

Fall Issue 2002

Companions of the Cross

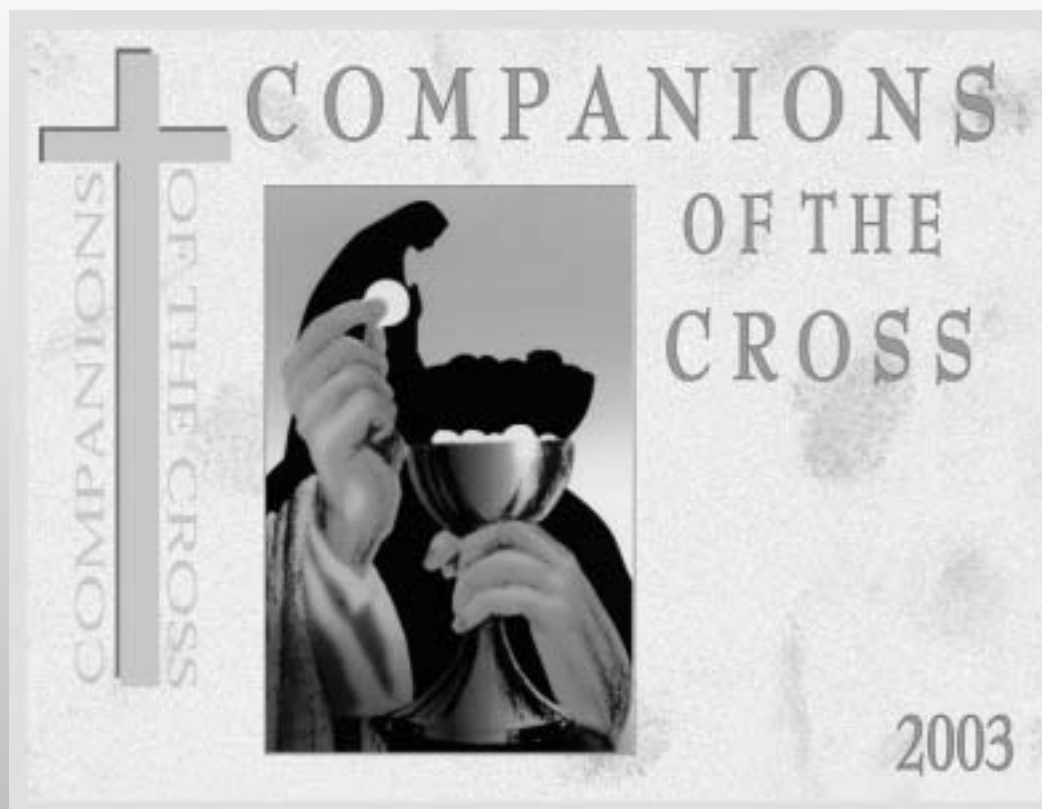


Inside

WYD 2002 Report

New Halifax Parish

OUR NEW CALENDAR



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Companions of the Cross



FEATURE

There are Great Signs of Hope in North America!

By Fr. Allan MacDonald

This was the realization I came to while representing the Companions of the Cross at the Third Continental Congress on Vocations to Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America held in Montreal from April 18-21. This Congress was the response to an initiative that came directly from Pope John Paul II. There Father Francis Donnelly and I joined with 50 (Arch)bishops, 150 priests and close to 1000 major superiors, religious and diocesan vocation directors, seminary and religious formators, sisters and brothers, members of secular institutes, parents and young adults, pastors and deacons, novices, seminarians, the newly ordained and recently professed, campus ministers and educators, Serrans and Knights of Columbus and members of other lay associations that provide human, spiritual and financial support to vocation efforts. All in all it was an excellent opportunity to meet with old friends, make new ones and to see that the Church in North America, although battered and bruised by recent scandals, is very much alive and well and filled with enthusiasm for the New Evangelization. The Congress was also an excellent opportunity for the Companions to get some publicity. A booth was set up in the Exhibition Hall and many bishops, priests and lay people took our free handouts to read and spread throughout North America!

Four days were dedicated to reflecting on vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life through the presentations of keynote speakers, small share groups, workshops and social interaction. To be able to mingle with other priests and religious (many of whom I knew personally) was really great. We were able to edify and encourage one another in our ministry and see how really wonderful and faithful our Lord Jesus is, and has been in our lives.

Through work and prayer we came together to establish a positive environment within North America for promoting vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life. But the Congress was not just this one single event - it was actually a continuation of what went on in local dioceses and religious communities throughout North America in Diocesan/Regional Congresses. At these local Congresses (I attended the one here in Ottawa) participants were asked to reflect on three questions:

1. As you consider consecrated life and ordained ministry in North America today, what gives you hope?
2. Today in North America, what do you see as obstacles to someone considering consecrated life or ordained ministry?
3. As one responsible for encouraging vocations, what are three ideas you would like to have realized or actions you could (will) take?

At the Congress in Montreal we were presented with the compiled answers to these questions. The answers to these questions are most telling! For the sake of brevity I will only share with you the common answers/themes/responses given by young people (those under 30 years of age) from across North America. Since for the most part they will be the future vocations to our Community, we need to pay attention to what they are saying, seeking and desiring.

First, they have a great respect for Pope John Paul II and see him as a credible witness. They are also looking for credible witnesses among the clergy and religious - they want to see (in a very visible way) priests and religious who are happy in their vocation. Community life, Eucharistic Adoration, fidelity to Scripture and Tradition, a vibrant sacramental and liturgical life, a desire to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance, a commitment to helping the poor, and a devotion to Mary are all important to them. Does all this sound familiar?! Yes, it sounds just like the spirituality of the Companions! Lastly, they are also thankful for youth gatherings such as the Steubenville Youth

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Fr. Allan MacDonald and friends at the CC Vocations table at WYD.

Continued from page 1
 Conferences and World Youth Day as opportunities to satisfy their genuine hunger and thirst for God in their life and to respond to the challenge we need to give them – to be saints for the new millennium! With responses like these it is easy for us to celebrate vocations as a gift from God to His Church and to continue in our work of fostering a positive climate and culture for vocations in North America. We need to remain enthusiastic in our own vocation and faithful to our Community vision and charism. God will honour this by sending us vocations.

But this Congress was not just for the delegates. It is for all of us as members of Christ's Body. Each of us is challenged to ask ourselves: What am I doing to promote and foster vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life in my parish, diocese and religious community? We must all be convinced that God is still calling and that men and women throughout North America are responding, "Here

I am, Lord, I come to do your will!" It is only through our own total commitment to Christ (regardless of our vocation in life) that we will be able to invite others to follow in total commitment. So have we yet given our lives totally to Christ?

To be an effective vocation promoter one needs to do just this. And it is being done – as evidenced by the presence of many new Communities of men and women rising up in North America – 150 in the United States and 40 in Canada. This is a real great sign of hope – as is the rising number of men and women who are entering into these Communities. They are signs of the total gift of self to the Lord in the present generation. Yet, we cannot sit idly waiting for vocations to come. Active promotion is necessary.

What is the key to "success" in vocation work? – the TRUTH. God will call the young by the power of His truth! Studies that were presented to us at the Continental Congress (from researchers

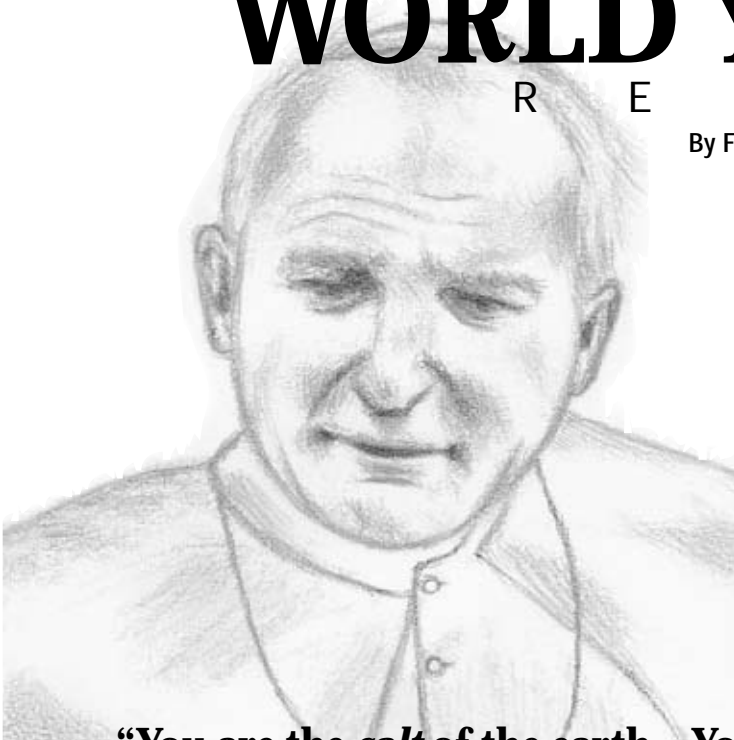
in the United States and Canada) show that young people want to understand their Catholic faith better (to know the truth) and want to make serious life choices within the context of their lived Catholicism. Again, they have a consistent hunger for God. Coupled with this, one cannot forget the importance of the personal invitation. Ask someone the question: Have you ever thought about being a priest/sister/brother? But (and this cannot be repeated enough) nothing can replace the personal appeal and witness of happy priests and religious living their consecrated lives. So please continue to pray for your priests and religious, never stop committing your life totally to Christ, actively promote vocations, love the Church and our Lady and enjoy the many signs of hope in North America. ☺

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Fr. Allan MacDonald works with Fr. Bob Bedard on Admissions for the Companions of the Cross.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

R E P O R T

By Fr. Allan Macdonald



WORLD YOUTH DAY
WYD
2002
JMJ
TORONTO July 18-28 juillet
www.wyd2002.org
www.jmj2002.org
journée mondiale de la jeunesse

“You are the *salt* of the earth... You are the *light* of the world” (Mt 5:13-14).

