

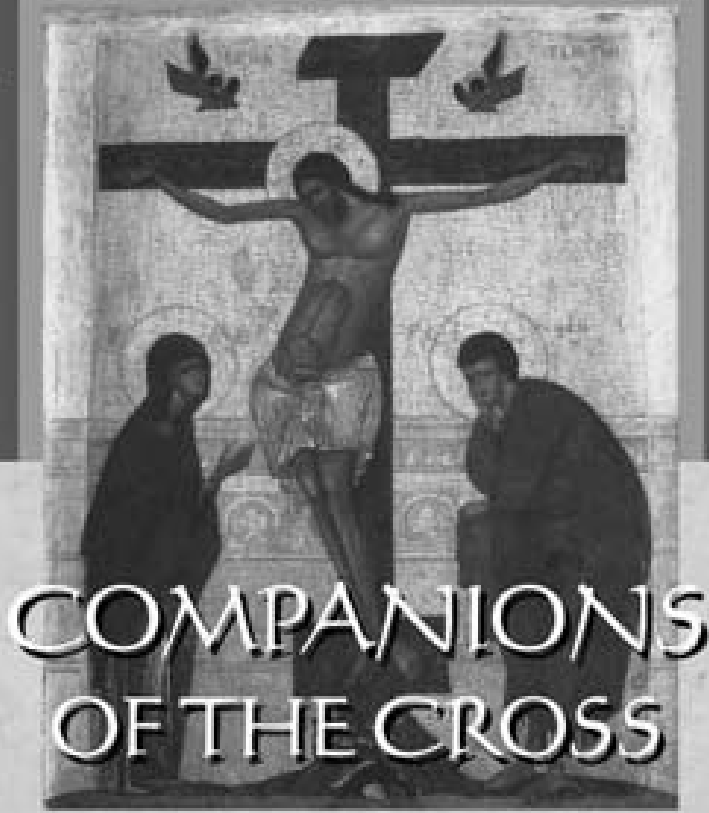
Companions of the Cross



Inside
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2002



COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS

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Feature

Carrying the Cross

By Fr. Bob Bedard

We want to be disciples of Christ in the fullest possible sense. Jesus made one of the qualifiers the picking up of our daily crosses and following along after him.

What constitutes the daily cross? It could be a challenging variety of many things: illnesses big or small, relationships in trouble or broken, inconveniences, messed-up plans, disappointments, being let down or even betrayed, our reputations being tarnished or even destroyed, the loss of a job, other financial concerns, pain, the loss of a loved one, expectations not met. These are only a few.

We don't have to go looking for them. These are the stuff and substance of everyday living. The crosses will find us. We can either fight them or embrace them.

I think it's evident the Lord wants us to embrace them – to carry them. By doing this, we can join our sufferings to those of Jesus and *“make up in our own bodies what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ”* (Col 1:24). Although Jesus' death on the Cross accomplished the redemption of the whole human race, each person must freely choose to follow him into everlasting life. Many don't do that. Our sufferings, joined to the sufferings of Christ, can help to obtain the efficacious grace of conversion for others. Jesus has become

the bridge to the Father. Our participation in his sacrifice can assist people onto the bridge.

Suffering is an essential component of human life. We can't avoid it. The Lord can accomplish much through our crosses if we join them to the Cross of Jesus. If we don't they may go for nothing.

I think the whole thing is understandable enough. But there is a big-time loose end still dangling.

What about prayer for healing? Or prayer for God to intervene and turn a situation around? Is that embracing the cross? Or is it not more like fighting it?

Praying for God's direct participation is not fighting the cross. It is simply being obedient. And it is quite consonant with embracing the cross. Jesus intervened and healed the sick at every turn. He urged the care of the poor and the disadvantaged. This is not failure to embrace the cross. It is only giving the Lord an opportunity to do what he may well wish to do. As the prayer ministry proceeds, the cross is embraced and offered to him. As time passes and God seems to remain silent, the cross can be more wholeheartedly accepted.

It has been said that the charismatic renewal (CR) has no theology of suffering, that the people involved never approve or accept it. There is certainly some truth to that. But to leave it at that is to leave out the whole truth. The CR in its authentic manifestation is not apart from the Church. The Catholic Church has clear teaching on suffering. The

Catechism of the Catholic Church outlines it neatly. CR's official teaching is always the teaching of the Church.

I have myself been hither and yon with CR for 25 years. My reputation as a solid and dependable priest went down the drain the day I stepped into a prayer meeting for the first time. Unexpectedly, I became a spokesman for CR before I properly even understood it. On the national level no less.

I spent a good bit of time trying to keep CR teachings on the Catholic path. I didn't always succeed. It is difficult under the best of circumstances to make suffering popular.

**“make up in our own bodies what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ”
(Col 1:24)**

But I have had my own share of it. Those of you who know me are familiar with a lot of the story. Regrettably I didn't always embrace the crosses. But the part of them I did accept, the Lord, I'm sure, was able to use. That's my prayer anyway.

“Pick up your cross,” Jesus said. He wasn't asking us to do anything he didn't do himself. He knew what it could accomplish. I don't pretend to understand how it works, but by faith and experience, I know it does.

My renewed resolve now is to embrace each cross that comes my way and I tell that to the Lord as every day begins. Let's not waste pain. ☺

.....
Fr. Bob Bedard's ministry has included teaching high school, full-time renewal work and pastoring St. Mary's parish. He is the founder of the Companions of the Cross.

TESTIMONY

The Lord is Laughing

By Fr. Jim McGillivray

I think the Lord has been laughing at me for a long time. You see when I was in high school I almost joined the Jesuits and here I am over 35 years later, finally joining a community. It seems that it has taken me that long to get it right. What attracted me to the Jesuits was their community life at that time. What didn't attract me was the 13 years it took to get yourself ordained.

I finally decided to go to St. Augustine's seminary in Toronto and study for the Archdiocese of Kingston. After all, it was home and I owed a great deal to the Church there and to a couple of very fine priests I had come to know and respect.

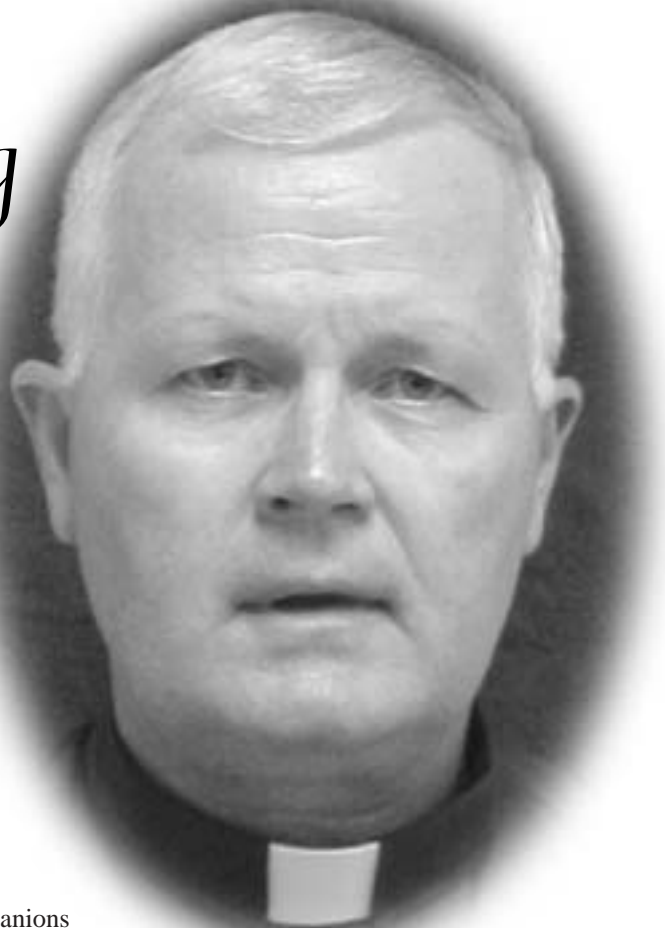
Most priests are ordained with a superiority complex (Hasn't the Church just been waiting for me to put things right?) and I was no exception. I remember telling classmates that I would do whatever the bishop asked me to do as long as it had nothing to do with teenagers. I'm sure the Lord laughed when He heard it since he had His plans set for me to begin teaching religion to Grades 9, 10, 12 and 13 the following September. He may have laughed but I pulled my hair out for the first month – until I started to love the work and to love teenagers.

