

Winter Issue 2003

Companions of the Cross



Inside

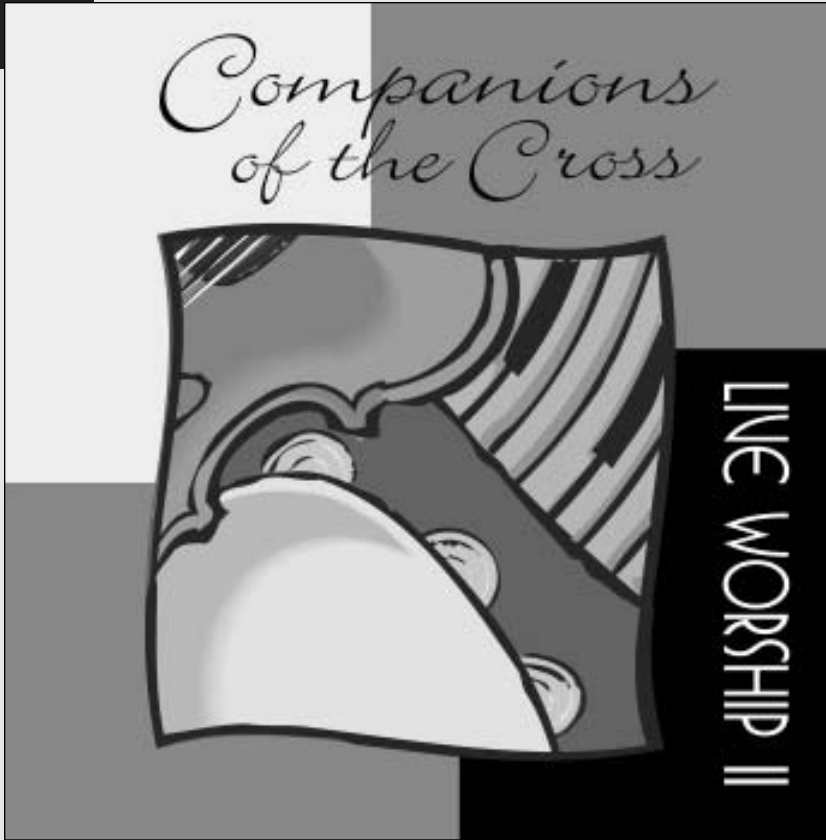
Fr. Tim Devine's Ordination

Year of the Rosary

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Credits

Publisher
 The Companions of the Cross

Editors-in-Chief
 Fr. Robert Bedard, Founder
 Fr. John Vandenakker

Managing Editor
 Christine Labrosse

Graphic Design
 Dyann Bernard
 Pigs Can Fly Design
pigscan@atcanada.ca

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

The editorial team welcomes your comments and inquiries.
 Mailing Address:
 199 Bayswater Avenue,
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 2G5
 Office: (613) 728-3175
 Fax: (613) 725-1590
 Website: www.companionscross.ca
 E-mail: comprows@cyberus.ca
 Publications Mail Agreement #: 40016244



Companions of the Cross



FEATURE

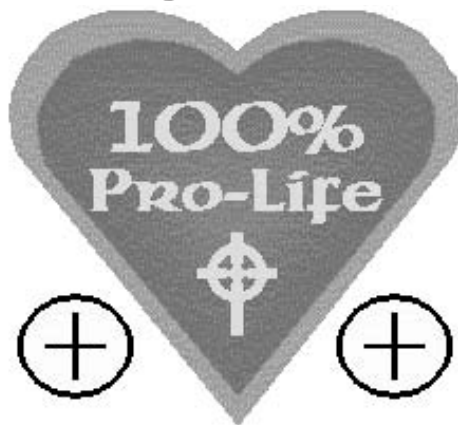
By Fr. Allan MacDonald

From October 24-27, 2002 I was in Toronto with one of our first year applicants, Andy McGorman, to attend the International Forum: "Creating a Culture of Life". It was a very well attended conference with people of all ages from around the world. As I participated in this Conference I became even more convinced of the need for all of us to defend life from conception to natural death.

Why should we be pro-life? Let me present a hypothetical case: How many people do you know named Joe? What if we heard that a new law was passed that said that anyone named Joe could be legally put to death? What would we say or do? Certainly, we would protest the "law" and say it was wrong. Would we not all come together at once to restore legal protection to all those named Joe? We would certainly say that this new law was against the Constitution, which claims to protect the rights of every person. But suppose that even the Constitution were changed to say that it's OK to kill Joe. Would we then say it is really OK? No, it would still be wrong!

In other words, there is a right and a wrong NO MATTER WHAT the laws or even the Constitution has to say. Every law must obey a higher law that is written not on paper, not by people, but by God. That higher law says that every person, no matter what his/her background or condition, has the right to life. **We may never kill an innocent person.** Our very civilization rests on this truth. It is the difference between civilization and the jungle, between society and chaos. It is not a question of "our" morality or "their" morality, of "old" morality or "new" morality, but rather of morality itself! Killing the innocent is wrong, and no law or Constitution can ever make it right.

Being Pro-Life



My brothers and sisters, we run the risk of making a great mistake. We are falling into the error of saying that some human beings are not persons. Just change the word "Joe" to "pre-born baby" and look at what the Supreme Court said. Boys and girls in their mothers' wombs are not considered persons under the law, and therefore may be destroyed by abortion. Some 300 pre-born children a day are being killed by abortion in Canada, over 106 thousand a year, and over 55 million a year in the world.

If we are decent, caring members of a civilized society, then anyone who suffers in that society is our concern. The Christian is not free to exclude anyone from his or her love and concern! The more defenceless the victim is, the stronger is our obligation toward him/her. The pre-born baby, the sick and the elderly are certainly the most defenceless of all victims! We need to defend their rights!

We need to realise that whenever one innocent person is deliberately killed, all of human society is attacked. When the child is a victim of abortion, and the sick and elderly of euthanasia, we are all victims, because our life is protected by the same principle that should protect their

life. This principle is that life is a gift of God. It is given by God and can be taken only by God. If we start taking the lives of one another, then nobody is safe. If society tolerates the killing of one group of human beings, what is to keep it from moving on to another group? Once killing gets in the door, it ravages the entire house. If you can kill an innocent, unwanted child, then why can't you kill an innocent unwanted grandparent, or an innocent, unwanted neighbour?... And what is to keep the neighbour from killing innocent, unwanted us?

Either the right to life belongs to all, or it belongs to none. No government has the right to limit it and say it belongs only to some. Our rights do not come from governments; they come from God. The Creator gives the right to life. It is "inalienable", that is, it cannot be taken away. **Governments exist to protect those rights.**


EVERY human being is a person. You cannot exclude anyone! We have a duty to speak up for them! Abortion and euthanasia is our concern, because we care for the weak and defenceless. Abortion is our concern, because we care for the mother and want to offer her the support and help she needs to bear that child and, after birth, to either raise the child or place him/her up for adoption. To say that women "need" abortion is to insult them, and to abandon them. It is also to repeat again an old error of history. It is to say to countless children, "You don't matter. I am not responsible for you".

To be pro-life is to be pro-woman. We do not say that the child is more important than the mother is, but that both are equal. The challenging teaching of the Gospel demands a strong "No" to contraceptives, *Continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

abortion, euthanasia, violence and the Culture of Death; and a strong “Yes” to the real needs of both mother and child. **Love is the business of the Christian.** We must choose life for both of them, and offer and provide alternatives. Archbishop Marcel Gervais of Ottawa has said that, “We are so stuck on our comforts and conveniences that we are willing to sacrifice innocent human blood ... What is at issue is not just human life, but the Supremacy of God. If we are pro-life, we are pro-God.” Archbishop Adam Exner of Vancouver said, “**It is time to stop making excuses.** It is time to stop being afraid of what others will think when we stand up for what is right. It is time to challenge the status quo. **It is time to put our faith into action.** It is time to be resolutely pro-life both in private and in public. A child is not a problem to be eliminated, but a gift always to be treasured”. **We cannot fear the culture of death!**

I want to congratulate the organizers of the recent International Forum, “Creating a Culture of Life” for their public stand on the sanctity of life in all its stages. Let us follow their lead and renew our sense of responsibility for all human beings and our determination to protect their rights. Let us work together so that the laws of our nation may obey the higher Law of God! God is the giver of life, and He will give us strength to protect and defend it.