This past July a great and marvellous event for the Church universal occurred in Canada. It was called World Youth Day 2002 and it included the visit of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. Were you ready for it? Were you excited about it? Did you attend? Were you praying for its success? Over 200,000 young people came to our country in response to the Holy Father’s invitation to be “the salt of the earth and the light of the world.” While in Canada the Holy Father had many things to say to us, not just to the young people. He scattered and sowed many seeds. The Holy Father (and the whole WYD event itself) challenged us:

To be excited about our faith and proud to be Catholic.

To see that the Lord wants to, can and will move in power.

To open our hearts wide as good soil for the seeds that were sown.

First, WYD challenged us to get excited about our faith and proud to be Catholic.

The Holy Father himself personally chose Canada for WYD because he knew that we needed an experience of a real outburst of the Holy Spirit to WAKE US UP! And were we ever wakened up in a hurry! This event was a watershed for the Catholic Church in our country. Things will never be the same. Canada has been touched and we have all discovered or rediscovered the joy that our faith can bring to us! It is now cool and awesome to be Catholic! Collectively we have a new sense of pride and courage. Young people from around the world converged on our country, all proclaiming the name of Jesus and saying, “Jesus, I want my heart to be rich soil for your word and your seed to produce in me a great harvest.”

These were days of great renewal and grace that the CCs witnessed first hand. We hosted close to 500 young people from around the world at St. Timothy’s parish in Toronto for daily Mass and catechism sessions. The three bishops who gave these sessions were Bishop Lobo from Pakistan, Bishop Bennett from Baltimore, and Archbishop Prendergast

from Halifax. It was great to experience everyone’s love for the Lord!

As far back as two years ago, the Holy Father extended an invitation to all young people ages 16-35 to attend these days (being 35 years old myself, I’m happy that the Holy Father still considers me to be young) and they came! And when the Holy Father arrived (even in his frailty) he was energized by the young people (and they by him) and did everything he planned to do (thereby silencing his critics). What is it about Pope John Paul II and young people? Why are they so attracted to him? Is it his age? No. His white cassock? No. Is it his “Popemobile”? No. It is the fact that he speaks the truth to them! They know he loves them and will not lead them astray. But let’s not forget WYD was not just for young people – IT WILL AFFECT ALL OF US! It has caused all of us to ask: “Am I excited and proud to be Catholic?”

Second, WYD showed us that the Lord wants to, can and will move in power. We

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WYD - First time in Canada



CC Seminarians camped out to see the Pope.

saw and experienced something that we thought we could only dream about. How many of us were glued to our TVs and poured over the newspapers for all the news that came from WYD all the while saying: "Thank God that He has chosen us!"

One of the direct results of this grace of the Lord moving in power is that seminaries and convents that are faithful to the Church and carry out God's desires will flourish. Did you know that a direct result of WYD in Denver in 1993 was that the local diocese had to open its own seminary? Did you also know that a direct result of WYD in Paris in 1997 was that the diocesan seminary reopened after having been closed? As CC's we have 17 new

men and we know that the Lord will be sending us more men in 2003 because of the power and grace of WYD. All of which gives credence to the lie that there is a dearth of vocations in the Church. We had a vocations booth at WYD and received much attention from young men from all over the world seeking to join communities on fire for the Lord and His Church, who love Mary and are faithful to "the Rock" – Pope John Paul II.

I was in Denver in 1993 and Paris in 1997. But when it happens in your own country it is much more meaningful. World Youth Day left a lasting impression on the residents of Toronto and has given all of us great hope for the future. An "army" of young people "invaded" the

most secular city in Canada and rallied around their "General", Jesus Christ, and His vicar on earth, Pope John Paul II. This was the Lord moving in power! Each day the young people came together to live and experience their faith through prayer, sacrament, catechesis and service. Again the CCs were at the forefront. Both here in Ottawa for the "Days in the Diocese" and in Toronto for the main events, we were very much involved through one-on-one evangelization, Eucharistic Adoration, celebrating and serving Mass, Confessions, music ministry, dramas, testimonies, vocation promotion and being joyful witnesses. In Toronto we "camped out" in the basement hall of St. Timothy's church. Many aspects of WYD called for heroic virtue and sacrifice. I am proud to say that all the CC seminarians and priests rose to the challenge and even went above and beyond the call of duty. Never once was a complaining word heard. In fact, by the end of WYD we had all come closer



Photos left to right:

From l to r: Fr. Terry Donahue, Fr. Roger Vandenakker, Halifax Archbishop Terrence Prendergast and Fr. Scott McCaig

Passion Play at St. Timothy's

The Holy Father arrives via the Popemobile



together as brothers in love and respect for one another.

Our Community recently received two e-mails from young people who were at St. Timothy's for daily Mass and catechism. Here's what they said about their experience with us: 1) "Thank you all once again for the wonderful job you did during the catechesis sessions at St. Timothy's. The drama you did on Reconciliation on Friday morning was incredibly moving" (Dan Rocha from Dallas, TX); and 2) "I was one of the pilgrims at WYD and had catechesis at St. Timothy's. I just wanted to thank you for all that you did for us during our week there in Toronto. You and all the other priests and seminarians were so welcoming and hospitable, and we greatly appreciate it. It was a true joy to spend time with religious who are so on-fire for God, and so dedicated to their ministry. The Companions of the Cross seem like a wonderful order. I will definitely keep all of you in my prayers" (Gracie Stanford, Dallas, TX).

Another WYD participant from Ottawa wrote to say this about her experience: "I am thankful I had the opportunity to attend WYD this summer in Ottawa and Toronto. This was despite a death in my family and others becoming ill. In my mourning I realized I had to make this pilgrimage not only for me but also for my grandfather. I grew much in my faith through his loss and wanted to continue in this path by attending WYD in Toronto. In Ottawa we hosted youth from many countries for the "Days in the Diocese" part of WYD. I have two wonderful experiences with this. Firstly, helping out with Impact Canada Information Desk at Lansdowne Park. I met people from so many countries and we tried to help each other out, each in our own languages. An experience I will never forget. Secondly, the closing Mass on July 21 at Lansdowne Park was a moving, faithful experience. Ottawa Archbishop Marcel Gervais called us "to pray everyday, even start with a minute or two". But of course he was calling us to deepen our prayer life with more than just two minutes! The crowd

cheered. Following the Mass everyone clapped, sang, cheered and danced, young pilgrims waving their flags, an African band playing music. No one wanted to eat lunch, but rather join in this 'impromptu party'. So I really want to thank God for allowing me to take this journey once again and to continue my journey of faith and become stronger for it (Sarah Hogan, Ottawa, ON).

But WYD was only the beginning of the Lord's moving in power! The Church in Canada has been awakened through a good shot in the arm, and the secular press was given a reminder of just what the truth is: THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL! The streets and churches were filled with the shouts and cheers of young people boldly and courageously proclaiming the name of Jesus and gathered around to support our bishops all wanting the Lord's power to move in their lives. Their attitude challenges us to ask ourselves: "Am I going to allow the power and grace of God working through WYD to transform me?"

Finally, WYD challenged us to open our hearts wide and be like good soil. Because WYD will affect all of us, we need to make our hearts "rich soil" for the seeds of WYD to grow in our lives. How are we going to do this? First, we have to surren-



Fr. John Likozar and Fr. Dennis Hayes seek shelter from the rain.



Closing Mass Sunday morning

der our lives to Jesus, if we have not done so already, or, if we have already done so, then we need to publicly re-commit ourselves to Jesus Christ and accept Him as the Lord and Saviour of our lives! Second, in our parish communities we need to proclaim that **He is Lord and allowed to do whatever He wants to do in our parishes!** Third, we need to *give Jesus permission to move in our country*, to bring about whatever He wants as a result of WYD. We need to tell Him that we are available to do as He wants. When we do this, we will remain positive, optimistic, excited and proud to be Catholic. We will be available to the Lord as He continues to move powerfully in our lives, our Church and our country. Let our prayer as a result of WYD be: "Go for it, Lord! Have your way with us, Jesus! We have seen your power, Holy Spirit. Now bring it on!" ☩

Fr. Allan MacDonald works with Fr. Bob Bedard in Admissions for the Companions of the Cross.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Companions, Fr. Scott McCaig, Director of Formation, wishes to extend a papal-sized "thank-you" to all who labored mightily in the vineyard of WYD and helped make it such a blessing for countless numbers of people: the seminarians who did outreach evangelization with Impact Canada (CCO), and especially the incredibly successful animation of the St. Timothy's catechesis site at WYD; St. Timothy's pastoral staff and parishioners in Toronto who were amazing hosts and did around the clock adoration to intercede for us (as one Youth said afterwards: "St. Timothy's rocks!; the music & testimonies were amazing (Fr. Terry Donahue did a fantastic job pulling it altogether) and seminarian D'Arcy Dufresne was the point man on administration and deserves special mention for working his tail off; all the guys who helped out at our CC table in the vocations tent in Toronto; the seminarians at the Ottawa "Days in the Diocese" who helped run the adoration chapel (especially Nick Simoni & Richmond Guillermo and all the people who worked so tirelessly to help them), organizing various liturgies (Fr. Allan MacDonald & Phil Halldron); and all who served, led worship music, evangelized etc. The CC priests were a real presence especially in the confessionals at both Ottawa and Toronto. **It was a real community effort and a huge success.**



FEATURE

By Fr. Yves Marchildon

Companions Called to Serve in New Halifax Parish

Moving Priest

What in the Halifax am I doing in Nova Scotia!?!