I still have contact with some of those young people from that first year of what must have been terrible teaching. But for me, it was a year of learning what a gift to the Church our young people are. I have always found it much easier to like young people than to dislike them. I find myself saying that they keep you young when

they are not making you old! As I look back over the many years of working with young people I think they taught me how to preach. I found myself preparing homilies with young people in mind, using language and examples they could understand. If they could get the message, then older people would too.

My history with the Companions goes back to 1987 when I really felt called (not attracted!) to start coming to the Companions' meetings and participating in the annual retreats. I had no difficulty sharing their vision. After all, it had been with me since my interest in the Jesuits back in high school. I had always had a devotion to Our Lady since Sodality of Mary days in high school. I had been involved in all kinds of evangelizing efforts with young people. The Companions were putting together things I already felt strongly about.

By 1996 I was very much involved with the Companions and very much involved in pastoring a parish of 1,400 families along with three hospitals and two schools. I thought the Lord was being very funny at the Companions' retreat that August. Fr. Bob always began with a "State of the Union" talk on the Sunday



evening. The talk, as always, was a good one but as I walked out of the talk I heard very clearly: "You need to check out the possibility of going to Ottawa." I laughed to myself and said: "Well that's very interesting Lord, but I don't think I'm going to do that!" But what I really meant was, I have no intention of doing that! Why should I? Things were going well. What would it cost? What would I have to give up? So I went home and did everything I could to forget about it. Have you ever tried forgetting something the Lord had told you to do?

A couple of months later I found myself in the bishop's office getting ready to tell him what had happened. Will he laugh? Think I'm crazy? He didn't laugh. Could

TESTIMONY

By Fr. Francis Donnelly

THE CALL OF THE CROSS

this be a genuine “call”, a vocation? It was agreed that a six-month sabbatical with the Companions and a 30-day (Jesuit?) retreat might clarify things. Needless to say, it did and a year and a half later I resigned the parish and made the change. I laugh that I went from one person rattling around a 17-room house to being **one of 17** in the same size house!

What has it cost me? I now find it hard to believe that I ever asked the question. It’s a little like Peter saying: “*Lord, what about us? What are we to have? We have given up everything to follow you.*” If we are honest with ourselves, for most of us anyway, “the everything” we have been asked to give up, isn’t very much compared to what He has for us. If we will only trust Him and take the first small step we will begin to experience the hundredfold that He promises will be ours even in this life.

And what do you suppose the Companions have me doing now, that I have finally made it to Ottawa? I’m working as part of the Formation Team of course. I live with young people and work with them full time!

Yes, the Lord has been laughing at me for a long time. I still have hopes of getting the last laugh but I’m not betting on it! ☺

Fr. Jim McGillivray made his lifetime commitment to the Companions of the Cross on September 14, 2001 at the celebration of the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross.



After a private mass in 1986, Fr. Francis receives the Pope’s blessing for his parents’ wedding anniversary.

When I was a boy, not quite 13 years old, I was convinced God wanted me to leave home to become a priest of the Congregation of the Cross in Ireland. Three years later my whole family migrated to Montreal. Now, many years later I have become a member of the Companions of the Cross. God has His ways!

In January 1975, I came reluctantly to Ottawa to put in time with my younger brother Patrick. I took a temporary job with Health and Welfare Canada. Little did I know what was in store. I took Patrick to St. Augustine’s prayer group, and at Easter he got ambushed by the Lord and realized that he too had a call to the priesthood. I was already convinced of my call and was just waiting for God’s leading. It came surprisingly from

Montreal, and both of us entered seminary together and were ordained for Montreal in June 1979. So that seemed to be the last of Ottawa, though I kept happy contact with the Bedard gang.

In 1984, I was negotiating with Fr. Bob to bring the Fraternity of Priests to the Montreal/Ottawa area when I got the call to do Canon Law in Rome. In 1986 I was starting work in the Montreal Marriage Tribunal and visiting St. Mary’s occasionally where a few guys were gathering around Fr. Bob for community. I plunged into Renewal work in Montreal, alongside the Tribunal job, tried to form community with a few other priests, lead the Diocesan Renewal team, formed family-based covenant community and ran an English/Italian parish. After 8 years my Renewal projects were failing on all

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

fronts, despite the good will of all the good people involved with me. I searched for a way of giving myself more effectively for renewal of Renewal in Montreal in the summer of 1994. As my bishop did not know what to do with me he gave a fall sabbatical to me at Mother of God in Washington. He still did not know what to do with me after that time, and I got returned to the Tribunal in January of 1995, still convinced that God wanted me working full time for Renewal.

Little did I suspect that Ottawa was in His plans. Oh, I had kept in contact with the Companions at St. Mary's, happy for the wonderful things God was doing there, but I had no inclination to believe He wanted me out of Montreal after all the trouble He took to get me and my brother Patrick established there. However, in the summer of 1995, I came again to the Companions' retreat as an associate, and there it dawned on me that the Lord might be up to something. I put the possibility before the Bedard guy and he just laughed about the thick cloud over Montreal through which Jesus had finally penetrated. Montreal agreed to let me go to Ottawa three days a week through the winter of 1996. Some ordeal of winter weather and spring potholes! Yet there was lots of fruitful, spontaneous ministry and good experiences in the larger community. Then too there was the prospect of teaching seminary courses on the strength of degrees in Medieval Studies and in Canon Law. Once again, Montreal agreed to give me a leave of absence to explore the possibility.

It has been five years of blessings and some tribulations, as is normal in this unfinished Christian life! I came to value my age and experience in relating to younger priests and in teaching and directing seminarians, as well as in direct evangelizing in missions and retreats. It is such a privilege to be involved with young men who are eager to give their whole life over to the Kingdom life, even when that may not involve priesthood in the end.



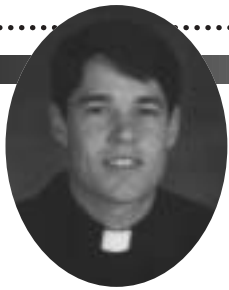
Frs. Francis and Patrick Donnelly on the 10th anniversary of their ordination.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared that Pentecostal Renewal was a "chance" for the Church, and I am convinced that in that context the Companions of the Cross are a unique "chance" – a grace released for renewal in these territories. Certainly, the young people responding to their experience of God's call on their life are worth the total investment we older warriors can make of what's left of our ministry and life. So too are all the associates and friends who labour and pray and contribute for the success of this cause. To you I express my admiration and thanks.

More precisely, it seems to be God's good pleasure to make me the offer I cannot refuse. I witness a grace of renewal being poured out all over the world again in these days. During this last phase of my discerning God kept hitting me with the need for people to sacrifice themselves

for community as the very goal, and protection and propagation of this new "springtime". I am convinced the Companions have been sovereignly raised up to receive it, to grow in it, and to share it with Catholics at large. We can fumble it, as we have fumbled our "chance" before. But I am happy to make a lifetime commitment to it again, for the greater glory of God, encouraged mightily by the wisdom, power, and love released in our recent retreat with Fr. Jake Randall and his emphasis on clinging to the Cross. That is the Cross that called me so many years ago and now triumphs again. Amen. ☩

Fr. Francis Donnelly made his lifetime commitment to the Companions of the Cross on September 14, 2001 at the celebration of the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross.



Feature

The Agony and the Ecstasy

- A Report from Queen of Peace

By Fr. Christian Riesbeck

Two years ago, four priests and one seminarian intern from our Community were sent down to Houston, Texas to serve at the Catholic Charismatic Center and Queen of Peace Parish. I was chosen to pastor Queen of Peace Parish, a parish that has since grown to over 1,000 registered families, most of whom are Hispanic, including a significant immigrant population from various Latin American countries like Mexico. I spent seven weeks in Cuernavaca, Mexico learning Spanish before undertaking a much bigger challenge than I had anticipated. After two years at Queen of Peace, however, I can honestly say that, although these have been the two most challenging years of my life, they have also been the most blessed!

The *Constitutions and Rules of the Companions of the Cross* state that: "The cry of the poor must not be ignored. The Companions of the Cross desire to minister to them, including those in the inner core of our cities: the desperate, those in bondage, the addicted, the abused, the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, the isolated, the alienated, the abandoned, the underemployed, the runaways, the street people." Queen of Peace Parish fits that description. It is an inner-city parish with all the challenges implied in the designation "inner city". The Parish does what it

can for those who come to us regularly for assistance with food and other needs. We also distribute food to the poorer families of our neighbourhood once a week through our food pantry.