It may seem to us that the forces behind abortion, euthanasia and the whole “Culture of Death” are strong. **Yes, they are strong, but they are wrong.** The truth shall prevail in the end. The pro-life victory will be won, because Christ is risen, and He is more powerful than death! As Companions of the Cross we go forth fearlessly, proclaiming and advancing the victory of life! Let us be mindful of Jesus’ own words in the Gospel, “Beware of the scribe”: Beware of rhetoric and policy statements – **the clear issue at hand must be life and not death!** 

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

FEATURE

Fr. Tim’s Ordination Makes Headlines

OTTAWA  CITIZEN

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2002
The Ottawa Citizen
Used with Permission

“There Are Hidden Blessings in Blindness”

By Bob Harvey

When you are disabled, you have to push for your dream,” says Tim Devine. And he has pushed harder than most through six years of seminary training, so that he can be ordained in Ottawa next weekend as a Roman Catholic priest. He has also had to learn braille so that he will be able to read prayers and Scripture texts to parishioners. Until 1983, when the Catholic Church revised its code of canon law, the blind were prohibited from becoming priests, and relatively few have been admitted to the priesthood anywhere in the world since the changes in the law. He believes he is the first blind man to be ordained by the church in Canada. Mr. Devine, 28, became Rev. Devine last year when he was ordained a deacon, and began 10 months as an intern at St. Timothy’s parish in Toronto. He has performed marriages and baptisms, but is still practising for his first celebration of a Mass. It is a challenge.

He was born with only three per cent vision and, from grade school in Kitchener through the University of Waterloo, the Dominican College and St. Paul University in Ottawa, he studied with the help of volunteer readers, books on tape, and a computer display that magnifies the words of a text enough for him to read with his limited vision. After entering seminary, he realized none of these methods would help him read the daily prayers and readings to parishioners. So he learned braille. Rev. Devine has memorized the words of the Mass, preaches mostly from memory, and can print out braille versions of the prayers and Scripture readings. But when parishioners come forward to receive communion, he cannot see them or what he is offering them. His solution is to recruit a helper who can squeeze his wrist to alert him when a communicant has arrived in front of the altar, and to invite parishioners to guide his hand as they drink from the chalice and receive the host.

One of the reasons given in the pre-1983 version of canon law for prohibiting blind men from celebrating Mass was the danger they would not be able to do so safely or with dignity. And Rev. Devine is concerned about the possibility of spilling the consecrated hosts and wine, which Catholics believe are the actual body and blood of Christ. “I don’t want to be fumbling. It would be scandalous or sacrilegious to spill it.” But he is confident it won’t be a problem. “I have the ability, and I have practised enough to be confident,” he said. Rev. Devine can also do things the rest of us cannot. When the power went out in the Toronto parish one night, Rev. Devine kept on



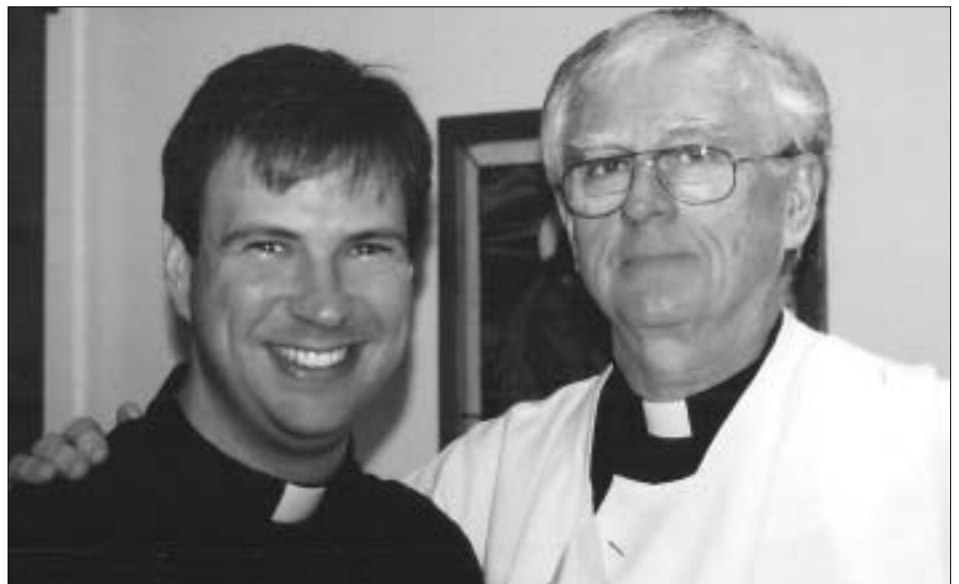
reading from his braille text. What tipped him off that something had changed were the surprised chuckles of the people in the pews. "There are hidden blessings in blindness," he says.

Rev. Devine is part of the Companions of the Cross, a growing Ottawa-based group of 70 priests and seminarians that is awaiting formal Vatican recognition of its status as an independent community. Its members are now working in Toronto, Halifax and Houston, Texas. He says that without the community life of the Companions, it would have been much more difficult for him to become a priest. "If I were a diocesan priest alone in a parish, I could probably pull it off: but it would be a lot more challenging." Like at least three other blind priests in the U.S. and South Africa, Rev. Devine is a talented musician. He plays piano and he and his brother Matt headed up Critical Mass, a rock band with Catholic content that won the best rock band award of the year in the 2000 Gospel Music Awards for Canada. The band also played for Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Toronto this summer.

What drove him to enter the seminary was a feeling that "there has got to be more to everyday Catholic life. In my search for that, I thought maybe I should give my life as a priest. It would be a way to go all out. "The last thing I want is to be a poster boy for what blind people can do. I want to focus on being and doing what I can do," he said. Rev. Devine will be ordained by Archbishop Marcel Gervais at 10:30 a.m. Saturday November 23rd, 2002 at St. Mary's in Ottawa, the headquarters of the Companions of the Cross. He will then be attached to Holy Rosary parish, across from the former Grace Hospital, until July.

Continued on page 4

*Top to bottom:
Fr. Tim doing a
television interview;
Archbishop Gervais,
Deacon Tim and
Fr. Roger
Vandenakker;
Deacon Tim awaits
the call to Ordination
with his family and
Fr. George Sammut;
Fr. Tim and
Fr. Bob Bedard*



Newly ordained Catholic priest shares his special vision of faith

Monday December 2, 2002
EUGENE MCCARTHY
RECORD STAFF

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KITCHENER – The priest celebrating Mass yesterday afternoon at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church in Kitchener appeared, in many respects, to be no different from any other cleric.

If the hundreds of people attending Rev. Tim Devine's first celebration watched closely, however, they would see he occasionally read parts of the service using his fingers to trace the braille words in a book.

And, they might have learned that his chalice – a gift from his parents John and Maureen for his recent ordination – was specially weighted so it would not tip easily if he accidentally brushed it.

The 28-year-old Kitchener native is believed to be the first blind man to be ordained to the Catholic priesthood in Canada.

Devine said he knows there are other sightless priests who have been ordained in the U.S. but so far has been unable to locate them to exchange views about how they cope with their handicap while fulfilling their duties.