Unfortunately when I refer to myself as a moving priest I am not referring to the quality of my homilies. Nor am I referring to being a mover and a shaker for the Kingdom of God. The fact is that I've moved houses a lot. My latest two year stay was the longest stint since the summer of 1986. So when a very sudden and unexpected call came for me to pack up, leave my beloved parishes, the Cursillo community, close friends, surrogate families, and my good brothers in Ottawa and head off to Halifax I got over the shock rather quickly. Mind you I think shock was replaced by denial. Leaving Ottawa has been the most difficult move of my life. Now let me quickly interject that it has little to do with Halifax, but rather that I had a good thing going in Ottawa and it felt like home after 12 years. Perhaps the Lord didn't want me to get too comfortable, but rather take up my cross and follow Him.

As I said, Halifax isn't a bad place, in fact as the locals say, "it's good for shore" (I don't quite have the accent down yet!). The two most common things people said to me upon learning that I had never been to the Maritimes have proven true. The people are friendly, and Halifax is a beautiful city (except for the Armdale Rotary, a traffic circle of unusual sorts that I drive through on a daily basis).

In late June I arrived at my new residence, St. Thomas Aquinas, a big parish on the peninsula in Halifax. Fr. Sean, Fr. Gerry, and Fr. John had been here for almost a year at that point and they were very, very, very glad to have me come join them, if I must say so myself. This September saw the arrival of seminarian interns, Brian



St. John the Baptist Parish

Christie and Francis Ching. Brian is assigned to St. Thomas and Francis to St. John the Baptist parish with me. It is great to have them with us.

St. John the Baptist is a beautiful little church, and a wonderful faith-filled
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Fr. Yves, parishioner, Archbishop Prendergast and Fr. Sean Wenger.

St. John the Baptist website: <http://fm2.forministry.com/church/home.asp?siteid=B3N1R45JTBP>

parish. And what's more I am blessed with a terrific staff. At our recent AGM of the parish, I stated that I've heard from several different sources that our parish has a reputation for being a really good parish. What a great blessing. In order to move forward as a parish I encouraged all present to strive to do all for the greater glory of God. With that as our starting point we seek to do God's will and to give Him permission to do whatever He chooses to do in our individual lives and in the life of the parish. "Lord you lead the way and we will follow."

Even though I am truly blessed in my new assignment, I still have an ache in my heart for all of you back in Ottawa. But don't worry I'll get over it by Christmas. Just kidding. ☺

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Fr. Yves Marchildon is originally from Saskatchewan. He was ordained in 1996.



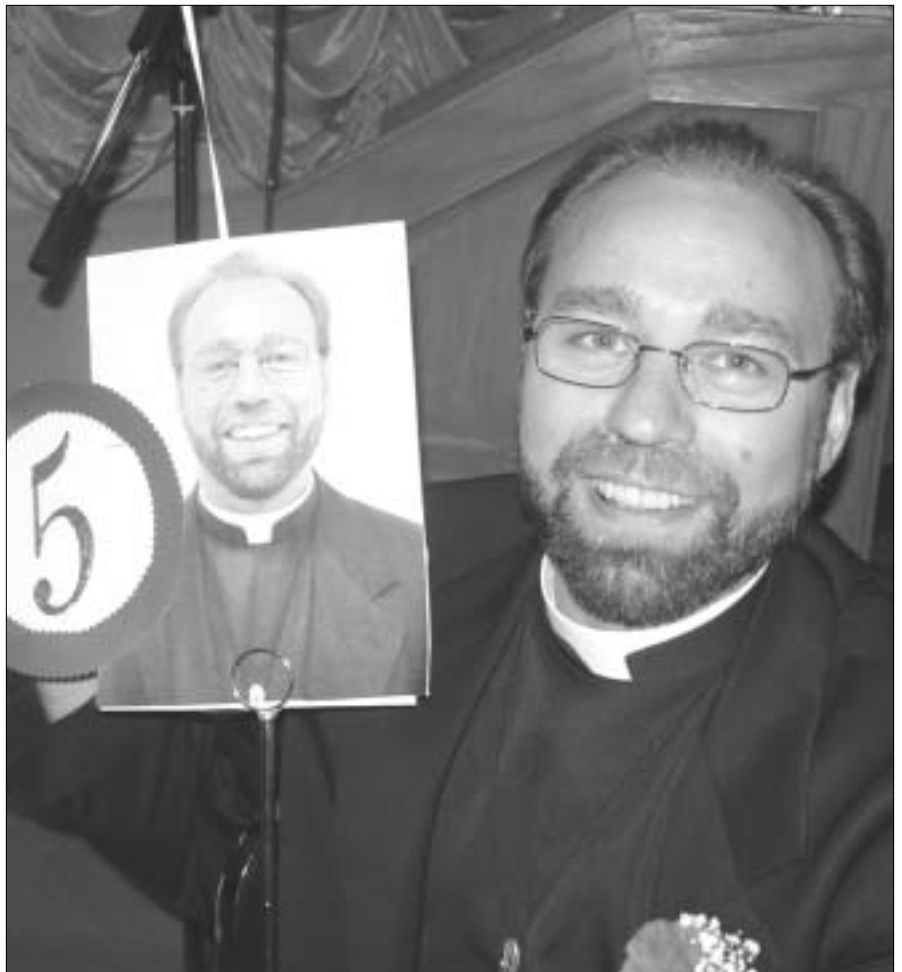
Fr. Yves being greeted by the former pastor and newly ordained Bishop of Pembroke, Ont., Most Rev. Richard Smith.



Statue of St. John the Baptist on parish grounds.



Christmas Creche inside the church.



Fr. Yves came in 5th place in the "Best Dressed Priest".



FEATURE

By Nick Simoni

Once again this past August all the Companions gathered together at Camp Red Pine (on Golden Lake, Ont.) for several days of fellowship, worship, and reflection, resulting in wonderful deepening of our faith and love. We were blessed to have 17 new men join us. They journeyed from across Canada, the U.S., and even Ireland. Welcome brothers! Other brothers travelled from our foundations in Toronto, Halifax, and Houston to hear the Lord's word to us this year. Last year we were blessed to have Fr. Jake Randall and Steve Lonardo come and speak to us about having a "childlike faith" and how to catch the Lord's "now" word. This year we had a man committed to mission.

Peter Herbeck is his name. He frequently ministers with Ralph Martin as part of Renewal Ministries of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He came with a great dynamism and zeal for souls that is rarely seen in laymen in the Church today. Truly, it was a time of encouragement and power. He had a message. Would you like to be encouraged to live a life of active faith? What is the Spirit saying to the Church? Who are the prophets in our Church today? These were some of the themes Peter touched on as he spoke to us about his own experience and his love for the Church. I was personally touched by his enthusiasm for the gospel and his ability to speak prophetically as a messenger of our Holy Father, John Paul II. If one wanted to be encouraged to live a life of active faith, he/she would only have to spend some time in the presence of Peter Herbeck. St. Irenaeus once said, "The glory of God is man fully alive". Peter, I think, exemplified this to our community. He came full of love, joy, and humility. He came preaching Jesus. It was all about Jesus being glorified.

"Courage to Proclaim the Gospel"

A CC Community
Reflection Days Report



Peter Herbeck was the guest speaker.

In the opening session, the first song we sang was "Come, Now is the Time to Worship". The word that stood out to me was the word "Now". Not tomorrow, not yesterday, not a few moments ago, not in an hour, but NOW! My brothers and sisters who are reading this report "now" is the time to worship. Now is the time for a great proclamation of the gospel! Now is the age of the Spirit!

Peter's opening talk focused on what the Spirit has been saying to the Church in the last century. He centred the talk on two great popes. One lived at the turn of the

previous century and one at its end: Leo XIII and John Paul II. Pope Leo penned the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel after having a dream in which he heard the devil say to him, "I will defeat your Church". But despite the horrors that were unleashed in the previous century upon the Church and the world (Communism, Nazism, Genocide, Abortion, etc.), the gates of hell did not prevail. John Paul II called much of what transpired last century a sign of the "culture of death" which is trying to devour God's people. A great spiritual battle has been raging. It is a battle between light and darkness, the spirit of the world and the spirit of the gospel, between life and death. Ultimately, it is a battle between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of hell.