The Parish also has a parochial school, which has slowly been growing over the past few years. We now number about 134 students. Most are attracted to the school as an alternative to the public school system because of its offer of a quality Catholic education in a safe, faith-filled environment. The families of students attending the school have to make extra sacrifices in order to pay for tuition, as there is no assistance from state and federal governments, but only help from

encouraging that several of our young boys have expressed an interest in the priesthood!

In response to the Holy Father's call for a New Evangelization, and faithful to the principal charism of the Community, we have been very busy evangelizing. What better place to start than with our youth and their parents. Over the past few years, involvement in our CCE (or CCD) catechism classes has doubled to over 1,000 participants. About 60 volunteers from the Parish are involved in this ministry as catechists and helpers. We also ask the parents of children celebrating Sacraments to take classes designed especially for them so that they too can be



Queen of Peace Church

the Parish, Diocese and other benefactors. We celebrate a school Mass once a week in the church and for one year now, the children have been invited to actively participate in one Sunday Mass per month in the various liturgical ministries. The school affords a great opportunity for evangelization and has the potential of being a seedbed for vocations. It is very

evangelized and truly recognize their responsibility to be the first evangelists and religious formators of their children. This

coming year we will be asking the students to come together to Sunday Mass with their CCE class once a month. We hope to impress upon these children (and
Continued on page 6...

their parents) the importance of their Sunday obligation and the great gift that is the Eucharist.

Since we have a very young parish we average about 20 baptisms a month. In the next few months, with the assistance of some members of the Catholic Charismatic Center we hope to make our baptismal preparation program even more evangelistic.

Also this past year, as part of our evangelization efforts, we initiated the "Alpha" program, which has proven to be very successful. Over 150 people have already been through the program and we are offering another 12-week course in the Fall. The Alpha course also serves as the first part of our RCIA program. The Holy Spirit has touched so many people's lives and several people are seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord. As follow-up, this past Easter we presented Alpha II for Catholics, which also served as part of our Adult Confirmation preparation program. In addition to this we will be offering a video series on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* starting in January 2002. For the Spanish community, we encourage them to go through the Alpha program first and/or a two year, six level program for those "baptized" in the Holy Spirit called *Crecimiento en la Fe*, a program designed in Mexico. Already 25 people have been through the first level and are now entering the second level of the program.

We are thus putting into practice the CC vision for ministry, namely evangelization followed by discipleship. We continue to focus our efforts on evangelization while, at the same time working with those in whom the Holy Spirit has really been "stirred up" so that their gifts will be fanned into flame. The Lord is raising up leaders who are being empowered to serve in the various ministries of the Parish. The Alpha program, for instance, is now completely led by a team of lay people.

It is also such a blessing and help when the "right people" are in place in ministry leadership or staff positions. The Lord has



Eucharistic procession

truly blessed us at Queen of Peace in the last year especially with the additions of some truly capable and impressive people, namely Fr. Daren Bryk, my associate who was assigned to the Parish in September 2000, along with seminarian Randy Hendriks, who replaced Mark Goring, a new secretarial staff and a new principal. We also have a financial coordinator who has been very busy looking after the financial aspects and numerous maintenance needs of the Parish (this has freed me up to focus more on the spiritual aspects of the Parish). We also have a new coordinator for our religious education program following the leave of our beloved Sr. Gisela, the former director for many years. All of these people have been hired on in the last few months and so it has been a time of great challenge and of trusting in the Lord to provide the "right people for the job". Truly, He has! What a great God we have!

Probably the greatest blessing that has come to Queen of Peace is perpetual adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Through constant preaching on the value and importance of the Eucharist, a special homily series on the Eucharist, presented by Fr. Daren and I this past Lent, and now with perpetual adoration, the Parish has become a very Eucharistic and praying community. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in an adjoining chapel seven days a week, 24 hours a day except during the Sunday Masses. Jesus, our Lord is being adored around the clock! Is it any wonder that He is pouring out His blessings and so many lives are being changed?



Fr. Christian in the Sanctuary

There are so many other events going on in the Parish throughout the year and numerous groups meeting during the week, that it would be hard with the limited space to report on all of these. After an "open house/town hall meeting" we recently held with all the ministry representatives present to report to the Pastoral Council, several people commented that they had not been aware that there was so much going on in the Parish. Indeed the Lord is going about His work of renewing His Church and this Parish and it is so exciting to be a part of it. In the midst of the challenges and trials, the Lord just keeps reminding me over and over that He is in control and that He is blessing us. I have learned so much in the two years I have been Pastor, and I am so grateful for being here at Queen of Peace! May the Lord continue to guide us by the power of His Spirit and set us ablaze with zeal for His Kingdom! ☩

Fr. Christian Riesbeck was ordained in 1996 and is from Ottawa, Ontario.



Feature

By Fr. Sean Wenger



Shepherds FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

The priests of the Companions who are currently engaged in parish ministry or university chaplaincy. (Missing: Fr. Ross Lambton and Fr. Terry Donahue)

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about something very exciting that happened recently. For the first time ever Companions of the Cross who work in parochial (or similar) ministry came together to try and learn from each other how we might go about our pastoring in very critical times. What does it mean to be a Companion of the Cross and a pastor? How do we pastor God's people effectively in the times in which we are living?

I will begin by saying that personally I was very edified by the time that we spent together. It was a time of real brotherhood. Men were able to share very per-

sonally about some of their struggles and I was quite moved by the number of our pastors who have suffered deeply as they have given all their energy to serving the flock entrusted to them. Often priests work to the point of compromising physical or spiritual well being or both. Now as always we need your prayers.

Even as the challenges loomed over us, as I listened to the men gathered there, I was very much filled with hope. I believe our small, humble gathering is at least a partial answer to the prayers of so many for vocations to the priesthood. I also think it is a part, perhaps tiny, of what God promises to his people when he says he

will provide shepherds after his own heart (Jr 3:15). This same promise the Holy Father recalled for us when after the 1990 Synod of Bishops he wrote *Pastores Dabo Vobis*. On the very first page the Holy Father says, "In these words from the prophet Jeremiah, God promises that he will never leave his people without shepherds to gather them together and guide them" (PDV 1).

Who are the pastors after God's own heart? During one sharing a pastor recounted how he had lamented to a parishioner about how young and inexperienced we were as a group. Indeed there
Continued on page 8...

Continued from page 7...

was only one person in the room who had been ordained more than six years or had more than five years experience as a pastor. In response the parishioner said, "Well maybe God wants to teach you something new." I know that I have to qualify this by saying that doesn't mean what everyone else is doing is bad, it only says that everything has changed enough that a new approach may be needed. Personally I believe that a new approach to what we're doing in parishes is imperative. We all know what the various indicators say and we get tired of bad news but this crisis is also an opportunity, an opportunity to see a new outpouring of God's grace. God himself wants to teach us how to shepherd his people.

Currently a pastor's list of responsibilities is kind of long and fairly varied. I've listed it this way: masses, confessions, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, visiting the sick, funerals; homilies, teaching, formation, training; planning, visioning, leading, organizing, recruiting; staff-hiring, firing, evaluating; collections, fundraisers, budgets, accounting; facilities - building, expanding, renovating, maintaining; communication - telephones, email, the bulletin, newsletters, announcements; ministries, volunteers, organizations, meetings, appointments, counseling, the sick, the aged, children, youth, families, singles, different cultures, schools, catechism, the poor, the homeless . . . and if he can find it, some time for prayer. Is this a reasonable job description for anyone? Who has all these skills?

Solutions to the problems facing many pastors and parishes will involve a new level of cooperation, commitment and involvement from everyone. It's true that pastors don't always adjust easily to a new way of leading, most of us were trained more for what has been than what will be. We need your patience, your prayers and a willingness to walk along with us on a road that none of us has been down before.

At different times in the Scriptures, and in Church history, God has surprised his

people by doing new things (cf. Is 43:19, Lk 5:36-38). Our hope is not in our ability to create something better but in the faithfulness of God who continues to lead us as our only true Shepherd. The Lord has not left us without direction for through the Holy Father he has been calling us to a "new evangelization":

Today, in particular, the pressing pastoral task of the new evangelization calls for the involvement of the entire People of God, and requires a new fervor, new methods and a new expression for the announcing and witnessing of the Gospel. This task demands priests who are deeply and fully immersed in the mystery of Christ and capable of embodying a new style of pastoral life, marked by a profound communion with the pope, the bishops and other priests, and a fruitful cooperation with the lay faithful, always respecting and fostering the different roles, charisms and ministries present within the ecclesial community.

