initial attitudes of sullen, bored indifference into attitudes of amazement as they each experienced the living Jesus. By the end of the three hours, the Holy Spirit had awoken their hunger for God, and nobody wanted to leave.

The St. Vincent de Paul ministry shows God's power working in another context as He truly visits His poor and provides for their needs. We provide many services but all are secondary to our main goal: evangelization. And so it was that one Friday afternoon as people sat in the common room waiting to see the doctor, I talked to them about Jesus' love and mercy while distributing Divine Mercy cards. Peace that could be felt by all of us descended upon the ministry. Jesus was present, ministering to His people, and every conversation shared seemed to take place against a backdrop of soothing silence.

"The nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness" (Is 60:3).

Winter's fragrance is woven into the late Autumn breeze like a thin vein of gold into waves of marble. It is nightfall now at Brenton Point. The ghostly interplay between moonlight and ocean surf is like a ballroom dance, a twirling union of silver and deep gray under the first bright stars of night. "Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced." Trailing the shimmering Lady Moonlight is a snowy train of white foam that lingers, suspended in time and tide, brushing the obsidian rocks with soft textures. The tide is rising. Soon the

thousands of tiny clams that were marooned since last high tide will be inundated by water and set free.

Each day there are people marooned on their own rocks of trouble, waiting to be set free. But then God inundates them with His love from the rising tide of His Ocean of Mercy. At St. Charles parish His mercy is being given, His light is shining, and under the Holy Spirit's guidance and the Father's providence in the Ocean State the parish is growing. As we



St. Charles Borromeo

prepare to enter into the Great Jubilee our prayer is, "Come, Lord Jesus. Make Satan fall like lightning. And continue to pastor Your parish. Amen." St. Charles Borromeo, pray for us. ☩

.....
Daniel Jeffrey is a fourth year seminarian on his pastoral internship in Providence, Rhode Island.



Community News & notes

Ordinations to the Diaconate

On Friday January 7th at St. Maurice parish in Nepean, three men from the community and one man from the Archdiocese of Ottawa were ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Marcel Gervais. Congratulations Deacon Daren Bryk, Deacon Terry Donahue, and Deacon John Likozar of the Companions of the Cross! Congratulations as well to Deacon Michel Pilon, who was ordained to the permanent diaconate for ministry in the English sector of the Archdiocese of



Ottawa. It was a very blessed and moving ceremony. The church was packed with family and friends praying for these wonderful men. Daren, Terry and John will be finishing up their theological studies and liturgy practicums this winter in preparation for a spring ordination to the priesthood (we hope to announce the exact date and time in the next issue of this newsletter). Let us keep all these men in our prayers as they embark upon their new ministries in faithful service to the Lord and His people in this great year of Jubilee!



Left to Right: Deacon Terry Donahue, Deacon Daren Bryk and Deacon John Likozar

Fr. Pierre Ingram's Web Site



Many of you are aware that Fr. Pierre has recently taken up residence in Paris to pursue doctoral studies in Sacramental Theology at the Institut catholique.

Fr. Pierre Ingram

What you may not realize is that you can find out more about his life and studies by visiting his personal web site at: www.geocities.com/Athens/Styx/7843/p_ingram.html. His web site includes a "Paris Log Book" section, which is a kind of diary. Here are some examples from a few recent entries: Oct. 5th - Arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport. Picked up by my uncle. Drove through Paris traffic(!) to Redemptorist residence on Boulevard Montparnasse. Met Brother Maurice the Treasurer. He showed me around and took me up to my room. Fairly small, about 8'x20', but has a private phone, desk, shower, sink, and large glass doors for window, with a nice view onto some gardens. The closet is a joke (not deep enough for hangers, except if hung