Pope John Paul II called Vatican II a "New Pentecost." The first words out of his mouth as Vicar of Christ were: "Be Not Afraid!" Peter Herbeck reminded us of this. He also reminded us of the second thing he said: "Open wide the doors to Christ!" These words are so simple; yet, they are prophetic to our time. We no longer have to live in fear; we no longer have to remain silent. We need to allow the Spirit to move. Peter reminded us of the teaching of the Holy Father and the Vatican II documents which say the Church is fundamentally charismatic. The charismatic dimension is in fact co-essential with the institutional. The Holy Father has said that his "fundamental mission is to have people become docile to the Holy Spirit." Our own founder, Fr. Bob Bedard, has repeated time and time again that the Charismatic Renewal was never meant to become a movement; rather, it was meant to penetrate the whole Church. Pentecost is now!

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New members in temporary commitment (from l to r) John Paul Bolger, Ben Spindler, Bernard Messier, Fr. Allan MacDonald, Jean-Francois Fortin, Ngugi Githinji & Mike Scherrey.

My heart is filled with gratitude as I write this report. Why? It is because I know what Peter, the Holy Father, and Fr. Bob are speaking are not their own ideas or opinions. Their words echo the words of Jesus himself. The Lord is raising up prophets who are willing to speak the truth in an age where people are living in total confusion. Are you willing to open to the Spirit? Are you willing to surrender all to our Lord? Trust me, you will not be disappointed. Your reward will be great in heaven.

What is the Spirit producing today? We are living in a time of great scandal in the Church. It may seem like a "severe mercy" but the Lord is lancing a deep wound in the Church in North America by bringing to light all the darkness and rooting it out. Don't take this judgement too lightly, but neither should we fear it. Repent for the Church. Fix your gaze on Jesus. Remember the Holy Father's sense that a new springtime of faith is coming. This is why Peter said that the Lord is putting a song in the hearts of believers. Christians are being filled with a longing for heartfelt worship. While the world is producing self-protection and selfishness, the Spirit is producing a new openness to Jesus and his plans.

A major word I think the Companions of the Cross received was the truth that "without faith it is impossible to please God" (cf. Rm. 4:16). Our guest evangelist for the week took us back to Abraham and his need to trust totally in the promises God had given him. St. Paul exhorts us: "So you see that it is men of faith who are the sons of Abraham... So then, those who are men of faith are blessed with Abraham who had faith" (Gal. 3:8-9). This spoke to me personally. I felt like the Lord was telling me to hold fast to the promises he had given me in my own life. I also felt convicted that as Companions of the Cross (and to all Christians in general) we need to live more deeply a life of faith. Peter told us that St. Thérèse of Lisieux once said "what really offends Jesus is a lack of confidence in him." John Wimber once said that "faith" is spelled R-I-S-K.

As a seminarian, I really sense the Companions of the Cross are becoming what the Holy Father has called for: "centres where men are filled with "missionary dynamism." We are "moving from



Fr. Bob with Deacon Tim praising the Lord.

maintenance to mission," to a state where we "live in a constant state of mission." May Jesus be glorified more!

I don't think it was a coincidence that Peter Herbeck came preaching prophetically in union with John Paul II. Both men are solid "rock!" (No pun intended). Foundations are being built for a time of radical evangelization such as we have never seen before! Our lives are short. Let us run the race with full confidence in Jesus. Never give up! May the Cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be proclaimed forever! Amen. ☪

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Nick Simoni is a fifth year seminarian with the Companions, in his second year of theology.



The Companions of the Cross
Present An
“All Saints & All Souls”
Mini-Conference

Nov. 1st & 2nd at the Tudor Inn,
3750 Bowesville Rd., Ottawa

*Everyone is
Welcome to
Attend!*



*Learn More
about our Faith
& Be Blessed!*

Friday Nov. 1st

7:30 p.m. - Prayer & Praise & Mass of All Saints
with Special Litany to the Saints

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. John Vandenakker

Topic: “A Reflection on the Life and Times of our
Newest Saint – Padre Pio”

Saturday Nov. 2nd

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer & Praise

9:30 a.m. – Talk by Fr. Bob Bedard

Topic: “Praying With the Saints...Our
Companions on the Journey”

10:30 a.m. – Break

11:00 a.m. – Talk by Fr. Scott McCaig

Topic: “A Meditation on the Last Things: Death,
Judgment, Heaven, Hell...and Purgatory too”

12:00 Noon – Lunch Break (no lunch will be served on site)

1:30 p.m. – Talk by Fr. Dennis Hayes

Topic: “Why Pray for the Dead?”

2:30 p.m. – Break

3:00 p.m. – Mass of All Soul’s Day & Candlelight
Prayer Ceremony for All Departed Souls

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. Jim MacGillivray

No Registration Fee – A Free Will Offering Will Be Taken Up
For Further Information Contact Mary Lauzon at 297-0899



Fr. Bob Says:

Our Community Needs Your Help!



Please consider making a donation today to support us in our efforts to make *Vision 2005* a reality and to help us finance our ongoing operations.

Many seminarians will be assisted by your kindness. Many souls can be reached by their future ministry.

Many blessings will flow out into the Church and world as a testament to your faith and by your support of the *Companions of the Cross*.

Together we can build a legacy of faith for the Church of today & tomorrow.

P l e a s e G i v e G e n e r o u s l y & P l e a s e



Companions of the Cross

Welcome New Applicants



Matt Chojna
Tottenham, ON



Rod Davis
Houston, TX



John Dillon
Athlone, Ireland



David Dobbelsteyn
Saint John, NB



Mickey Dopp
Maryhill, ON



Luc Fillion
Ottawa, ON



David Fletcher
Saskatoon, SK



Christopher Kinsella
Edmonton, AB



Andy McGorman
Stratford, ON



Chris Murphy
Bawlf, AB



Brian O'Neill
Montreal, QC



Richard Pilon
Campbell's Bay, QC



Michael Quilty
Athlone, Ireland



Cory Roan
Vancouver, BC



Ryan Schmidt
Winnipeg, MB



Jamie Utronkie
Killaloe, ON



Joseph Yawney
Sudbury, ON

Keep Praying & Interceding for us!

ORDINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

& *Invitation*



Deacon Tim Devine



The Companions of the Cross are proud to announce that
Deacon Timothy Devine
will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, November 23rd
at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Ottawa
by the Most Rev. Marcel Gervais, Archbishop of Ottawa

*Come witness this joyous and holy event!
All are welcome!*

You are also invited to attend Fr. Tim's "Masses of Thanksgiving"

Sunday, November 24th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, Ottawa, ON
(reception to follow in the parish hall)

Sunday, December 1st at 2:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, Kitchener, ON
(reception to follow in the parish hall)

Please remember Tim in your prayers and beseech the Holy Spirit to pour out
an extra special anointing on his life and future ministry!

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things.

From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope is gone.

From Mary we learn to love Jesus Christ her Son and the Son of God."

- Pope John Paul II

The Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross

Invite One and All to Attend Their

A N N U A L C O N F E R E N C E

February 7 & 8, 2003

Tudor Hall – 3750 Bowesville Rd., Ottawa, ON



*“You are The Potter,
I am the Clay”*

(cf. Jer. 18:1-4)

F R I D A Y F E B . 7 T H :

- 7:30 p.m. – Opening Mass, Praise & Worship, with all the priests and seminarians of the Companions of the Cross. Homilist & Presider: Fr. Roger Vandenaeker.
Theme: “We Have This Treasure in Earthen Vessels” (2 Cor. 4:7).
- 9:00 p.m. – Coffee & Dessert Social

S A T U R D A Y F E B . 8 T H :

- 8:30 a.m. – Rosary & Morning Praise & Worship
- 9:15 a.m. – Break
- 9:30 a.m. – Talk #1 – “How to Conform Our Will to God’s” (Fr. Jeff Shannon)
- 10:30 a.m. – Break
- 11:00 a.m. – Talk #2 – “New Wine For New Wine Skins” (Fr. Terry Donahue)
- 12:00 noon – Catered Sit-Down Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. – Talk #3 – “Do Whatever He Tells You” - John 2:5 (Fr. Bob Bedard)
- 3:00 p.m. – Break
- 3:30 p.m. – Mass of the Day, Praise & Worship. Homilist & Presider: Fr. Dennis Hayes.
Theme: “Receiving Empowerment and Healing for Discipleship.”
- 5:00 p.m. – Break (Dinner available offsite only)
- 7:30 p.m. – New This Year! - Youth Fest: An Evening of Christian Drama, Song, and Celebration. In Conjunction with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) & National Evangelization Training (NET). For Youth of all Ages (from 9-99).
Note: This Evening Event is Free of Charge & Open to All!
-

Only \$35.00 per person (includes catered lunch, coffee breaks)

To register, please send your name, address, and phone number, along with a cheque payable to Companions of the Cross for the number of tickets you require.

Mail it to: Companions of the Cross, #199 Bayswater Ave, Ottawa, ON, K1Y 2G5.

For further info please call Mary Lauzon of the CC Lay Associates at (613) 297-0899



LAY ASSOCIATES CORNER

By Fr. Dennis Hayes

One of my first duties as your new Lay Associates Chaplain is to pen a few words for this issue of our fall newsletter. I'll begin by thanking Fr. Jeff Shannon for the gracious manner in which he handed the baton to me this past June, providing me with a thorough and detailed orientation of my new duties as Lay Associate Chaplain. In the last issue of our newsletter, Fr. Jeff stated that there is "excitement in the air"... Excitement indeed, this past July we witnessed the inspiring events surrounding World Youth Day in Toronto, the arrival of our Holy Father John Paul II along with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world. In late August, just prior to our community opening retreat, we held our first Ordination Anniversary Banquet & Fundraiser. This was a wonderful and joy filled evening with many in attendance filling the allocated hall at St. Elias Centre to capacity.