The Holy Father sees "new and unexpected possibilities of evangelization and the rebirth of ecclesial life in many parts of the world." (PDV 6) This is indeed an exciting vision. I guess the reason I was so heartened by our meeting was that as I met with my brother Companions, those working in parochial ministry, I saw men committed to meeting this challenge. I am equally encouraged to know that many who are reading this article are ready to join with us in this work. It may be that together we are one of those "new and unexpected possibilities" to which the Holy Father is referring. Let us surrender to the Holy Spirit who will direct and enliven the Church through this "new evangelization". If we do, we will certainly see the "new springtime of the Faith" that the Holy Father prophesied would be the fruit of the Jubilee. ☺

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Fr. Sean Wenger is Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was ordained in 1995.

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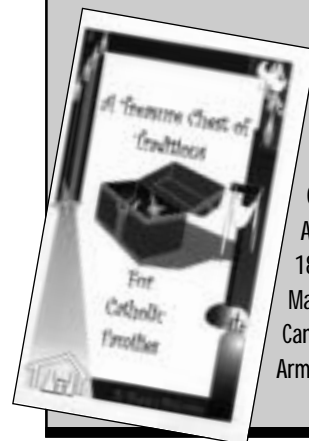
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Feature

By D'Arcy Dufresne

It was a sunny Sunday afternoon in late August when the men began to meet at the staging point – 199 Bayswater. Anticipation was high as rookies and veterans alike hugged and kissed their families goodbye. After a few last minute preparations, all were climbing into an assorted array of vehicles and being whisked away toward new horizons. To some, the New Year begins in January; for us it begins on this day. It is a time of new beginnings, when the academic and fiscal years begin. This is the time when the brothers are moving into new appointments, new houses, new courses and spiritual adventures that will last another year.

The annual reflection days are a precious time for all of us for many reasons, not the least of which is that it is the only time in the whole year when absolutely everybody in the community gathers from places near and far. The seminarians return from as far away as the Philippines, Africa and England and as “close” as the United States and Canada. Every priest takes time away from his busy schedule in Ottawa, Toronto, Houston, or Halifax to be present together with his brothers to stand in testimony of his commitment to God and to his community. For most of us, there was an air of excitement upon us as we anticipated seeing the brothers we have not seen for a year and to make room to meet and welcome the six impressive young men and one equally impressive priest as our new “little brothers.” The Holy Spirit stirred in our hearts with the fire of new life as we approached a time of learning and reflection united as one brotherhood.

Despite the jovial reunions and overall enthusiasm, a dark cloud had moved in to



Nativity of Our Lady R.C. Mission (Golden Lake) - Site of Retreat Masses

block the sun. It hung over us and spat as we hungrily approached our traditional rallying point in Renfrew. As we invaded the Wendy’s restaurant, the cloud burst open and some of our hearts cried, “MAN DOWN!” for there was one brother missing in action. As you may have heard, one of our seminarians, Murray Chupka, was severely injured in a car accident this summer and was unable to rejoin us for the start of our year. I assure you, however, that throughout the week we raised him up in the Spirit and prayed many times for his quick return to us many times. We will continue to lift him up in prayer. For even as these dark clouds began to pour out their burden of water and threaten our advance, they fed the parched earth and reflected God’s grace and mercy in the Sacrament of Baptism. With renewed hope, we continued on to our main objective, and the rain subsided and troubled us no more.

Once at Red Pine Camp on Golden Lake, we were pleased with the successful

Annual REFLECTION DAYS 2001



Fr. Jake Randall, our Retreat Director

preparations of the task force that had arrived ahead of us. A special thanks goes out to Phil Cummings, Jeremy Heynen and their crew who made our invasion of the facilities a complete success. We wasted no time in setting up camp and starting into our battle of prayer. We gathered together to praise and worship our God, our “Commander ‘n’ Chief” and listen to His reminder that we must dedicate ourselves once again to the founding vision of the Companions of the Cross.

Continued on page 10...



Seminarians rehearsing annual commitment ceremony



Fr. Bob Bedard and Fr. Roger Vandenakker

Continued from page 9...

For our primary call, even before evangelism and the four pillars of our spirituality, is to live in community, to love and really share our lives with one another. It is for this reason that we have come and returned to the basics, both in the asceticism of the camp and in our spiritual lives.

Father Jake Randall and his companion, Steve Lonardo, were the guest speakers that led us in a week of reflection that many would later say was our best retreat ever. Father Jake began by telling us about his extensive experiences as a priest in the early interpretations of Vatican II and the early Renewal. He told us story after story of his gimmicks and liturgical modifications and their subsequent failures. He told us that "Christianity has never failed anyone; it is just never tried... We can only give what we have, so we need God, the Holy Spirit to be with us if we are to lead people to the necessary encounter with God. This will lead to the conversion and docility of the hearts of our people." He exhorted us to return to our roots in prayer, Scripture and a total dependence on the Holy Spirit. Our liturgies and faith need no gimmicks. They need holy men with a child-like faith.

Steve told us about his Jesus Club where children under the age of five are praying over people and miracles are the normal result. Being like a child is about surrendering control of our lives, asking God before we do anything, renewing our trust in God's continuous desire to heal and speak to us as well as being docile to the movements and prompting of the Holy Spirit. We must then be ready to act on these words with a youthful energy and joy. We cannot let fear or the possibility of getting things wrong impede our move to love, surrender, follow, listen and act. We must not be afraid to be fools for Christ. Be bold and speak the truth, for if you are steeped in prayer and based on God's word, together you and God will not fail. This world is transient and passing away.

We are either for God or against God. There is no other way. When the battle for our souls rages, there is no neutral ground.

As for us the Cross is our banner, "He is risen," our battle cry. Fr. Jake reminded us that when Satan comes to huff and puff and blow us off course we had better be holding onto something that is built on a strong foundation. We had better be holding on for dear life, embracing it with all we've got or we will be blown off course. That foundation had better be the word of God and that something the Cross and its promise of new life, because it is the only thing that has the power to stand and save us. ☩

D'Arcy Dufresne is a fourth year seminarian from Kitchener, Ontario.



Priests at Mass on Retreat

SUNDAY HOMILES

by Fr. Terry Donahue

A 5 tape set of 20 homilies given at St. Mary's Church
Includes a booklet of Homily Outlines, complete with
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Homily Topics:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Rebellion & Discouragement | 11 Mary, Mother of God |
| 2 Be a Good Shepherd | 12 Mary's Powerful Intercession |
| 3 Strength for the Journey | 13 Abortion and Contraception |
| 4 Give to the Poor | 14 Love Your Enemies |
| 5 Power to Serve | 15 Desert Temptations |
| 6 The Loving Gaze of Jesus | 16 Signs of God's Presence |
| 7 Teacher, I Want to See | 17 A Donkey in Your Presence |
| 8 Come Lord Jesus! | 18 Come to Calvary |
| 9 Twofold Coming of Christ | 19 Peace Be with You |
| 10 Words of Blessing | 20 My Sheep Hear My Voice |

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(See order form in the back of the newsletter)

NEW BOOK



Reflections of a Veteran Priest

By Fr. Bob Bedard

The veteran (46 years ordained) has a lot of opinions. This book contains many of them.

Special feature: connection between his forbears and the shooting of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, 1868.

The book is \$12.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

See the Koinonia Order Form at the back of the newsletter.

Companions of the Cross Annual Fundra

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord! Autumn is here and the time has come to once again launch our annual fundraising appeal. Jesus said: *"The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field"* (Mt 9:37-38). We, the Companions of the Cross, in our own small way, are trying to do our part to provide "harvesters" for the Kingdom of God. We are dedicated to helping train the future priests of tomorrow. We have been blessed with many vocations. This past spring four more men were ordained to the priesthood. This past summer a whole new foundation (or branch) of the community was established in the Archdiocese of Halifax. This fall we have welcomed six new seminarians and one new priest applicant to begin their formation with us. The Lord continues to bless us with growth!