Yesterday, eight days after being ordained in Ottawa as a member of the Companions of the Cross religious order, Devine said Mass in the Laurentian Drive parish. He was guided by Rev. George Sammut of Ottawa, the pastor of the Ottawa church where he will be stationed until next July.

The music for the service was provided by his fellow musicians in Critical Mass, a spiritual rock group in which he plays piano and keyboard and his brother, Matt, a high school teacher in Brampton, plays guitar.

The group became even better known when they were chosen to play on the same stage with Pope John Paul during a World Youth Day celebration in Toronto last July.

Twenty years ago, Devine would not have been allowed to begin studies for the Catholic priesthood because church law before 1983 forbade ordination of blind candidates and those with other physical impediments such as missing fingers.

Devine was born with retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited disease that has left him with only about three per cent vision and able to see shapes or blurred outlines if lighting conditions are correct.

He is, however, “thankful I was born at this time.”

He noted in a weekend interview that the numerous aides and technological advances developed for the sightless in recent years enabled him to complete his elementary, secondary and part of his university training at St. Jerome's in Waterloo before beginning six years of studies with the Companions, leading to last week's ordination.

Rev. Bob Bedard, founder of the order, told the congregation yesterday he first met Devine eight years ago.

“His smile lit up the room we were in. He told me he wanted to be a priest and a member of our order. And, then he said, ‘But I'm blind.’”

Bedard admitted he had misgivings “but then the Lord interrupted me and said, ‘I've sent this man and you open the door and make room for him.’ I said to myself, ‘OK, right on.’”



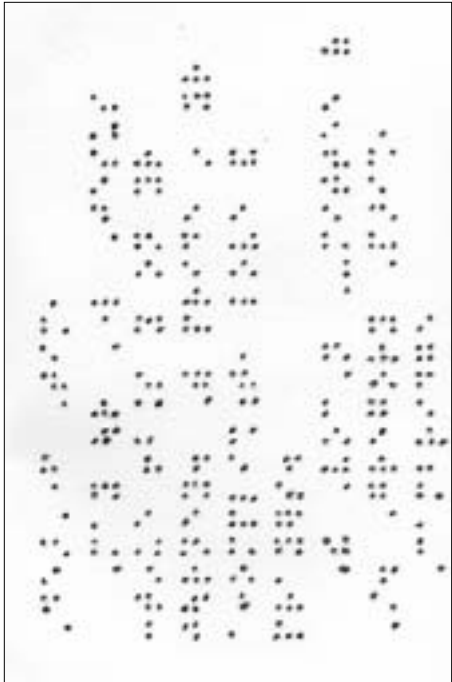
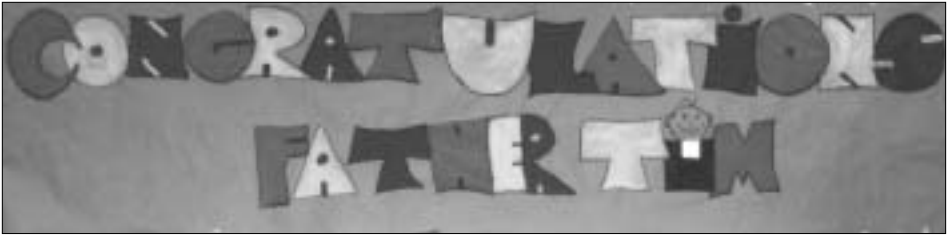
Fr. Tim's Ordination Prayer Card

*“Regardless of where we are
on our journey home,
can we not exclaim
with all the saints
who have before:*

*Let the Fire Fall; let it fall on me!
I need the power of the Holy Spirit
to repent, to convert,
to know God, to live in grace,
to pray, to praise, to adore,
to love, to minister to others,
to be an instrument of
healing and evangelization,
to defeat the power of the enemy,
to do God's will,
to advance the Kingdom of God,
to grow in holiness,
and to come into union with
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever. Amen.
LET THE FIRE FALL!”*

Fr. Michael Scanlon, T.O.R.

Father Timothy J. Devine
Companions of the Cross
Ordained to the Priesthood
November 23, 2002
“Please pray for me”



*Top to bottom:
Translation of Braille - "Wishing you all the happiness a Priest has ever known with blessings from the hand of God who chose you for His own."; Fr. Tim celebrates Mass at Blessed Sacrament parish in Kitchener; Laying prostrate on the floor during his Ordination*

Devine said that when he decided to become a priest, he talked to a number of representatives of religious orders.

"When I told them I was blind, no one said no, but some of them were more rigorous in their questioning after that."

His choice of the Companions was also predicated on the fact that it is a tenet of the order that no fewer than four of its members live in the same residence, a fact Devine said would benefit him not only to have someone around to assist him when necessary but also for joint spiritual activities.

Continued on page 6



Continued from page 5



Cover photo and photos in this article by Mr. Vincent Chan of *Invisionation Photography* are used with permission.



Top to bottom:
Fr. Tim hugs his Dad John;
Archbishop Gervais ordains Deacon Tim to the Priesthood;
Fr. Tim, Archbishop Gervais, Fr. Bob Bedard, Fr. George Sammut in background;
Fr. Tim imparting a special blessing to his Mother Maureen

TESTIMONY

By Mike Minifie

When I was asked by the community to write my testimony about God's calling in my life I was a little hesitant since I would be discussing myself, weaknesses included. Those who know me, with the exception of a few, probably see me as the wisecracking and joyful man that I tend to be. Most are unaware of the more painful and wounded side to my life. It is precisely this side which has been the vehicle that has carried me to the Cross of Christ which, in turn, has formed my identity as a son, child, prodigal and lover of God. In spite of my hesitation in baring my soul this way, I hope it encourages whoever reads this to know that they don't have to be holy to experience the love of God. I'm not even holy now!

My first memory was a painful one. As a young boy, I experienced some hurts that caused a lot of fear and shame within me. As a result of those moments, I resolved to be as strong and as tough as I could be. On the interior, life became a power struggle between fear of love and desire for it. I learned to put on my best face in public. I was the comedian, fun-loving, and inquisitive kid.

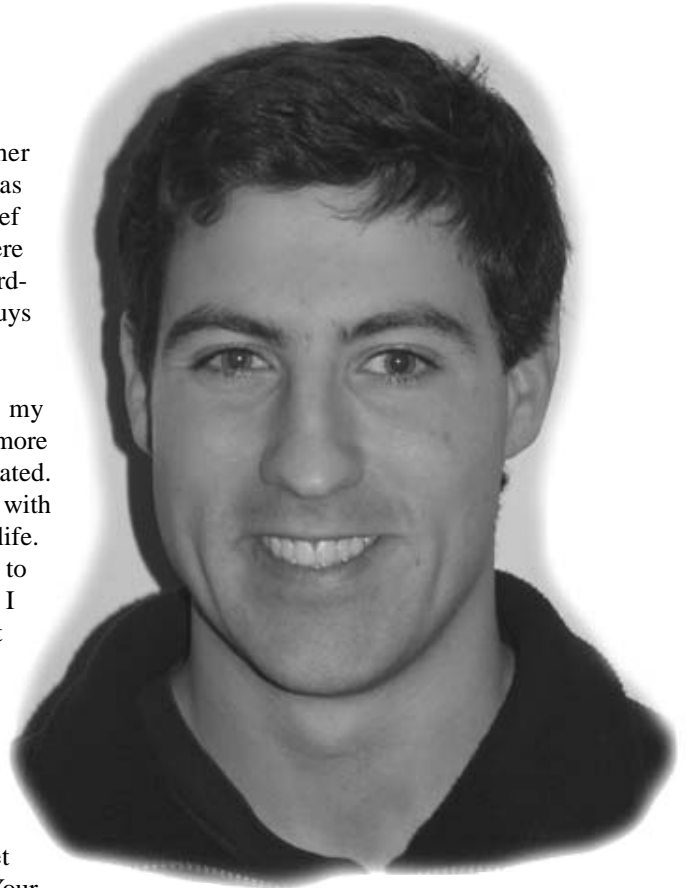
Thankfully, the Lord introduced into my life good people, great parish priests and a family consisting of three wonderful brothers and a Mom and Dad who loved me very much. My brothers and I were all close in age. Since we lived in the country, they became my friends during the long summer months of exploring old barns, playing in the woods and fields and driving my mother crazy! These moments helped me to forget some of the pain and loneliness I felt inside.