On November 1st and 2nd we hope that you will be able to attend the All Saints & All Souls Mini-Conference. We plan to

make this Mini-Conference an annual event. In February of next year, the Companions of the Cross will once again host the annual Lay Associate Retreat at Tudor Hall. There will be some changes to the regular schedule. A sit down meal will be served at lunchtime instead of at the supper hour, this is in view of launching a special Youth Fest on Saturday evening. We do hope many more young people will be in attendance this year. Please see the advertisements in this issue for more details on all of these events.

At the beginning of my tenure as Lay Associate Chaplain I look forward to serving you to the best of my abilities mindful that all our efforts at building the Kingdom of God here on earth are utterly dependent on the grace of God. So, please, let's keep all of these upcoming events and each other in prayer. ☺

Fr. Dennis Hayes is working in the formation program assisting Fr. Jeff Shannon with the second year applicants as well as being Chaplain to the Lay Associates.

LAY ASSOCIATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

HEALING MASSES

October 10th 2002
7:30 p.m.
St. Maurice
Fr. Fernando Suarez

November 27th 2002
7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's
Fr. Dennis Hayes

December 18th 2002
7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's

A Pilgrimage to "Our Lady of Guadalupe" and Holy Mexico

**February 17th to March 1st, 2003 (13 days)
with Fr. Mark Goring of the Companions of the Cross**

Shrines of

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - Our Lady of Ocatlan (The Lourdes of Mexico)
 - St. Michael's Well
 - Blessed Miguel Pro -SJ (a Mexican martyr)
- Mexico City's spiritual, historical and cultural sites
A superior beach resort in Huatulco, on the Pacific coast
Daily Mass and Rosary

Cost: \$2789.00 per person (dbl. occ.)

- Includes: Round trip airfare (Ottawa via Toronto)
- Mexico City - Huatulco
- First class hotels with two meals per day
- Deluxe motor coach with guide
- All admission fees
- Airport transfers and service charges

Come and experience spiritual renewal, great fellowship and relaxation.

For more information call Gail Goshko (613)744-1418

Special Information Meeting

Sunday, January 5th at 2:30 p.m. St. Mary's church hall (corner of Baywater and Young Sts., Ottawa)



*"Here I will see their tears.
I will console them and they
will be at peace."
Our Lady to St. Juan Diego*



FEATURE

By Ralph Martin

Crisis in the Priesthood

Twenty-two years ago I wrote a book, *A Crisis of Truth: The Attack on Faith, Morality and Mission in the Catholic Church*, because I was so concerned at the prevalence of false teaching and the open acceptance of immorality even in leadership circles of the Church. (The book is now out of print). The chapters I wrote on “The Undermining of Sexual Morality,” “Seeing and Not Seeing,” “Powers, Principalities, and Organizations,” “Pastoral Passivity,” “Pointing Toward Judgment,” and “A Time for Repentance,” provide amazing documentation on the root causes of the corruption that is being revealed today.

When the bishop of Palm Beach, Florida resigned, admitting inappropriate sexual behavior with seminarians when he was rector of a seminary, it was interesting to note that he invoked the theological climate of the late 1970’s as a factor in his behavior. But just as the moral theologians who were spreading this corruption widely among the leadership circles of the Church were ineffectively corrected and disciplined by the bishops, so too were the priests and many others who acted on the basis of their corrupt theories. This is now becoming clear to everyone.

Eight years ago, Fr. Benedict Groeschel declared in an interview that this is “the darkest time in Catholic history and the history of the United States.” Since then, it has only become darker, at least regarding the manifestation of the bad fruits that

were hidden for so long. And of course this problem is not restricted to the United States. The Church in Canada, Ireland, and Australia has gone through waves of shocking revelations in this regard and the cleansing and purification in these countries is by no means over. And as I write, bishops in Germany and Poland have just been asked to resign because of sexual immorality.

While these are sad and dark days, they are also very hopeful days. For the first time since the corruption of the post Vatican II times set in, there is the hope that honest and vigorous repentance and reform may come about.

As I write this, a day hardly goes by without some additional revelation of the cover-up of sexual immorality among the clergy. But as one of my priest friends recently said, “this is only the tip of the iceberg.” **The focus is on immorality that is also a civil crime, namely, the sexual exploitation of minors. But there is a much wider problem of sexual immorality among “consenting adults” that is also being covered up and is**

sapping the vitality and fervor of the Church. I have gotten so many heart-breaking letters over the years from parishioners who have stumbled upon this corruption (of adult homosexuality, adultery and fornication) but have been frustrated in their efforts to deal with it. Bishops have ignored their pleas for help, and have simply transferred offending clergy to another parish. Admittedly some of these cases were tough judgment calls and reasonable people could have decided these differently with no imputation of irresponsibility. And it’s far easier to see clearly in hindsight than it sometimes is on the spot. Others of these cases though were so clear and so abominable that it is truly difficult to imagine how these priests could have been reassigned again and again with “good recommendations.”

What are we to make of all this? **While these are sad and dark days, they are also very hopeful days. For the first time since the corruption of the post Vatican II times set in, there is the hope that honest and vigorous repentance and reform may come about.** It is not because the Church leadership willingly took this path, but because the world is forcing us into it. That is shameful but not without precedence. When God’s people in the past didn’t judge themselves he would send for “outsiders” to carry out the chastisement that was needed. And who of us has not experienced this at least in some measure in our own lives?

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

And while these are dark days, there have been dark days before, very similar to what we are experiencing today, that God has brought the Church through. Catherine of Siena, writing in the 14th century, gives us an example of how to deal with such situations as she confronted the sexual corruption among clergy of her day. On the one hand, she made very clear our need to honor, respect and value the dignity of the priesthood as an amazing gift from God, and at the same time not to cover-up moral corruption when it appears. Catherine shares what she senses God the Father showing her about the situation (the reference numbers are chapters in Catherine's book, "The Dialogue" in the Paulist Press edition):

"I have told you, dearest daughter, something of the reverence that ought to be given my anointed ones no matter how sinful they may be. For reverence neither is nor should be given them for what they are in themselves, but only for the authority I have entrusted to them. The sacramental mystery cannot be lessened or divided by their sinfulness. Therefore, your reverence for them should never fail – not for their own sake, but because of the treasure of the blood." (118)

"For those who are not corrected and those who do not correct are like members beginning to rot...But those who are in authority today do not do this. In fact they pretend not to see (119)...They will never correct persons of any importance...They will, however, correct the little people (122)... And do you know why? Because the root of selfish love is alive in them, and this is the source of their perverse slavish fear...They believe they can succeed through injustice, by not reproving the sins of their subjects... Another reason they will not correct others is that they themselves are living in the same or

greater sins. They sense that the same guilt envelops them, so they cast aside fervor and confidence and, chained by slavish fear, pretend they do not see." (119)

"I want to show you the wretchedness of their lives, so that you and my other servants will have the more reason to offer me humble and constant prayer for them. No matter where you turn, to diocesan or religious, priests or bishops, lowly or great, young or old, you see nothing but sin...the filth of deadly sin."(121)

And now we need
for God's mercy to be
poured out on the
Church as well.

"They get up in the morning with their minds contaminated and their bodies corrupt. After spending the night bedded down with deadly sin they go to celebrate Mass! O tabernacles of the devil!" (123)

"No, these wretches not only do not restrain their weakness; they make it worse by committing that cursed unnatural sin...The stench reaches even up to me, supreme Purity, and is so hateful to me that for this sin alone five cities were struck down by my divine judgment. For my divine justice could no longer tolerate it, so despicable to me is this abominable sin." (124)

Concerning the active practice of homosexuality, Catherine hears the Father say: "How abominable this sin is to me in any person. Now imagine how much more hateful it is in those I have called to live celibately." (124)

"And how can those who are so sinful bring their subjects to justice and reproach them for their sins? They cannot, for their own sins have left them bereft of any enthusiasm or zeal for holy justice...And sometimes when they recognize that these religious are incarnate devils, they send them from one monastery to the next to those who are incarnate devils like themselves. Thus each corrupts the other... Superiors are the cause of these and many other evils because they do not keep their eyes on their subjects...they pretend not to see their wretched behavior." (125)

Why is this corruption being revealed? So a true cleansing can take place. So proper authority may finally act. So we may pray. So all of us may examine our own lives as well. So, obstacles to the coming of a new springtime for the Church may be removed in all of us.

After the terrorist attacks of 9/11 we suggested that we all pray and fast in some way, especially on the first Friday of each month during this year, for God's mercy to be poured out on the world. And now we need for God's mercy to be poured out on the Church as well.

We need to remember as we face these distressing realities that God is in control and that He is only permitting this to be revealed because it is such an abomination, and it is sapping the vitality of the Church so greatly. On the other side of this judgement and cleansing will be a Church more able to reflect the holiness of Christ, to be a light to the world, and a fragrant aroma to the Lord.

United with you in prayer, repentance, suffering and hope.