What the Lord wants he will underwrite. This was a lesson that Fr. Jake Randall, a priest from Providence, Rhode Island and a good friend of the community, reminded us of during our annual reflection days at Camp Red Pine in August. "If the Lord asks you for a hot dog and you give him a hotdog, he will pay for it. However, if he asks you for a hotdog and you give him a hamburger, he may not." We believe that the Companions of the Cross is the "hotdog" the Lord has asked for! We were called into being by the Lord and given a particular mandate to help serve and renew his Church in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. This is a call to which we have remained faithful. In turn, the Lord has remained faithful to us and has blessed us with many wonderful benefactors, such as yourself, who are instruments of God's providence in helping support our ministry.

So although our faith in God's providence remains firm, it doesn't mean that we don't get a little worried at times. Raising the necessary funds to properly train and house our priests and seminarians can be a rather daunting task. It costs approximately \$10,000 per year to house and educate one seminarian. We have 29! We have other staffing and operational costs to take care of as well. Our regular operating expenses are well over \$1,000,000 per year (with an almost equal amount owing to the bank in the form of mortgages on our prop-

erties). We receive no monies other than the tithes of our own priests and the donations of our benefactors. And yet we have never run a deficit in any year of operation – a credit to the Lord's generosity. He always seems to have us operating on the slimmest of margins. I guess this is the Lord's way of keeping us humble and relying on him and not on our bank account.

However, trusting in the Lord to provide can still be a stressful experience, even if we are striving to walk by faith. Have you noticed a few more gray hairs appearing lately in Fr. Rick Jaworski's beard? (Fr. Rick is the Vice-Moderator of the CCs and our Treasurer General). Even founders of new communities can sometimes fall victim to a little bit of worry. Fr. Jake told us the story of how Fr. Benedict Groeschel, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx, New York, one day asked Mother Teresa to visit and pray with their new community. He then confided in her afterwards, in a slightly worried tone of voice, that they had 35 seminarians and no money! Mother Teresa responded with a mild rebuke. She simply said, in a dismissive manner, "Father!" and walked away. In other words, worrying about money, especially for a work that the Lord is raising up, is not something that should preoccupy believers as it does the pagans. In terms of running a community, with all the spiritual warfare that goes on and the need to trust the Lord for everything anyway (e.g. for unity, harmony, wisdom, etc.), finances should be the least of one's concerns. Fr. Benedict learnt his lesson. (We are blessed in this regard with having Fr. Bob as our founder. He never worries about money!)

So won't you please prayerfully consider our request for financial assistance? We trust that God will place on your heart some idea of how you can support us, as either a first-time donor or as a continuing benefactor of this community. We realize that some of you have very limited means, but you are nonetheless powerful prayer warriors and intercessors for the community. As a "spiritual benefactor" you are also desperately needed and appreciated! But to all of you out there who are reading this and have the means, especially people who live in our more recent foundation areas (Houston, Toronto, Halifax), please consider our needs and the fact that your cities have been the direct recipients of the Lord's generosity in sending out "workers into the harvest." This goes as well for the rest

Annual Fundraising Appeal Annual Fundraising Appeal Annual Fund

Raising Appeal - *Our Plea for Help!*



of us. For wherever you may live, know that we all belong to the one Body of Christ, the Church universal. Helping our ministry is a way of partnering with us in this most exciting endeavour. We love you all and keep you in our prayers constantly!

Wishing You the Peace of Christ,

Rev. John Vandenaeker

Rev. John Vandenaeker
(CC Academic Director & Coordinator of Fundraising and Public Relations)

P.S. Most of you who donated \$20.00 or more to us in the past year will receive a special fundraising letter directly from Fr. Bob himself, along with a complimentary copy of our new 2002 Companions of the Cross calendar as a thank-you gift. New donors who respond to this appeal with a gift of \$20.00 or more will also have one of these beautiful calendars mailed out to them. Remember that all donations are eligible for a charitable receipt for Canadian or American income tax purposes (we are now legally incorporated in the USA). If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our main office. Thank-you and God Bless!

Raising Appeal Annual Fundraising Appeal Annual Fundraising Appeal

Visiting the House of the Virgin Mary

Fr. John Vandenakker returned this past May from leading a wonderful group on a pilgrimage to various holy places in Greece and Turkey (In the footsteps of St. Paul and to St. John's Seven Churches of the Book of Revelation).

He reports that it was truly a blessed experience! One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to a place few in North America had ever been before let alone even heard about – “Meryem Ana Evi – The House of the Blessed Virgin Mary” in Ephesus. Both Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II have made pilgrimages to this site where it is reported that the Blessed Mother lived for a time after having been brought there by St. John. The following description of the spiritual meaning of this site was given to Fr. John by a priest assigned to the shrine there – Fr. Tarcy Mathias.

We reprint it here for your benefit.

More than a million visitors a year are said to come to the shrine of *Meryem Ana Evi*, the House of Mother Mary near Ephesus in Turkey. In official documents of the government, the site is referred to as a museum or a monument. To the visitors – whatever be their nationality, culture, language, or religion – it is a sacred place, sacred in the basic and fundamental religious sense of the word.

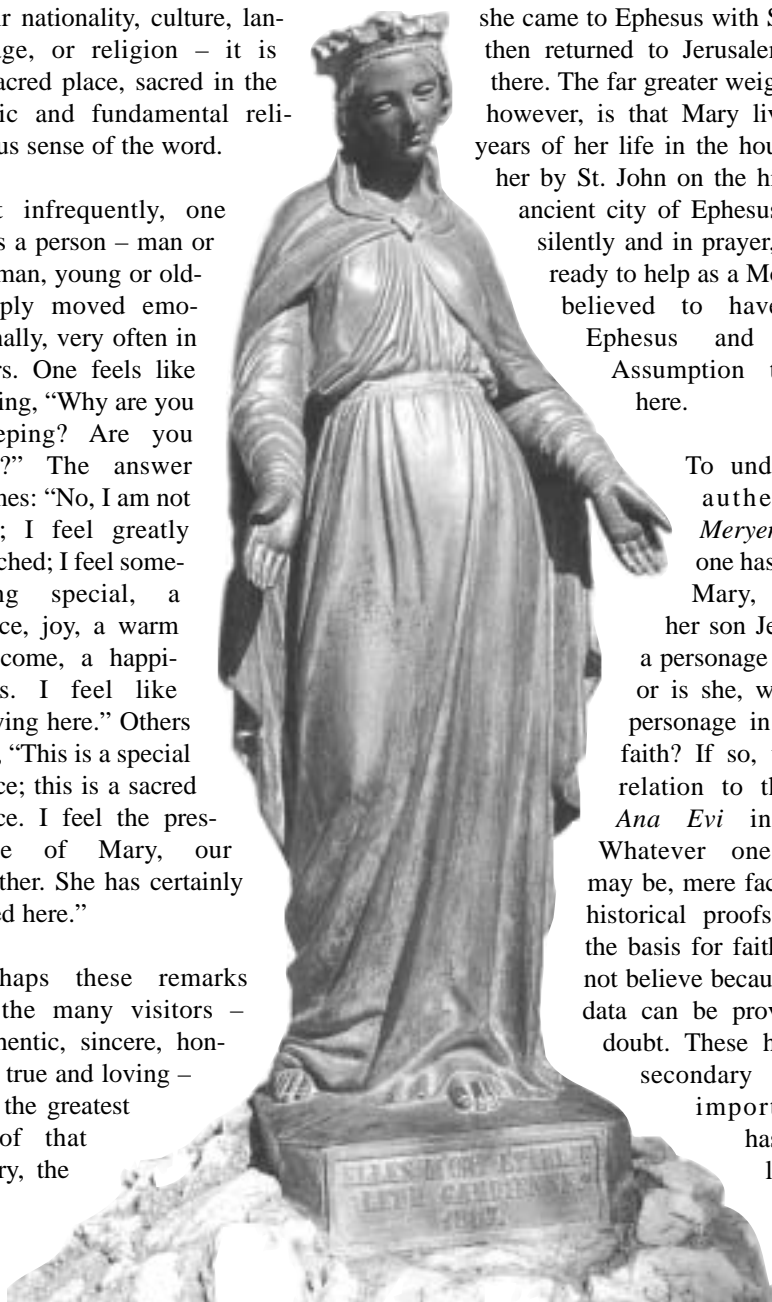
Not infrequently, one sees a person – man or woman, young or old – deeply moved emotionally, very often in tears. One feels like asking, “Why are you weeping? Are you sad?” The answer comes: “No, I am not sad; I feel greatly touched; I feel something special, a peace, joy, a warm welcome, a happiness. I feel like staying here.” Others say, “This is a special place; this is a sacred place. I feel the presence of Mary, our Mother. She has certainly lived here.”