Unfortunately, the emptiness never left me. As I got older, I would often ask myself about the purpose of my existence. I felt an incredible burning to do something great with my life but

my vocation seemed rather nebulous. Priesthood was contemplated for a few brief moments; however, they were very brief indeed. Priests hardly looked like the tough guys you see on T.V.

In the fall of Grade 12 my questions became a little more introspective and sophisticated. Probing, however left me with very little insight into my life. Little by little, I began to turn to God in prayer. One night I remembered the events that happened to me as a young boy. I had never forgiven the people who had hurt me. It was at that moment God said to me, "Michael, how can I live in a heart that hates? You swore to get revenge but you never did. Your hate has become your disease. I want you to not just forgive them, but love them too!" This was a very difficult thing for me to do, but through the grace of God I prayed, "In your name Jesus I forgive and I love all those who have hurt me." At that moment I felt a peace inside which has never left me. This freedom set me on a path toward meeting Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

The following summer, when I encountered Christ's request for a personal commitment to him, it was a bit of a surprise to me. I had been living the "double life," confessing Christ on Sundays and living a different life during the week. So I thought it was a little crazy that God would want me. In spite of this, I said yes and I have never been the same. The joy on the outside is now the same on the inside; in place of anger and hurt I have the love of God that affirms me for who I am. Although I admit the path of healing

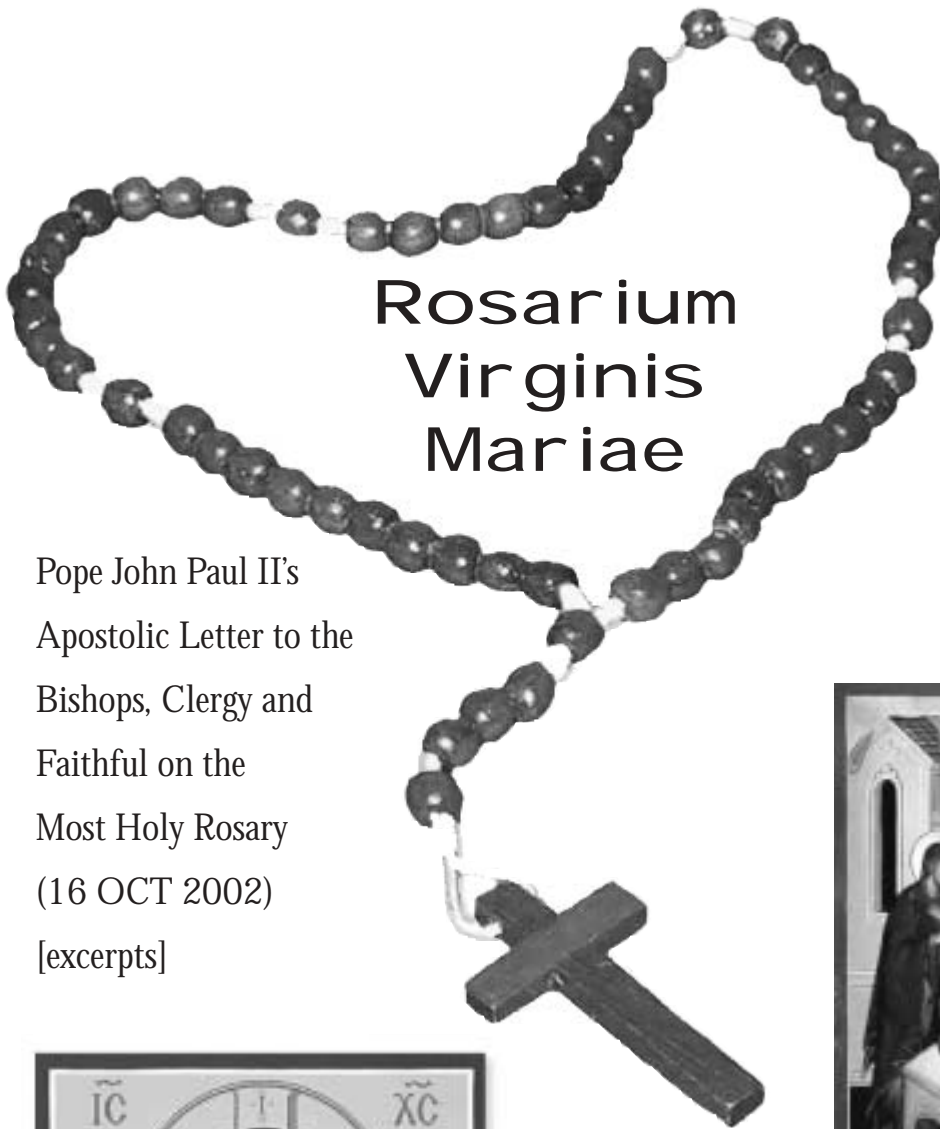


has been difficult, it has also been wonderful. It is on this journey that I have discovered my vocation, to be Christ's own, a celibate priest.

One day I asked God why in the world he would pick me for the priesthood? He simply answered, "I have made you for myself." This has given me great insight and understanding about who I am as a person. Through His desire for me I have come to see what makes me and gives me purpose in life. In short, I burn for God to be completely mine so that He can complete me and others through me. I don't think I would have it any other way. ☺

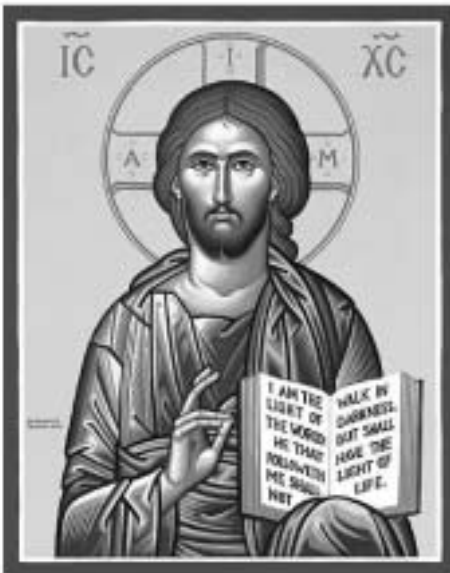
Michael Minifie is presently living at St. Maurice church and is in his sixth year with the Companions.

FEATURE



Rosarium Virginis Mariae

Pope John Paul II's
Apostolic Letter to the
Bishops, Clergy and
Faithful on the
Most Holy Rosary
(16 OCT 2002)
[excerpts]



The Luminous Mysteries (Mysteries of Light)



1. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22



2. Jesus' self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana

John 2:1-12

The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, which gradually took form in the second millennium under the guidance of the Spirit of God, is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness. It blends easily into the spiritual journey of the Christian life, which, after two thousand years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings and feels drawn by the Spirit of God to “set out into the deep” (*duc in altum!*) in order once more to proclaim, and even cry out, before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour, “*the way, and the truth and the life*” (Jn 14:6), “the goal of human history and the point on which the desires of history and civilization turn” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 45).



3. Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion

Mark 1:15; 2:1-13; Luke 7:47-48



4. Jesus' Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36



5. Jesus' Institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; Corinthians 11:23-25

[T]o bring out fully the Christological depth of the Rosary it would be suitable to make an addition to the traditional pattern which, while left to the freedom of individuals and communities, could broaden it to **include the mysteries of Christ's public ministry between his Baptism and his Passion**. In the course of those mysteries we contemplate important aspects of the person of Christ as the definitive revelation of God. Declared the beloved Son of the Father at the Baptism in the Jordan, Christ is the one who announces the coming of the Kingdom, bears witness to it in his works and proclaims its demands. It is during the years of his public ministry that **the mystery of Christ is most evidently a mystery of light**: "*While I am in the world, I am the light of the world*" (Jn 9:5).

Consequently, for the Rosary to become more fully a "compendium of the Gospel", it is fitting to add, following reflection on the Incarnation and the hidden life of Christ (**the joyful mysteries**) and before focusing on the sufferings of his Passion (**the sorrowful mysteries**) and the triumph of his Resurrection (**the glorious mysteries**), a meditation on certain particularly significant moments in his public ministry (**the mysteries of light**). This addition of these new mysteries... is meant to give it fresh life and to enkindle renewed interest in the Rosary's place within Christian spirituality as a true doorway to the depths of the Heart of Christ, ocean of joy and of light, of suffering and of glory.

In proposing to the Christian community five significant moments – "luminous" mysteries – during this phase of Christ's life, I think that the following can be fittingly singled out: (1) his Baptism in the Jordan, (2) his self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana, (3) his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion, (4) his Transfiguration, and finally, (5) his institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery.

I desire that during the course of this year the Rosary should be especially emphasized and promoted in the various Christian communities. I therefore proclaim the year from October 2002 to October 2003 *the Year of the Rosary*.

[T]he most important reason for strongly encouraging the practice of the Rosary is that it represents a most effective means of fostering among the faithful that **commitment to the contemplation of the Christian mystery**... "What is needed is a Christian life distinguished above all in the **art of prayer**".

A number of historical circumstances also make a revival of the Rosary quite timely. First of all, the need to implore from God **the gift of peace**. [...] A similar need for commitment and prayer arises in relation to another critical contemporary issue: **the family**, the primary cell of society, increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and, with it, for the future of society as a whole. The revival of the Rosary in Christian families ... will be an effective aid to countering the devastating effects of this crisis typical of our age.

I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: **confidently take up the Rosary once again**. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives.

May this appeal of mine not go unheard! ☺

“Come & See” Live-in Retreats

Do you think the Lord is calling you to the priesthood? Do you have questions about your vocation? Do you love the Church and Our Lady? Are you open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and have a fire for the New Evangelization? Then come join the Companions of the Cross on a “Come & See Live-in Retreat”! We can help you find answers to your questions. *God is calling ... answer!! Don't put your life on hold!!*

2003

Monday, February 17th - Friday, February 21st (University study break)

Thursday, April 17th - Monday, April 21st (Holy Week)

Friday, October 10th - Monday, October 13th (Thanksgiving weekend)

Saturday, December 27th - Tuesday, December 30th (Christmas break)

To Register:

Contact Father Bob Bedard or Father Allan MacDonald at the address and numbers listed. They will contact you with more details about the retreat.

Admissions Office

Companions of the Cross

199 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, ON, CANADA K1Y 2G5

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**Proclaiming
His Healing
Power**

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

March 29, 2003

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Youth Rally conducted by Fr. Roger Vandenakker

For Tickets/Information call:

Larry at (416) 227-2560 or

Sadie at (905) 270-2510



LAY ASSOCIATES CORNER

By Fr. Dennis Hayes

The following paragraph taken from our web site <http://www.companion-scross.ca/> offers this concise summary of the role played by our Lay Association in the daily work and support of the community:

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

We the priests, seminarians and staff members of the Companions of the Cross are very grateful to God for the vital support of the laity in the work and foundation of our young community. It is truly encouraging to have seen in the last few years a significant growth in the number of places where our Lay Associates gather and fellowship outside of the Ottawa region. As of late, in 2002 we want to recognize the foundation of two new groupings - one new group in Newfoundland, the other in Red Deer, Alberta. Welcome aboard folks and thank you for agreeing to journey with us on our pilgrimage of community and faith.

Bulletin Board/ Events:

In order to keep the lines of communication open between us, we ask that Lay Associates keep in touch on a semi-regular basis by e-mail, letter or phone. Once again, we invite you to visit our web site, click on “**How to Contact Us**” for all necessary information. We are in the process of setting up bulletin boards in all our parish locations to better facilitate monthly communication via posters, pictures and announcements. We will be delegating Lay Associates in each of our parishes to maintain these boards.

Many of you our readers have asked for a daily booklet of prayers to help you get better connected with the community. We are currently in the process of drawing up a booklet entitled: *An Hour of Prayer with the Companions of the Cross*. Once completed and published, we hope to make these prayer booklets available to all who may be interested and especially those who wish to gather in small community settings to pray for each other and the CCs.

In terms of recent events, the All Souls All Saints Conference this past November was a great success. We hope to host another mini-conference gathering at about the same time next fall. We now look forward to seeing many of you attend our February Retreat and ask that you read the corresponding advertisement in this newsletter for all the details. **(This coming May 2nd will mark an important historical event in the life and foundation of our community when Archbishop Marcel Gervais officially elevates us to the status of a Society of Apostolic Life. Everyone is welcome to join with the Companions of the Cross**

at Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive in Ottawa and witness this milestone event.) Next August we hope to celebrate Fr. Francis Frankovich’s 35th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood both in Ottawa and Houston, Texas.

As a final note dear friends, please be assured of my support and prayers. As your Lay Associate chaplain, I look forward to personally meeting many of you in this new year. ☺

.....
Fr. Dennis Hayes works in the Formation Program as well as being Chaplain to the Lay Associates.

LAY ASSOCIATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

HEALING MASSES
AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH
IN OTTAWA

.....

February 26th 2003
7:30 p.m.

.....

April 23rd 2003
7:30 p.m.

.....

May 28th 2003
7:30 p.m.

.....

June 25th 2003
7:30 p.m.



VISION 2005 UPDATE: The Heart of the Issue

By Fr. Roger Vandenakker

“The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few...” (Mt 9:37). I remember how these words from our Lord echoed and burned in my heart during the summer of 1983, when I distinctly heard and responded to the call to follow Christ as an ordained priest. I was 22 years old at the time and had just finished my third year of

university in Toronto. The following September, 1984, I returned to Ottawa and entered the diocesan seminary to begin my formation. Although convinced of my call to the priesthood, I felt, deep down, a strong need and desire for the support of a community of some kind. Little did I know then that by the spring of the following year, 1985, the Companions of the Cross would be founded, and that I would be one of its initial founding members.

The journey to the priesthood, as part of that founding group of men, gathered around Fr. Bob Bedard, was exciting and intensely encouraging. Juxtaposed to my experience in the diocesan seminary which was trying and often demoralizing for a number of reasons, my meeting each week for prayer and sharing with our fledgling but united group of brothers was edifying and strengthening. It is, in fact, what kept me going and persevering in my vocation, and supported my dedication to personal prayer and devotion.

I am convinced that God, more than ever today, wants to renew and revitalize his Church, especially here in North America. As Pope John Paul II has so eloquently and repeatedly emphasized throughout his papacy, what is needed is a “new evangelization”. He is referring, here, not to a new missionary outreach to peoples and nations who have never heard the gospel (a mission which is always a priority to be fostered and maintained by the Church), but rather a mission of re-evangelization right here in the midst of our own traditionally Christian societies. Why? Because he sees, as hopefully we do as well, that there has been an alarming decline and loss of Christian faith and practice in our increasingly secular culture which is having a devastating impact on family and social life and the very dignity of the human person.