Your brother in Jesus,
Ralph Martin

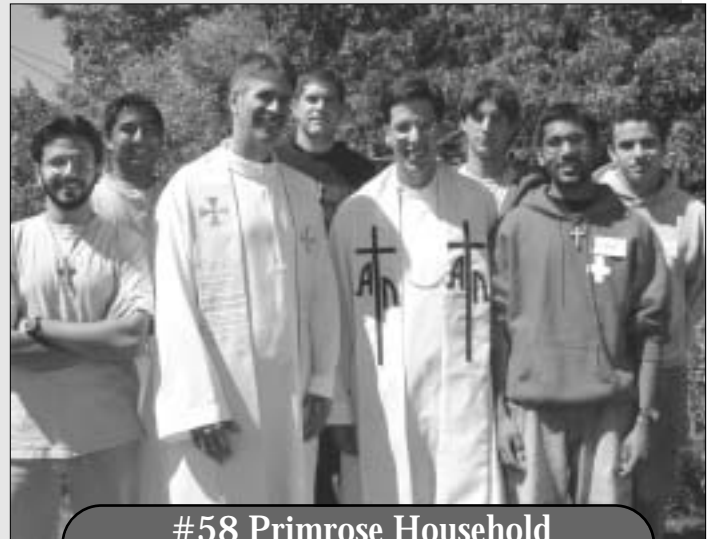
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*This letter is used with the permission of
Renewal Ministries.*



Companions of the Cross
H O U S E H O L D S

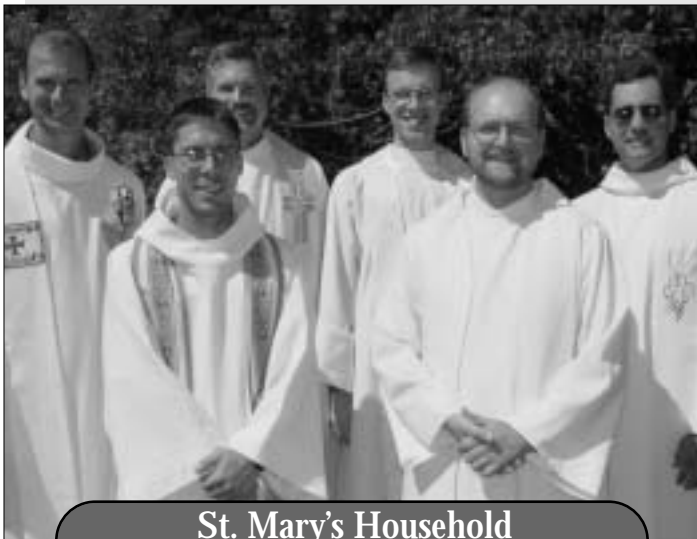


Queen of Peace Household
 Houston, Texas

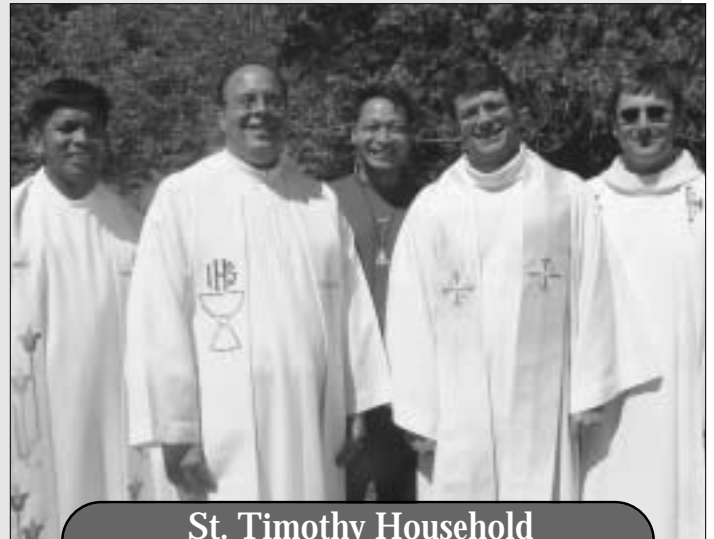


#58 Primrose Household
 Ottawa, Ontario

(Murray Chupka missing from photo)



St. Mary's Household
 Ottawa, Ontario



St. Timothy Household
 Toronto, Ontario

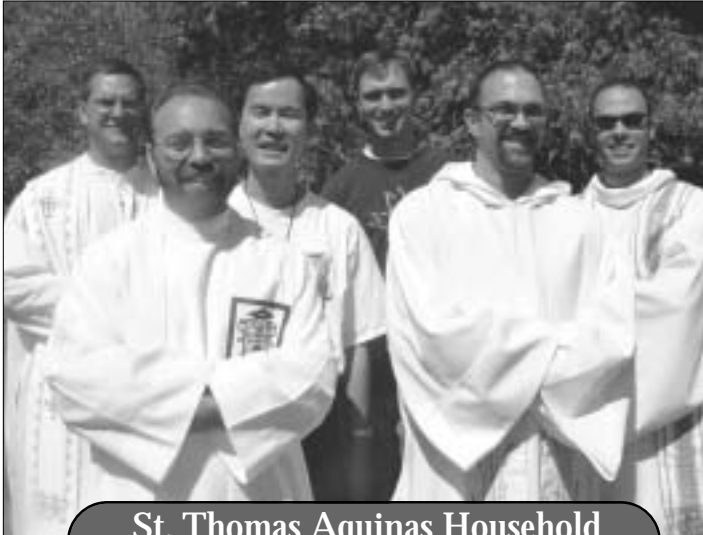
(Todd Thibeau missing from photo)



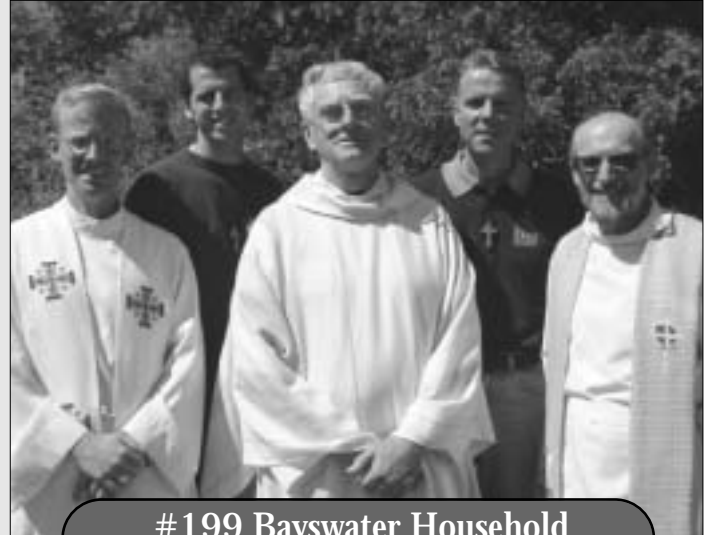
New Applicants Household
 at Assumption Farm



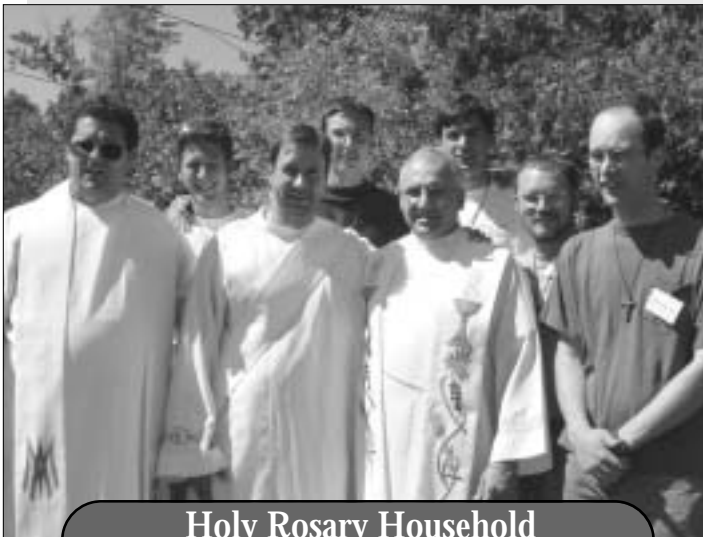
Companions of the Cross
H O U S E H O L D S



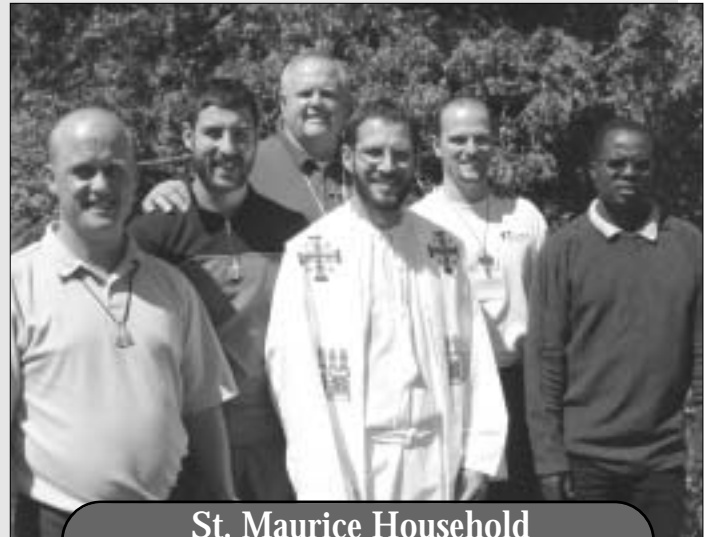
St. Thomas Aquinas Household
Halifax, Nova Scotia