Perhaps these remarks of the many visitors – authentic, sincere, honest, true and loving – are the greatest proof that Mary, the

mother of Jesus, lived the last years of her life here. Mary, the cosmic and universal Mother, is present here in a very special way.

There are two traditions concerning the last years of Mary's life. Some say that she came to Ephesus with St. John, but then returned to Jerusalem and died there. The far greater weight of belief, however, is that Mary lived the last years of her life in the house built for her by St. John on the hills near the ancient city of Ephesus. She lived silently and in prayer, but always ready to help as a Mother. She is believed to have died in Ephesus and that the Assumption took place here.

To understand the authenticity of *Meryem Ana Evi*, one has to ask: Was Mary, along with her son Jesus, merely a personage of history – or is she, with Jesus, a personage in our life of faith? If so, what is her relation to the *Meryem Ana Evi* in Ephesus? Whatever one's religion may be, mere facts, data and historical proofs cannot be the basis for faith. One does not believe because historical data can be proved without doubt. These have only a secondary value and importance. One has to learn in life not only



Statue of Mary of Ephesus



Pilgrimage Group

the distinction, but also the relation between history and faith. Happy are those who have learned to live their life of faith, whatever the claims of conflicting histories.

We cannot look at this house merely with our carnal, physical eye. It was, and is, the House of Mary, a Spirit-filled person. St. Paul, who was also at Ephesus, would warn us not to look at this house as it is “on the outside” (2 Cor 10:7). He would tell us “*the unspiritual man cannot understand the things of the spirit*” (1 Cor 2:13ff). With God’s grace, when one looks at *Meryem Ana Evi* with the spiritual eye, what does one notice?

Whatever the religious attitudes of those who visit, all feel an intimate and warm welcome inside this poor house. They feel free and relaxed. Young lovers experience a deeper and richer meaning in their mutual love, and they symbolize it by their tears of joy, and by lighting and joining two candles together. Who could be a better guide to a life of love than Mary, whose life was filled with the Holy Spirit of Love?

Curious people – people who want to discuss and argue the historicity of the place – become quiet and reflective. Who could be a better answer to their many questions than Mary herself could?

People who do not believe seem to experience a quiet peace and a conversion. For their inner life of being “reborn” in the Spirit, who could be a better mother than Mary herself could?

Others experience Mary in a very concrete and visible way. In 1960, Mrs. Elizabeth Fraser, a woman from the United States, had a vision and experience of Mary. She could only describe Mary as “most beautiful.” After much personal effort, along with the help of an artist, she helped bring into being a painting titled *Our Lady of Ephesus* – a most wonderful and much needed title of devotion. In many other places such as
Continued on page 16...

Continued from page 15...

Lourdes and Fatima, apparitions of Mary have appeared. But here in Ephesus is the home where Mary lived – and lives to teach so many lessons for our daily human life.

In 1998 another person experienced Mother Mary among the crowds of people who were inside the house. Mary was there in their midst without her hands, as in the statue of *Meryem Ana Evi*. Mary is excited and happy to see her people. She moves in the midst of them, welcoming everyone. Her happiness and joy are contagious. Like children in a family in the presence of the mother, all are happy and talking around Mother Mary. Perhaps some religious persons are scandalized by all the talking and noise, and complain to Our Lady, saying that this is a sacred place – a place of silence and prayer. Mary replies to them: “Silence and prayer are a result of inner peace when one is welcomed and made to feel like a member of a family. You must do with your hands what I do without mine. Welcome them with love and patience. Do not judge their way of life. Lead them by your example of love to silence and prayer.”

This religious person brings another question: when will all these people begin to believe in your son Jesus and become Roman Catholics? Mary gives them the best reply possible: that should not be your problem. That is the problem of my son, Jesus. Do what I am doing: because of my love and faith in my son, I welcome every one with warm love, and make all feel like members of a family. Once this is done, my son Jesus will do the rest in His own way and time. This was the experience and message of a visitor in 1998.

Another important aspect of *Meryem Ana Evi* is the value and importance given by our Muslim sisters and brothers to this place. It is interesting that in the Holy Book of Quran only one woman is mentioned, and that about thirty times. She is Mary, the Mother of the Prophet Jesus –



House of Mary

accepted by Muslims as one of the greatest prophets. When our Muslim sisters and brothers come to *Meryem Ana Evi*, they come not as tourists or just visitors – they come to pray, in perhaps the only place in the world where people of these great religions – Islam and Christianity – can pray together without regard to their differences.

Mary teaches people here that every true religion should lead people towards acceptance, tolerance, unity, and service towards one's neighbour – whatever is his or her religion. A religion, which distinguishes and divides, which leads toward fundamentalism and hatred of others, can never be the practice of a true religion. Here, Mary teaches that every true religion teaches its followers how to love and serve one another.

Why is all this felt here in *Meryem Ana Evi*? The answer is very simple. A deep and personal spirit is felt in this place. It is

sensed and experienced here because a person rich in the spirit of love, unity, prayer, sacrifice, welcome, tolerance and acceptance has left that spirit here. That person is a woman and a mother.

There is a saying in the orient: “In the home, the mother never dies.” This is very true at *Meryem Ana Evi*. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, lived here and lives here. A mother never dies in the home, and this remains true at *Meryem Ana Evi*. In her Assumption, Mary has become the cosmic and universal Mother who gives a message, in a patient and direct way, to the whole world through the experience of millions who visit this holy place. This is the house where Mary lived and lives.

Fr. Tarcy Mathias
MERYEM ANA EVI
EPHESUS
35922 -SELCEK
IZMIR
TURKEY

LAY ASSOCIATES OF THE COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS

A N N U A L R E T R E A T

FEBRUARY 1st & 2nd, 2002

Friday 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Mass, Praise and Worship, Coffee and Oven-Luck Dessert Social
(Families Welcome To Join Us!)

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Rosary, Praise and Worship, Teachings
Lunch (Bagged lunch or local restaurant)
Mass (Saturday readings)
Dinner, Praise and Worship, Intercession

Location: Tudor Inn

3750 Bowesville Road
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(Near the intersection of Hunt Club Road and Riverside Drive)

Cost: \$35.00

includes: sit down dinner Saturday evening, hall rental, coffee breaks
and a stipend for the Music Ministry



Mail Registration and cheque to:
"The Companions of the Cross"
c/o The Companions of the Cross
199 Bayswater Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1Y 2G5

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 19, 2002.
TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!!!

Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross

Annual Retreat

February 1st & 2nd, 2002

Name: _____ Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

Phone # Home: _____ Work: _____

Number of Tickets Required: _____ (x \$35.00)

Donation to assist those who wish to attend but are unable to afford the cost at this time \$ _____

Total Amount of your cheque: \$ _____

SEE OVER

L A Y A S S O C I A T E S

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

A l l a r e W e l c o m e

Wednesday, October 24, 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER MEETING AT ST. MARY'S PARISH, OTTAWA

***Combined Lay Associates/St. Mary's Parish
sponsored Prayer Meetings (two per month)

.....
Wednesday, November 7, 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER MEETING AT ST. MARY'S PARISH, OTTAWA

.....
Wednesday, November 21, 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER MEETING AT ST. MARY'S PARISH, OTTAWA

.....
Monday, November 26, 7:30 p.m.

HEALING MASS AT ST. MARY'S PARISH, OTTAWA

Fr. Francis Donnelly

.....
Wednesday, December 5, 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER MEETING AT ST. MARY'S PARISH, OTTAWA

.....
MORE PRAYER MEETINGS AND HEALING MASSES IN THE NEW YEAR . . .

Hope to See You There!

Please check (✓) the following:

- Currently, I am a Lay Associate.
- I am not a Lay Associate.
- I am not a Lay Associate, however, I would like to receive information on becoming a Lay Associate.
- I would like to be included on the Companions of the Cross mailing list and receive the quarterly newsletter.
- I will pray for the success of the retreat and keep the priests, seminarians, and the Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross in my daily prayers.

Welcome New Applicants



Rachad Khadij
Montreal, QC



Mike Lees
Grand Prairie, AB



Simon Lobo
Ottawa, ON



Fr. Ron Myer
Diocese of Peterborough



Barry Phillips
Toronto, ON



Danny Poulin
Lethbridge, AB



Chris Vonesh
Olds, AB



Community News & notes

By Fr. John Vandenakker

Seminarian Murray Chupka Update:

The following is a report sent to us by Murray's father Marvin, explaining what has been happening in Murray's life since a near fatal auto accident almost claimed his life back in July and left him paralyzed. Fr. Scott McCaig and Fr. Francis Donnelly have visited his bedside in Edmonton and Fr. Bob and Fr. Roger are in regular contact by phone with Murray and his parents. Please keep Murray in your prayers. We are praying for a miracle!