The Companions of the Cross are a new community of priests and seminarians who are dedicated to this call to a “new evangelization”. It is at the heart of our own charism and mission as a community. Our desire is to be used by the Lord as his

instruments to bring the grace and power of the gospel into the lives of individuals and local communities, so that they can be transformed and renewed in their faith, knowing Christ Jesus intimately, sharing in the power of his Spirit, and, in turn reaching out and witnessing to others. The image of “spreading fire” is perhaps a good analogy of what we feel called to initiate and foster in the hearts of individuals and the communities we minister to. We are grieved, as I hope you are to, when we encounter individuals or communities who seem content or resigned to mediocrity and/or lukewarmness in their Christian faith and lives. Our burning desire, our unremitting longing, is that Jesus Christ, in the richness and fullness of the Church he established, may be known, loved and served by all men.

This is really the heart of what **Vision 2005** is all about. What we are looking for is men and women, like yourselves who, burning with the same zeal and desires, will join with us in making this vision become a reality.

Right now one of our key practical issues is responding to, and managing, the incredible growth God is blessing us with in terms of vocations to the priesthood. Literally, we do not know how and where we will be able to house and train them all in the next few years, let alone provide for their upkeep. Certainly a significant seminary residence and teaching/administrative facility are a must which we are looking and planning for actively. Please keep these very concrete needs and intentions in your prayers for us at this time. We will keep you posted as opportunities present themselves and events unfold.

It is, indeed, an exciting time to watch how the Lord is leading and providing for us. Pray that we would remain sensitive and docile to the guidance and prompting of his Holy Spirit and that our faith and trust in his Divine Providence would grow and be always unshaken.

Ultimately, what is most rewarding about who we are and what we are doing as a community is our deep faith conviction that this is all God’s work. To be called to, and share in, the work of God and the building of his Kingdom is an awesome vocation. Earthly kingdoms and worldly projects and endeavours have value, if any, in this world and for this life only. Only the Kingdom of God will endure forever, and only work that is done for his honour and glory will have an everlasting value and reward. **YOUR KINGDOM COME LORD JESUS! SET THE CHURCH ABLAZE!** ☺

.....
Fr. Roger Vandenakker is the Moderator of the Companions of the Cross.



Help Our Seminarians...

...Become Priests



You can help seminarians of the Companions of the Cross become priests by supporting our community with your prayers and financial contributions. **Help make Vision 2005 a reality. Help us grow! You can make a difference.**

May the Lord bless you for your kindness. Please use the enclosed envelope and form to make your reply. Let us know how we can pray for your needs. **Together, let us be salt for the earth and a light to the world!**



FEATURE

By Fr. Terry Donahue

LAY FORMATION

As the newly-appointed Director of Lay Formation for the Companions of the Cross, I am pleased to present an overall vision for formation of the laity, focusing on three areas: (1) the role of lay people in the mission of the Church, (2) the importance of lay formation, and (3) the Lay Formation Program of the Companions of the Cross.

LAY APOSTOLATE

In the Church today, God is on the move among lay people. There is “an unmistakable work being done today by the Holy Spirit in making the laity ever more conscious of their own responsibility and encouraging them to serve Christ and the Church” (Vatican II, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 1).

Lay people – young and old, married and single – are responding to the call of Christ to share in the mission of the Church. And what is that mission? To evangelize! Evangelization “constitutes the essential mission of the Church... To evangelize is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her most profound identity. She exists in order to evangelize” (Paul VI, On Evangelization in the Modern World, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14).

The *lay apostolate* is all the activity of the lay members of the Body of Christ “to spread the kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father... that the whole world might enter

into a relationship with Christ” (AA, 2). Thus, each and every one of you is called to some form of apostolate.



DIVERSITY OF GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

When you surrender your life to Christ, and listen to His voice, He begins to show you who you really are. You can discover the unique purpose God has for your life and the gifts He has given to you in the Body of Christ. “In the Church there is a diversity of *ministry* but a oneness of *mission*.” (AA, 2)

If each member of the body carries out his particular ministry, the Body of Christ grows and the mission of the Church is accomplished. As Paul wrote to the

Ephesians, “*the whole body... with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love*” (Eph 4:16). So the growth of the Church rests on every member, lay and clergy, using their gifts to evangelize the world.

FIELDS OF THE APOSTOLATE

So where do we start? We start with ourselves and work outwards in progressive spheres of influence in the world. The Decree on the Laity lists five **fields** of lay apostolate: **The family** – “Christian husbands and wives... are the first to communicate the faith to their children;” **The parish** – “The laity... working in union with their priests... ought to provide helpful collaboration for every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by their local parish;” **Young**

people – “They should become the first to carry on the apostolate directly to other young persons;” **The social milieu** – “[The laity can] infuse a Christian spirit into the mentality, customs, laws and structures of the community;” **International levels** – “[Catholics] should promote the true common good [and] make the weight of their opinion felt [by] civil authority” (par. 9-15).

THE IMPORTANCE OF LAY FORMATION

When faced with the “to do” list above, it’s easy to feel inadequate. The fact is, we

need to be formed so that we can “explain, defend, and properly apply Christian principles to the problems of our era in accordance with the mind of the Church” (AA, 5). Jesus calls us to growth, to a continual process of maturation: “*I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him bears much fruit*” (Jn 15:5).

Christian formation is “a continual process... of maturation in faith, and a likening to Christ according to the will of the Father, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit” (cf. John Paul II, *The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People*, 57). The Holy Father speaks of “the necessity of a total and ongoing formation” in order to grow in holiness, discover one’s vocation, develop one’s gifts, and live an integrated life with every area enlightened by the plan of God.

God forms us through and in the Church: in our parish, in **small Church communities**, in the domestic Church of the **family**, in **schools**, and in lay **groups, associations and movements** (par 61-63).

COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS - LAY FORMATION PROGRAM

As Companions of the Cross, “[w]e desire to be united with lay people in fulfilling the mission of the Church. We wish to affirm the importance of their baptismal call and to promote their gifts for the apostolate” (*Constitutions and Rules of the Companions of the Cross*, R38.6).

The new Lay Formation Program of the Companions of the Cross will place a particular emphasis on our charism, evangelization, and our spirituality, centered on Christ Crucified, the Wisdom and Power of God, the Eucharist, Consecration to Jesus through Mary, openness to the Holy Spirit, and faithfulness to the Magisterium.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The formation program will have the following qualities:

Sustained: The complete Formation Program will cover over 20 topics, offered over a cycle of approximately 3 years, with a certificate awarded upon completion of the entire program. For the certificate program, some topics will be foundational & required, other topics will be optional (i.e. choose 1 of 3).

Varied: Some topics will be covered in a Mini-course format of 6 to 10 weekly meetings in the evenings. Other topics will be presented on weekend *retreats* from Friday to Saturday. Still other topics will be offered in a week-long *school* format during the summer months of June & July, and will include workshops and opportunities for hands-on evangelization with Companions priests and seminarians.

Flexible: For many of the topics, you will be able to sign up for a particular mini-course on its own, without making a long-term commitment. A few course topics can be skipped if you have participated in something equivalent (i.e. St. Mary’s New Life Retreat counts for the Life in the Spirit Course)

Systematic & Comprehensive: Each mini-course will address one topic in a series of thorough, “meaty” teachings (i.e. 8 weeks on different aspects of the Eucharist).

In-depth - The formation program will not be academic in nature (i.e. no research papers), but many topics will require you to do some reading and/or worksheets at home. Study materials will be provided (books, handouts, and worksheets) with suggested fees to cover costs.

AREAS OF FORMATION

Lay formation can be divided into four areas: human, spiritual, doctrinal, and ministry. The following proposed course topics are subject to change:

Human Formation – Formation of human character, and natural virtues that form the foundation for the spiritual life.