#199 Bayswater Household
Ottawa, Ontario



Holy Rosary Household
Ottawa, Ontario



St. Maurice Household
Ottawa, Ontario

(Fr. Ross Lambton missing from photo)



COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

By Fr. John Vandenaeker

Ordination Anniversary Dinner & Fundraiser

Six Companions priests were honoured for their service to the community and the Church at a special "Ordination Anniversary Dinner" that was held on Wed. Aug. 21st at the St. Elias Hall in Ottawa. Over 270 guests were on hand to hear the tributes (with a little roasting on the side) that were given to Fr. Yves Marchildon, Fr. Christian Riesbeck, Fr. Jeff Shannon, Fr. Marc Syrenne, Fr. Dennis Hayes, and Fr. Ed Wade. The hall was beautifully decorated (thanks to Christine Labrosse & Joan Surette). CC seminarian Francis Ching provided some wonderful dinner music (he is quite an accomplished pianist). Coordinating the entire event was Mary Lauzon of our CC Lay Associates' Office. This event also doubled as a 'fundraiser' for the community. Over \$12,500 was collected. Thanks to all who came and shared in the happiness of this event and who were also able to make such generous donations! On the following Sunday (Aug. 25th) these men were once again honoured and prayed for at St. Mary's 11:00 a.m. Mass, where Fr. Ed Wade presided. Another reception followed in the parish hall. With so many familiar faces around the altar that day it felt a little like a St. Mary's alumni reunion!

CC Personnel Update

Fr. Terry Donahue's life has just become busier! In September he took on the part-time position of executive assistant to the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Luigi Ventura. The Nuncio is known generally as the Pope's "ambassador" to a civil government. The principal task of



Honourees sing for their supper (from l to r): Fr. Dennis Hayes, Fr. Yves Marchildon, Fr. Jeff Shannon, Fr. Ed Wade, Fr. Christian Riesbeck, and Fr. Marc Syrenne.

the Apostolic Nuncio is to make ties between the Holy See and the particular Churches of the territory to which he has been assigned more solid and effective. Likewise, he must promote and support relations between the Holy See and civil authorities. One of the special attributes of the Apostolic Nuncio relates to the appointment of bishops in the country where he works. It is his responsibility to transmit or propose to the Holy See the names of candidates as well as to provide background information on those who are to be promoted. Fr. Terry will have a lot of confidential work to handle as he takes on this delicate job. But it is quite an honour for him to be asked and for the Companions to have someone so well "placed." Two days per week Fr. Terry will work out of the Nuncio's residence and office located at 724 Manor Ave. in Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park neighbourhood. The rest of the time Fr. Terry will contin-

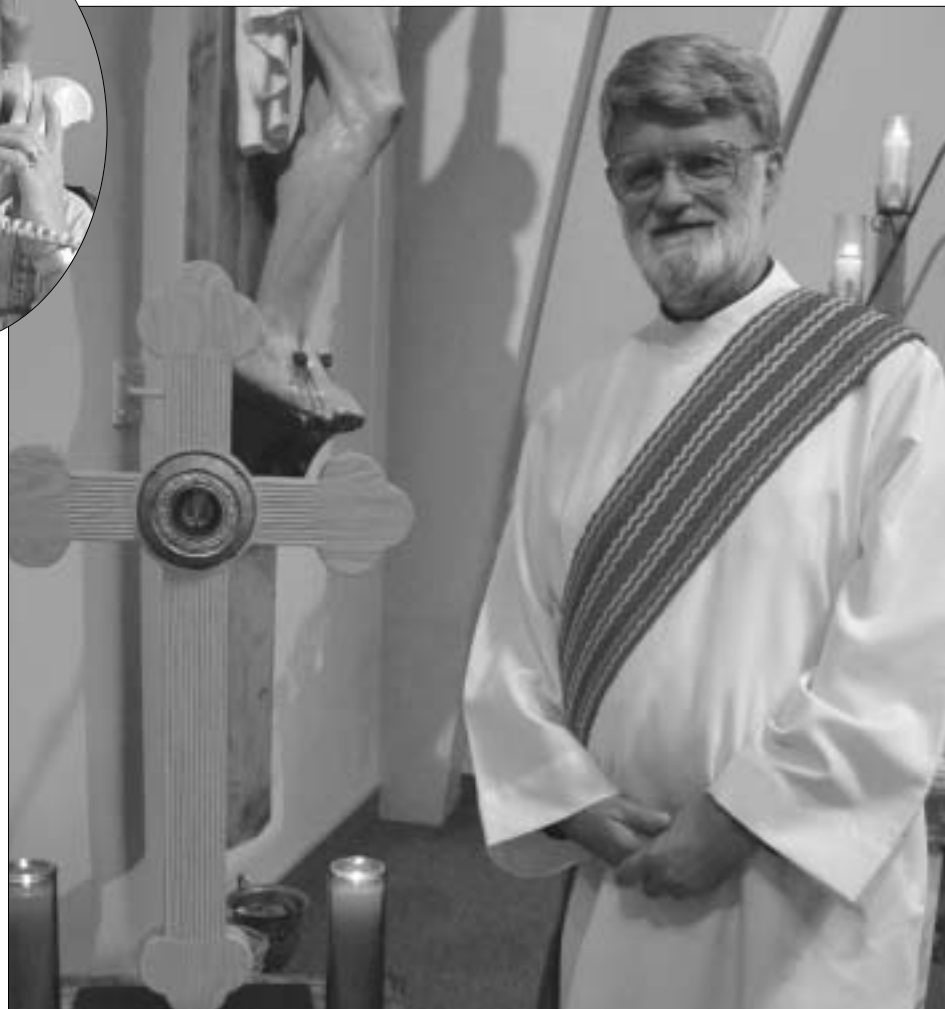
ue working for the Companions developing programs for lay formation, evangelization, and doing other pastoral ministry as needed.

Rather than going to St. Maurice parish in Ottawa to partake of his pastoral internship experience (as was previously announced), CC seminarian Francis Ching has been sent to Halifax instead. Francis will be working with Fr. Yves Marchildon in St. John the Baptist parish. He will reside with our other Halifax CCs in the rectory of St. Thomas Aquinas parish. Francis asks us all for prayers because sometimes he feels like he doesn't know whether he's coming or going!

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Viola Rochefort

Mrs. Viola Rochefort, who has been our beloved receptionist at our CC Main Office at #237 Breezehill Ave. in Ottawa for the last few years, left us at the end of September to pursue further ministry in the area of intercession and to assist her husband with some work projects of his own. Viola has always had a real gift and heart for this special kind of ministry. Last summer she traveled to Omaha, Nebraska to spend some time with the Intercessors of the Lamb community. There she felt a renewed call from the Lord to get more involved with intercession. She already heads up an intercessory group at St. Mary's parish. As well, she and her husband David will continue to coordinate the sacristan's ministry at St. Mary's parish. To top things off, this past summer saw two of their daughters get married (leaving only two more to go!). We wish to thank Viola for her many years of dedicated service and pray that the Lord will continue to bless her in these new ventures.



Deacon Bernie MacDonald standing beside the relic of the True Cross he donated to the Companions (it is in the glass holder in the middle of the wooden cross).

The CCs are pleased to announce that Mrs. Linda O'Donnell has been hired to take Viola's place as receptionist. Linda is a long time parishioner at St. Mary's parish and a Lay Associate. She began her new duties on October 1st. Welcome aboard Linda!

Feast of the Triumph of the Cross

This year the Companions celebrated their annual community feast a day earlier than usual – on Friday Sept 13th (instead of the 14th – which is the actual date of the feast of the Triumph of the Cross). A joyful Mass was held at St. Mary's church and a festive reception followed in the parish hall (thanks go out again to Joan & Larry Surette for doing a stellar job of organizing the reception, and to Fr. Allan MacDonald for being the

liturgical MC). There was no one making any lifetime commitments to the community this year. Instead, one highlight of the evening was the "Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity" that our CC professors publicly took (Fr. Francis Donnelly, Fr. Pierre Ingram, Fr. Rick Jaworski, and Fr. John Vandenkaker). This is something the Church asks of all those who are tasked with the responsibility of teaching and upholding the faith, especially at the university or college level. We thought it would be a good idea if we did this in public as an act of witness, underscoring our intent as CCs to be always faithful to the magisterium of the Church. The Profession of Faith is basically a reiteration of the Nicene Creed. The Oath of fidelity goes as thus: "I (name), on assuming the office of teacher of the Catholic Faith, promise that I shall always preserve

communion with the Catholic Church whether in the words I speak or in the way I act. With great care and fidelity I shall carry out the responsibilities by which I am bound in relation both to the universal Church and to the particular church in which I am called to exercise my service according to the requirements of the law. In carrying out my charge, which is committed to me in the name of the Church, I shall preserve the deposit of faith in its entirety, hand it on faithfully and make it shine forth. As a result, whatsoever teachings are contrary I shall shun. I shall follow and foster the common discipline of the whole Church and shall look after the observance of all ecclesiastical laws, especially those which are contained in the Code of Canon Law. With Christian obedience I shall associate myself with what is expressed by the holy shepherds

as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith or established by them as the Church's rulers. And I shall faithfully assist diocesan bishops so that apostolic activity, to be exercised by the mandate and in the name of the Church, is carried out in the communion of the same Church. May God, and the holy Gospels of God which I touch with my hands, help me in this way."