"Murray's traffic accident on the afternoon of July 6 this summer was a huge blow to his family, his friends and his acquaintances. It has left him paralyzed from the chest down. He now faces the arduous task of rehabilitation. However, if one looks at this whole scenario from a different perspective, it is evident that God was at work, is at work, and is bringing His glory and His mercy to what at first appearances seems like disaster.

"No doubt God is in the "muck" of this struggle with Murray but one needs to look at what He has done through this accident. This is what happened and is happening now.

"On July 6th, Murray, who had been working a summer job at the John Paul II Bible School in Radway (45 miles north-east of Edmonton), was travelling home in the late afternoon to celebrate his mother's birthday. He had not been sleeping well because of a disorder, which he has battled for most of his life. While praying the Rosary Murray drifted off to sleep. The small Nissan Sentra he was driving

veered into the opposite lane and smashed head on into the dual trailer wheels of a huge semi-trailer truck. The car then spun around on the highway and hit the rear end of a van pulling a holiday trailer. No one was hurt in the accident except Murray. Now you might ask how God was working in all this. Consider the following:

- Murray was not killed. All reason suggests he should have been. He and the other vehicles were traveling at 100 kph. Murray presented a huge, tall target sitting in that small Sentra.
- The first people on the scene of the accident were an off-duty nurse and an off-duty ambulance worker. Murray was fully conscious after the accident and responding clearly to questions.
- Murray has indicated to everyone that when he woke up at the accident scene and the paramedics were placing him on the stretcher, he had a real sense of peace and comfort. He states that he felt God speaking to his heart and assuring him that Murray was not to worry; that He was going to bring glory out of this accident.
- The lady RCMP officer who responded to the accident call was so taken with Murray's demeanor she followed Murray's ambulance to the hospital to talk to his parents. Murray's tendency to thank and bless everybody around him had a profound effect on her. In the middle of the road the officer found a small piece of paper, which contained



Murray Chupka

a prayer for Murray written by his mother. She brought it to the hospital and delivered it to Murray's mother, treating it like a piece of gold. She gave each of Murray's parents a hug and said she couldn't believe how calmly and thoughtfully Murray had acted and how he was blessing everyone around him. Later we learned that the next day she went back to the scene of the accident and searched for more items. She found a Rosary on the side of the road and delivered it to Murray's home via a neighbour, again treating it like it was something very precious. Murray's neighbour, who does not attend the Catholic Church, prayed for Murray using this Rosary, before she brought it to Murray's parents. The neighbor said

that the officer was so taken by Murray and events at the accident that she was visibly and deeply moved.

- One of the directors of the Bible School who came upon the accident scene but did not know Murray was involved, immediately with his family, began praying the Rosary for whoever was hurt. When he received a message at home that it was Murray, he drove to Edmonton and prayed over Murray.
- The doctors and nurses as they treated Murray in Emergency Services, picking glass out of his body, were rather moved by Murray's thankfulness for their help and his constant use of the words, "God bless you".
- Murray's 27 year-old cousin, a parole officer, came to see Murray in Emergency Services as he was having glass removed from his head and face. Murray immediately became concerned for her because she passed out at seeing Murray's appearance. She had to be laid on a stretcher adjacent to him. He kept asking if she was all right.
- During his stay in hospital Murray has received hundreds of visitors, including dozens of priests. He has had Mass celebrated in his room and has been receiving the Eucharist daily.
- Murray's hospital rooms have been the scenes of many praise and worship sessions, amazing staff, patients and visitors.
- One middle-aged patient who had a similar but somewhat less serious injury to Murray's informed us that Murray had been an inspiration to him. He had been quite depressed about his accident and had been placed in the same hospital room as Murray. He attributes the uplifting of his spirits and his recovery to Murray and everything going on around Murray.

- Murray's room has been decorated with crucifixes, large pictures of Padre Pio, St. Margaret de Youville and Our Lady of Guadeloupe, as well as dozens and dozens of Mass cards. One friend joked to Murray: "Murray, have they discovered that you're Catholic yet?"
- Murray has been the starting point for thousands of prayers. His prayer lines have extended across Canada and the United States, into England, the Far East, Venezuela, Nigeria, South Africa and even into Medjugorje, Lourdes, Fatima and Guadeloupe. Mother Teresa's sisters of Charity and Intercessors of the Lamb are also praying for his recovery. Murray's contacts through John Paul II Bible School and the Companions of the Cross have been a tremendous blessing.
- When Murray was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital he was placed in a room with a similarly aged son of a Protestant pastor. Both young men pray together now for each other's recovery. Both parents had prayed for Christian roommates for their sons.
- A young 17 year-old boy in another room who also has a spinal injury has attached himself to Murray. Together, every day the boys and their families pray the Rosary in the atrium of the hospital. Their intentions are often for the hospital staff that cares for them or for the conversion of fellow patients. It brings tears to one's eyes seeing these two young men in wheelchairs and neck support collars praying before two small statues of Jesus and Mary.
- Most recently Murray attended a Catholic Youth Manifest Festival in his wheelchair. In speaking to one of the head organizers, she indicated that she didn't really know why she was doing all the work for this festival until she saw Murray being wheeled into the gym for Eucharistic Adoration. She didn't know Murray but when she saw him in the gym before the Monstrance

she knew it had to be him because she had heard about this young seminarian's accident. All of a sudden she said she received a new energy and her work for the Youth Festival came alive, as it did also for many of the seminarians that attended this event and spoke with Murray. Somehow Murray's attendance and appearance had an effect on all of them. Father Robert of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx, who attended this festival, spent a good deal of time speaking with Murray and encouraging him. Murray's comment to his parents after speaking with Father Robert was, "Mom and Dad, Father Robert needs my prayers more than I need his! This priest is really, really suffering physically!" These are typical Murray comments for all people he has been associated with over the course of the past couple of months. His parents and sister are trying to keep up with Murray's faith. Some days that is just impossible.

"These are but a few of the things that God is doing in Murray's life. Can you not but see The Lord's glory rising from this accident. Murray has his up and down days. Currently he has a blood clot in one of his legs and has to deal with bad dreams probably as a result of the trauma of his accident. His most troubling challenge is fighting a depressive weight, which often hangs over or on his head. This is related to his disorder, but Murray genuinely trusts in God and feels that the Lord wants to heal him. He does long to return to the Companions. Your prayers for his full recovery are tremendously appreciated. God Bless all of you for praying for Murray."

Note: if you wish to contact Murray please do so via the Chupka's home address below:
3 Merryvale Cresc.
Sherwood Park, Alberta,
T8A 0N4
(780) 467-4123
cryschup@connect.ab.ca
Continued on page 22...

Continued from page 21...

Triumph of the Cross & Lifetime Commitments

This past Sept. 14th in St. Mary's Church in Ottawa our community celebrated the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross (the Community's feast day). Many CC Lay Associates, parishioners, friends, and family of the Companions joined us for a wonderful Eucharistic celebration and reception. This is always a significant day in the life of our community because it is at this Mass that various men who had been in "temporary commitment" with the community finally make their definitive "lifetime commitment" with us. This year six men became "lifers" and received the "red" CC cross to wear as a sign of their new status: Tim Devine; Fr. Francis Donnelly; Mark Goring; Randy Hendriks; Fr. Jim MacGillivray; and Fernando Suarez. Welcome aboard brothers! The angels are rejoicing! Elsewhere in this issue we profile the stories of Fr. Francis and Fr. Jim. For what's up with the other four seminarians please read the next item.

Diaconate Ordinations

The Companions of the Cross are happy to announce that CC Seminarian Randy Hendriks will be ordained to the diaconate by St. Catharine's Bishop John A. O'Mara in St. Joseph's Church, Grimsby, Ontario, on Sat. Nov. 17th, at the 5:00 p.m. parish Mass. Randy had requested that his diaconate ordination take place back in his home diocese so that more of his family and friends could attend. CC Seminarians Tim Devine, Mark Goring, and Fernando Suarez will be ordained to the diaconate by Ottawa's Archbishop Marcel Gervais in St. Maurice Church, Ottawa, on Friday, Nov. 30th at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend these celebrations and are asked to keep these fine young men

in their prayers as they take this important step in their journey towards priesthood. All four of these men made their lifetime commitments to the community back in September during our Triumph of the Cross Feast day Mass. They are in their final year of formation, finishing up various theology courses and taking the community's sacramental and pastoral "practicum" courses. May God bless you soon-to-be deacons Randy, Tim, Mark, and Fernando!