Course Topics: The Human Person, Christian Discipline

Options: Single Life in Christ, Married Life in Christ

Spiritual Formation – Formation on the interior life of prayer, powers of the soul, life of grace.

Course Topics: Life in the Spirit Seminar, The Spiritual Life, Discernment of God’s Will, Christ Crucified – God’s Wisdom & Power, Eucharistic Spirituality, Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Doctrinal Formation – Adult-level catechesis and apologetics to equip you to understand, explain and defend the Catholic Faith.

Course Topics: The Eucharist, Mary, The Holy Spirit, Scripture, Catholic Apologetics

Options: Christian Apologetics, Marian Apologetics, Tough Moral Issues, Faith & Science, Bible Study

Ministry Formation – How to evangelize, discover & develop ministry gifts, plus training in specific areas of ministry.

Course Topics: Lay Apostolate, Discerning Spiritual Gifts, and Evangelization

Options: Leadership Training, Parish Renewal, Intercession

It is our hope that this Lay Formation Program will provide fertile soil for the formation of group apostolates, independent or collaborating with the Companions of the Cross. I will be presenting more detailed information at the Lay Associates Conference on February 7 & 8, 2003. The first mini-courses will be offered in the Spring of 2003, so get ready to sign up, be formed, and say ‘yes’ to Jesus! ☺

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Fr. Terry Donahue is the new Lay Formation Program Director. He was ordained in 2000.



Companions of the Cross

S e m i n a r i a n s 2 0 0 2 - 2 0 0 3



John P. Bolger
Cambridge, ON



Francis Ching
Toronto, ON



Brian Christie
Sarnia, ON



D'Arcy Dufresne
Kitchener, ON



Jean Francois Fortin
Blainville, QC



Ngugi Githinji
Nairobi, Kenya



Phil Halldron
Birmingham, England



Rachad Khadij
Montreal, QC



Mike Lees
Grand Prairie, AB



Simon Lobo
Ottawa, ON



Bernard Messier
Stoney Point, ON



Mike Minifie
South Mountain, ON



Barry Phillips
Toronto, ON



Danny Poulin
Lethbridge, AB



Mike Scherrey
Fort Smith, AR



Nick Simoni
Innisfail, AB



Ben Spindler
Edmonton, AB



Todd Thibeau
Yarmouth, NS



Chris Vonesh
Olds, AB



Gerald Whittaker
Brockville, ON



Companions of the Cross

Priests 2002 - 2003

*denotes Candidate membership



Fr. Galen Bank
Glenavon, SK Ord. 2001



Fr. Bob Bedard
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1955



Fr. Daren Bryk
Edmonton, AB Ord. 2000



Fr. Dan Cross
Fruitport, MI Ord. 1999



Fr. Tim Devine
Kitchener, ON Ord. 2002



Fr. Terry Donahue
Oakland, NJ Ord. 2000



Fr. Francis Donnelly
Montreal, QC Ord. 1979



Fr. John Fletcher
Buffalo, NY Ord. 2001



Fr. Francis Frankovich
Riverside, CA Ord. 1968



Fr. Jerry Gauvreau
Lindsay, ON Ord. 2001



Fr. Mark Goring
Pembroke, ON Ord. 2002



Fr. Dennis Hayes
Guelph, ON Ord. 1986



Fr. Randy Hendriks
Vineland, ON Ord. 2002



Fr. Pierre Ingram
Guelph, ON Ord. 1995



Fr. Rick Jaworski
Winnipeg, MB Ord. 1995



Fr. Ross Lambton
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1995



Fr. John Likozar
Toronto, ON Ord. 2000



Fr. Allan MacDonald*
St. Raphael's, ON Ord. 1994



Fr. Jim McGillivray
Kingston, ON Ord. 1969



Fr. Yves Marchildon
Victoire, SK Ord. 1996



Fr. Scott McCaig
Kamloops, BC Ord. 1995



Fr. Charles Orchard
Cobourg, ON Ord. 1995



Fr. Christian Riesbeck
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1996



Fr. George Sammut
London, ON Ord. 1999



Fr. Jeff Shannon
Sudbury, ON Ord. 1997



Fr. Ben St. Croix
Kenora, ON Ord. 2001



Fr. Fernando Suarez
Batangas, Phillipines Ord. 2002



Fr. Marc Syrenne
Saskatoon, SK Ord. 1997



Fr. John Vandenakker
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1985



Fr. Roger Vandenakker
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1989



Fr. Ed Wade
Philadelphia, PA Ord. 1972



Fr. Sean Wenger
Vernon, BC Ord. 1995



COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

By Fr. John Vandenaeker

Companions Receive Approval from the Holy See

The following is a note Fr. Roger Vandenaeker sent out to all CCs on Nov. 18th, 2002:

Dear Brothers, I bring tidings of good news! I received word this morning from Msgr. Patrick Powers, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, that the Vatican has issued the required "nihil obstat" regarding our application to become a Society of Apostolic Life of Diocesan Rite. Archbishop Gervais, who is in Rome, called Msgr. Powers with this news over the weekend. It is now, solely up to Archbishop Gervais, in consultation with us, to decide on the date when he will formally and officially establish us as a Society of Apostolic Life. Needless to say this will be a most historic and joy-filled day for all of us as Companions of the Cross, as well as a major and significant liturgical celebration in the Archdiocese of Ottawa. I will inform you as soon as I know the date that is decided upon by the Archbishop (we are aiming for the first Friday in May – to coincide with our annual 'Foundation Day' celebration). There is a significant amount of canonical and administrative work that now needs to be done to prepare us for this day (i.e. separating and establishing our own pension and healthcare plans, incardination issues, liturgy planning, etc.). Let us all give thanks to the Lord for this most positive and affirming development in the life and history of our community, and let us continue to pray for a smooth transition in the weeks and months ahead concerning all the various details that will need attending to.

Fraternally in the Lord, Fr. Roger Vandenaeker, Moderator



"Breaking News" – We have now confirmed that the celebration to mark our establishment as a new Society of Apostolic Life will take place on Friday May 2nd, 2003, with a festive Mass beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa. Archbishop Marcel Gervais is inviting everyone to partake in this historic event. Mark your calendars today! We would love to see the cathedral packed. More information will follow in the weeks ahead. An awesome milestone is being reached. Praise the Lord for He is Good!

Halifax Companions in the News

The following is reprinted with permission: "Companions of the Cross Mark One Year in Halifax" by George Graham, Atlantic Catholic Special, Sept. 29, 2002.

In September, south-end Halifax's St. Thomas Aquinas Parish celebrated the first anniversary of the formal installation