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Deacon Bernie MacDonald and his family for donating to the Companions a relic of the True Cross (encased in a small glass area in a larger wooden cross). We are very grateful for this precious relic.

Companions Ministry Report

Here is a partial list of various kinds of "specialized" ministry (parish missions, retreats, conferences, etc.) that Companions' priests have been engaged in over the past year (from Sept. 2001 - August 2002). This ministry does not include the regular parish ministry that many of our priests are hard at work doing. It simply reflects some of the "extra-curricular" activities of the community as we seek to be of service to the cause for renewal in the wider Church. Please also note that many of our priests were also very involved last summer with various World Youth Day activities and ministries. These are not listed (see article about WYD elsewhere in this newsletter).

Fr. Dennis Hayes conducted parish missions at St. Peter's in Sarnia, ON (Oct. 1-3), St. Joseph's in Grimsby, ON (Oct. 15-17), Holy Family in Hanover, ON (Mar. 4-6), and Annunciation of the Lord in Ottawa, ON (Mar. 18-20). The theme for Fr. Dennis' missions was "Put Out Into the Deep" (Lk 5:4), which he based on reflections found in the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter for the new millennium *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

Fr. Roger Vandenaeker preached a Day of Renewal in Salmon Arm, B.C., last October, and conducted a parish mission at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Halifax in February. Fr. Jeff Shannon was chaplain from Aug 4-10 for a "Nazareth Family Camp" held at Dominus Vobiscum in St. Gabriel, Quebec for families in the Ottawa and Pembroke area. In late March Fr. Scott McCaig attended a special "gathering" in Michigan for Renewal Ministries (with Ralph Martin - it was a meeting of their country coordinators and missionaries) to pursue closer ties between CCs and that ministry.

Fr. Bob Bedard taught at the John Paul II Bible School in Radway, AB (Nov. 18-23), spoke at the CCs annual Lay Associates' Retreat in Ottawa (Feb. 1-2), conducted a 'mini-mission' at St. Maurice parish in Ottawa (Feb. 15-17), gave a weekend retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto (Mar. 1-3), spoke at the Family Prayer Mission Conference in Toronto (Mar. 15-17), spoke at a Charismatic Conference in Chicago, IL (Apr. 12-14), conducted a weekend seminar at St. Thomas Aquinas parish, Halifax, NS (May 10-12), conducted a parish seminar in Fenelon Falls, ON (June 17-21), led a priests' retreat in Philadelphia, PA (June 17-24), and spoke at a Revival Conference in Philadelphia, PA (June 24-26). Fr. Sean Wenger conducted a Healing Mass outside his own parish at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Halifax, NS (Apr. 9).

Fr. John Vandenaeker led a retreat for St. Vincent De Paul volunteers in Guelph, ON (Sept. 29-30), conducted a weekend retreat for St. Anne's parish in Brampton, ON (Oct. 12-14), led a charismatic priests' retreat in Osaka, Japan and spoke at a lay conference in Nagoya, Japan (Nov. 1-11), conducted an Advent parish mission at St. Malachi's in Montreal, PQ (Dec. 1-5), led a Lenten parish mission at St. Catherine's, Metcalfe, ON (March 2-6), spoke at a charismatic conference at Mother of Dolors parish in Vandalia, IL (Mar. 8-10), led a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, and

Medjugorje (Apr. 19- May 1), spoke at the "Ride the River" symposium at All Saints Lutheran church in Ottawa (May 15), and animated a charismatic conference in Gander, NFLD (July 26-28).

Fr. Allan MacDonald was chaplain to the National Evangelization Team for their three weeks of training at Waupoos Farm in Ottawa, assisted with CCO evangelical outreach at Carleton University in Ottawa, conducted a parish mission at St. Margaret's, Midland, ON (Oct. 13-17), conducted another parish mission at St. Mary's, Owen Sound, ON (Mar. 3-6), led a pilgrimage to the Canadian Martyrs Shrine, Midland, ON for the staff and students of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay, ON, conducted community & vocations promotion at the "Lift Jesus Higher" rally in Toronto (Feb. 6), represented the Community at the Continental Vocations Congress in Montreal with Fr. Francis Donnelly (Apr. 18-22), directed CC members in Temporary Commitment in their 5 day silent retreat at Assumption Farm (May 6-10), accompanied Fr. Bob to Philadelphia for a priest retreat and charismatic conference (June 17-27).

Fr. Francis Donnelly led a retreat at Marylake in Toronto (Sept.), led a retreat in Houston, Texas (Oct.), led a retreat in Halifax, NS (Nov.), led a retreat for the Ottawa Men's Movement (Jan.), conducted a parish mission in St. Hubert, near Montreal, PQ (Feb.), led a retreat for men in Columbus, OH (Mar.), led a charismatic retreat in Saranac Lake, NY (June), and worked and taught with Impact Canada (July/Aug). Last summer Fr. John Fletcher was the priest chaplain for a group of young people from the Halifax-Dartmouth-Cape Breton area on a trip to the Steubenville East Conference held at the LaSalette Shrine in Attleboro, MA.

Continued on page 24

A Vision 2005 Update

There is just one update of note to pass along concerning the status of Vision 2005. In the summer issue of this newsletter we ran a story entitled "Is the Lord Opening a Door?" – which explained our desire to obtain from the Ottawa-Carleton Roman Catholic School Board the former St. Thomas Aquinas Teachers' Centre (virtually next door to St. Mary's church) for use as a teaching, evangelization, and administration center for the community. In August we put in a formal offer to the OCRCSB to lease this vacant property for a 12-month period provided we could have the opportunity to purchase it outright after that time, and provided any zoning and property severance issues were satisfactorily resolved. Unfortunately, for a variety of different reasons, the OCRCSB felt it could not act on our offer at this point in time. They did offer to just lease it to us though. However, the CC Executive Council, with advice from its Temporal Affairs Committee, had to turn down this option. It would simply be too costly for us to lease a property like this one with no hope of eventual ownership. This does not mean that the door is closed for good to our dream of obtaining this property. It just means we may have to look elsewhere as we continue to wait upon the Lord for his direction. Keep praying!

Theology Courses Offered

By Saint Paul University and Taught by the Companions - Winter 2003 Schedule:

THO 2103c - The Christian God (3 cr.) with Fr. John Vandenakker. Introduction: a look at the causes of atheism and unbelief. The gift of God's self-revelation and our response as recorded in Scripture. The origin and development of the "doctrine" of the Trinity in the early Church.

Contemporary reflection on the mystery of God in today's world. **Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Begins Jan. 10th**

THO 2187c - Theology of Marriage (3 cr.) with Fr. Francis Donnelly. The human reality of marriage. Christian understanding of marriage. The sacramental dimension. Some major pastoral and juridical aspects. **Thurs. 1:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Begins Jan. 9th**

THO 3103c - Johannine Literature (3 cr.) with Fr. Rick Jaworski. An Introduction to the Gospel of John, the Johannine Epistles (1, 2, 3 John), and the Book of Revelation. Concentration on the Gospel of John. (Prerequisite: THO 2101 – Gospel Interpretation: Mark). **Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Begins Jan. 9th**

THO 3107c - The Eucharist (3 cr.) with Fr. Pierre Ingram. Origins of the Eucharist. History of Eucharistic practice and theology. The rite: liturgy of the Word and liturgy of the Eucharist. Eucharist and the Paschal mystery. (Prerequisite: THO 2184 – Christian Liturgy) **Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Begins Jan. 7th**

THO 3136c - Sexual Ethics (3 cr.) with Fr. Mark Slatter. The meaning of human sexuality. Sexuality grounded in the Principle of Growth. Sexual and personal integration. Discerning moral values in sexual behavior. Christ, prayer, and sexuality. (Prerequisite: THO 2109 – Moral Existence) **Mon. 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Begins Jan. 6th**

For further information on how to register, tuition fees, location of classes, etc., please contact the Academic Coordinator of the Companions: Fr. John Vandenakker at (613) 729-4273 or by email at frjohnv@rogers.com. ☎

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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.

The response to Fr. Roger Vandenakker's August fundraising and prayer appeal has been wonderful. Many of you who are on our CC mailing list received Fr. Roger's letter and really took it to heart. We truly wish to thank-you for your generous and timely response. Here at the Main Office we have all been awestruck by the numbers of you who took the time to write to us and express your support. We can't thank all of you personally, but know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We definitely have a dedicated group of benefactors who are interceding for our needs, both those of the temporal and the spiritual kind. Please keep up the good work! We have made a good start in the area of raising the necessary funds to support the ongoing work of the community throughout this current fiscal year, as well as our hope to make Vision 2005 a reality. But we still have a long way to go.

Note: if any of you received duplicate letters of our most recent mailout, or have recently moved, please notify our office so that we can update our records. We are in the process of overhauling our data management operations so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and so serve you more effectively.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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*"I give thanks to my God
always on your account for the
grace of God bestowed on you
in Christ Jesus"
(I Cor I:4).*