From left to right: Mark Goring, Fernando Suarez, Tim Devine & Randy Hendriks



The Community at the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross

**Seminarian
Dan Jeffrey Update:**

Dan will be spending the year with the Intercessors of the Lamb community in Omaha Nebraska. Dan spent some time there last summer along with Fr. Bob. Both were very impressed by this community and their gift for intercession and discernment. Mother Nadine (who led a parish mission last year at St. Mary's) founded this community. Dan will be continuing his discernment of a call to priesthood and to the Companions with them. Let us keep Dan in our prayers!



Dan Jeffrey

**Seminarian
Todd Thibeau Update:**

Todd has joined the St. Timothy's household in Toronto. Having already completed his M.Div. (S.T.B.) degree, Todd is now undertaking language training and other academic work in preparation for advanced studies in Theology. Please keep Todd in your prayers.



Todd Thibeau

**Response to an
Anonymous Letter:**

I received the following anonymous letter back in August: "To Fr. John V. I am writing concerning funds for your community. Perhaps you do all of this already, but why ask funds from just rich benefactors when your priests can give as well! I personally have knowledge of diocesan priests' income, and since you do not pay rent you can all save lots, and I mean LOTS, to help your brothers as well as those in dire need. Hopefully the rich and the poor are treated with equal respect. I don't doubt they are, in your loving community. Respectfully Yours." Fr. John responds: Dear Respectfully, thank-you

for your letter. We always carefully read all of the mail we receive and take to heart any and all comments/criticisms /suggestions that are sometimes made by concerned individuals. I would like to begin by reassuring you that we treat all people with equal love and respect, irrespective of worldly wealth or status (as Scripture exhorts us – see James 2:1-12). A lot of our donations are from ordinary people who are not incredibly wealthy. We always make it a point (see our annual fundraising appeal elsewhere in this issue) to affirm everyone who supports us, especially those who have little or no money to give but who nevertheless give of his or her time to pray for us. As regards the priests of the community, please allow me to explain our tithing policy. All priests of the community who are in lifetime commitment for five or more years are obligated to remit 20% of their gross salary back to the community as a "tithe" (some give more). Priests with less than 5 years lifetime commitment are obligated to donate 15%. All CC priests receive basically the same salary and benefits. In Ottawa, for the year 2000, a pastor received a gross basic salary of \$22,200 (Cdn). A 20% tithe of this gross salary amounts to a donation of \$4,440.00. This figure does not include extra almsgiving that many priests make to other worthwhile causes or to support family members. When you deduct this tithe amount plus the other deductions that go towards Unemployment Insurance, Pension Plan, Health Plan, etc., it does not leave CC priests with a whole lot left over. Even though room and board are paid for by the parishes we serve in (or by the community as rent to parishes where extra CC priests and seminarians live), we still have to pay all our own automobile expenses, clothing

expenses, etc. We are not complaining, however, because we embraced this as a community policy so as to be a good witness to others and to assist us in "living simply" (not having much money helps!). Perhaps you and others were not aware of the degree to which CC priests tithe. So as you can see we do indeed support our own community. We would not ask of others what we were not doing first ourselves!

**A Song about
Fr. Dan Cross:**

The following song was composed by St. Maurice parishioner Sonya Martel and sung on the occasion of a farewell party for Fr. Dan held this past June. He had served at St. Maurice as Associate Pastor these past two years and is now assigned to the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston. Gigi Lemay provided the sketch of Fr. Dan in his new cowboy boots.

Oh! Father Dan (sung to the tune of *Oh! Susanna*)

If you walked around the neighborhood
Of St. Maurice Church
You'd see a priest with a monk's hood
Without a lengthy search.

Refrain:

Oh Father Dan, we will miss you a lot!
You're heading now for Houston,
but forget us not!

This priest with the hood loves to pray
Walking a local street
In the very early part of day-
Don't bump him as you meet!

Refrain:

Oh Father Dan, we will miss you a lot!
You're heading now for Houston,
but forget us not!

And other times in early morn'
You might see this same priest
On a walk that is quite "coffee lorn"
Until his Tim Horton feast.

Refrain:

Oh Father Dan, we will miss you a lot!
You're heading now for Houston,
but forget us not!

Continued on page 24...

Continued from page 23...

He told us of his navy days.
Is this why he shaved his head?
He told us of those action days,
But left some things unsaid.

Refrain:

Oh Father Dan, we will miss you a lot!
You're heading now for Houston,
but forget us not!

He loves to bless a little kid,
Who comes up with his mom.
He laughs to see him skip and skid,
And sway to and from.

Refrain:

Oh Father Dan, we will miss you a lot!
You're heading now for Houston,
but forget us not!



Fr. Dan Cross sketch by Gigi Lemay

**Fall 2001
Household Rosters:**

58 Primrose (Ottawa)

1. Fr. Jeff Shannon
2. Fr. Allan MacDonald
3. John Paul Bolger
4. Michael Coughlan
5. Jean-François Fortin
6. Bernard Messier
7. Mike Scherrey
8. Ben Spindler

St. Thomas Aquinas (Halifax)

1. Fr. Sean Wenger
2. Fr. Gerry Gauvreau
3. Fr. John Fletcher

126 Young (Ottawa)

1. Fr. Roger Vandenakker
2. Fr. Yves Marchildon
3. Tim Devine
3. Mark Goring
4. Randy Hendriks

199 Bayswater (Ottawa)

1. Fr. Bob Bedard
2. Fr. Francis Donnelly
3. Francis Ching
4. D'Arcy Dufresne
5. Nick Simoni

Assumption Farm (Ottawa)

1. Fr. Scott McCaig
2. Fr. Jim MacGillivray
3. Fr. Ron Meyer
4. Rachad Khadij
5. Mike Lees
6. Simon Lobo
7. Barry Phillips
8. Danny Poulin
9. Chris Vonesch

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary (Ottawa)

1. Fr. George Sammut
2. Fr. John Vandenakker
3. Brian Christie
4. Ngugi Githinji
5. Phil Halldron
6. Mike Thompson
7. Gerald Whittaker

St. Mary's (Ottawa)

1. Fr. Charles Orchard
2. Fr. Terry Donahue
3. Fr. Dennis Hayes
4. Fr. Pierre Ingram
5. Fr. Rick Jaworski

St. Maurice (Ottawa)

1. Fr. Ross Lambton
2. Fr. Galen Bank
3. Richmond Guillermo
4. Jeremy Heynen
5. Fernando Suarez

Queen of Peace (Houston)

1. Fr. Christian Riesbeck
2. Fr. Daren Bryk
3. Fr. Francis Frankovich
4. Fr. Ed Wade
5. Fr. Dan Cross

St. Timothy's (Toronto)

1. Fr. Marc Syrenne
2. Fr. John Likozar
3. Fr. Ben St. Croix
4. Phil Cummings
5. Todd Thibeau

CCs in Other Residences

1. Andy Korvemaker (NET)

**Consecrated to Jesus
through the IHM:**

Every year at our annual Community Days the priests and seminarians of the community make or renew a special "Communal Prayer of Consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary." The prayer is as follows:

"We, who are Companions of the Cross, renew and ratify today in your hands Immaculate Mother the vows of our baptism. We renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises, and we give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ crucified, the incarnate wisdom and power of God, to carry our cross after him all the days of our life and to be more faithful to him than we have ever been before. In the presence of God our Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord and King, all the heavenly court, we choose you, this day, Mary, as our Mother and Queen. We entrust to you as your sons our bodies, and souls, our goods both interior and exterior, and even the value of all our

good actions, past, present and future, leaving to you the entire and full right of disposing of us and all that belongs to us according to your good pleasure, which is so perfectly united with the Holy Spirit, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. Amen." ☩



.....
Fr. John Vandenakker teaches theology and serves as Academic Director for the Companions of the Cross. He also oversees the community's fundraising and public relations efforts.



Companions of the Cross

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*"Day by day
the Lord added to
their number those who
were being saved"
(Ac 2:47)*