The Atlantic CATHOLIC

of the Ottawa-based Companions of the Cross in the Archdiocese of Halifax. The new pastor is Father Sean Wenger, CC, with Father Jerry Gauvreau, CC, assistant pastor, and Father John Fletcher, CC, chaplain at Dalhousie University. Father Wenger arrived from the Houston, Texas, Catholic Charismatic Center, and both Fathers Gauvreau and Fletcher were ordained to the priesthood in May 2001. In August 2002, Father Yves Marchildon, CC, replaced Father Richard Smith (now Bishop of Pembroke, ON) as pastor of nearby St. John the Baptist Parish. In September, the four priests were joined at St. Thomas Aquinas by seminarians Francis Ching and Brian Christie. However, the appointment of such young priests to such a prominent parish as St. Thomas Aquinas, raised eyebrows around the archdiocese. This is particularly the case as the parish has traditionally been seen as a "nursery" of priestly vocations since its founding shortly after World War I. More than 30 parishioners have been ordained to the priesthood since the parish was created. Yet, the arrival of the Companions has had a profound effect on the parish at St. Thomas Aquinas. "I understand the numbers at Sunday Mass are up nearly 55 percent, and the weekday Mass is up almost 200 percent over 1999," reported a long-time parish council member. "Numbers aren't everything, but they are a rough indication of a surge in the vitality of our parish life." While the increase in Mass attendance and parish activities is significant the most noticeable change has been the influx of young families. McGill Arts student Sarah Rosamund returned over the Christmas holiday to visit relatives. "This

was a completely different parish. The crowd of moms and dads with young kids was amazing. This parish has always been mostly gray heads, but not anymore. I found tremendous enthusiasm and excitement.” The Companions of the Cross were founded in Ottawa in 1985 with one priest, Father Bob Bedard, one seminarian and two about-to-be seminarians. Today there are 32 priests and more than 40 seminarians, including a freshman class of 17. The Companions are now ministering in Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax and Houston. They live in communities of not less than four members. Founder Father Bedard believes God is multiplying the Companions because of the continued loyalty to their original charism: “Eucharistic: joyful, yet reverent celebration of the Mass (and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament); Charismatic: open to the work of the Holy Spirit; Marian: all Companions are consecrated to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and Magisterial: enthusiastic acceptance of the teaching of the Holy Father and in particular, to his call for a new worldwide evangelization.” The Companions have recently been sending their seminarians to St. Paul University (affiliated with the University of Ottawa) for their theology training, while the students live in community with the Companions in their various parishes in the Ottawa area. While based in Ottawa, since the opening of the Houston Catholic Charismatic Center, the Companions have become more and more International. Among the new seminarians are not just Canadians and Americans, but also natives of Ireland, the United Kingdom, Poland, and several from Asian background. Father Wenger is hopeful there will be more Maritimers joining the Companions. “In the past few years we have accepted several applicants from Atlantic Canada and we hope this trickle is just the beginning of a flood of young men offering their lives to Jesus Christ,”

he said. Currently there are several young members of the parish who have joined the archdiocesan vocations discernment program.

Mystery Parishioner is None Other than Sister Elsie Martin!

In last fall’s edition of this newsletter we ran an article about how the Companions have taken on the pastoral care of a new Halifax parish – St. John the Baptist. Fr. Yves Marchildon was appointed the new pastor. In a picture we ran with this article (see below), we did not know the identity of the lady standing between Fr. Yves and Archbishop Prendergast, so we simply identified her as “a parishioner”. However, it has since come to our

attention that this lady is certainly no mystery to the good folks of St. John’s parish. She is none other than Sr. Elsie Martin, long time pastoral worker (36 years) and parish associate (for the last 10 years). We wish to apologize to Sr. Elsie for any unintended slight this may have caused. The problem was that the photo was sent to us here in Ottawa by mail about a week before deadline with no names on it. Even though Fr. Yves knew very well who Sr. Elsie is (and the Archbishop too!), we simply ran out of time to double-check our facts (having never been to the parish ourselves). Another blooper in the story had to do with misidentifying the statue out in front of the church. The statue is of Christ the King, not St. John the Baptist (his statue is inside the church). So there you have it - two bloopers in one story (which is about average for us!).

Continued on page 20



Fr. Yves, Sr. Elsie Martin, Archbishop Prendergast and Fr. Sean Wenger

Continued from page 19

Property Manager Sought

The Companions of the Cross are looking for someone who has the time and talent to be a part-time volunteer 'Property Manager' for us here in the Ottawa area. We need someone with enough expertise to handle the tendering of various repair & renovation contracts and to see to it afterwards that the work was completed in a satisfactory manner. This person could also advise the CC Executive Council on the overall condition of our buildings and recommend what kind of maintenance they may require. This person would not be doing the maintenance/repair work themselves, but simply advising and helping us get the right person or company in place to get what is needed done. So, if you have a few hours to spare, and feel the Lord prompting you, please give Fr. Rick Jaworski, our CC Treasurer General, a call at 798-9327.

Companions' Office Welcomes Linda O'Donnell

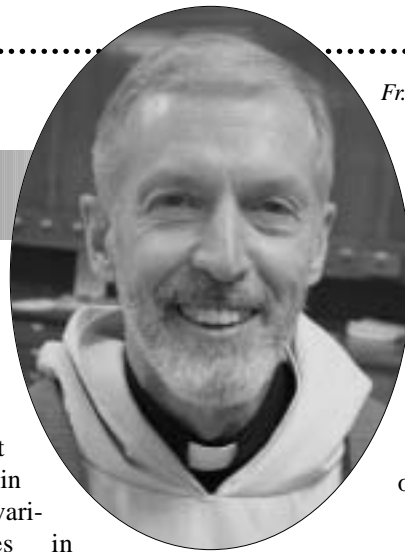
Since October 1st the Companions of the Cross have had a new receptionist at work in our Breezehill offices. If you called us since then and thought you recognized the voice on the other end of the phone, you probably did. It's none other than Linda O'Donnell. We are happy and privileged to welcome her. She has been a lay associate and a great supporter of the community from way back. She takes over from where Viola Rochefort left off. May the Lord bless you in your work for us Linda!



Linda O'Donnell

Personnel Update

Todd Thibeau is back in residence at St. Timothy's in Toronto and has been accepted into the Licentiate Theology Program at TST (Regis College) in the area of ethics. For various reasons studies in Washington, D.C. and St. Paul's in Ottawa were not suitable. Fr. Allan MacDonald is now in residence at St. Maurice parish, while continuing his duties with helping Fr. Bob and the Admissions Office. CC seminarian Richmond Guillermo, who was on pastoral internship at St. Timothy's in Toronto, has discerned that he does not have a call to the priesthood. He left the community in mid-December. We are sorry to see Richmond leave. He was well liked by all. This was a very tough decision for Richmond to make, but we support him all the way. That's what seminary formation is all about – an opportunity to clarify the call of the Lord on a person's life. Richmond has moved back to Ottawa and has been hired on as a chaplain at St. Matthew's high school in Orleans (in Ottawa East). He has been hired on a probationary basis and hopes the appointment is made permanent next summer. We wish Richmond all the best. He remains a great friend of the Companions. As noted in the Lay Associate's column, Fr. Francis Frankovich will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this coming May 31st. A big reception in his honour is being planned for this day down in Houston at the Catholic Charismatic Center. This dinner will also double as a local fundraising event for the



Fr. Francis Frankovich

Companions. We will also be hosting a Texas-style BBQ picnic party back here in Ottawa around the end of August for Ottawa-area friends to come out to (more details about both these events will be posted in our next newsletter).

Recent Happenings at St. Timothy's Parish in Toronto

St. Timothy's has been a very busy place lately. In November, Frs. Marc, John, Fernando and others prayed over 165 people during the 5th week of their parish Life in the Spirit Seminar program. An awesome number! It's too bad they had their roof recently renovated, because all these newly empowered Catholics are going to really help raise the level of praise and are likely to blow the new one off! This is a fantastic sign of renewal. Another great event that transpired this fall was a special Companions' fundraising dinner that Fr. Fernando Suarez coordinated at the parish. Over \$12,000 was raised during a festive evening of song, dance, and tasty cuisine from the Philippines. Seminarians from the Companions provided the pre-dinner worship music. What a great initiative! We would love to see such local fundraising dinners in all of our Companions' locations (Houston is planning one for this spring). Fr. Fernando has already started planning a new fundraising dinner for later in the year. Fr. Fernando is naturally at home singing on stage with a microphone in his hand. He is worth the price of admission all by himself! Now if only we could teach Fr. Marc Syrenne and Fr. John Likozar how to dance properly. Our mini-photo album depicts these events and a few more to boot. Enjoy!

Continued on page 22



*Top to bottom:
Companions' fundraising dinner at St. Timothy's; Chef Fernando; Fr. Marc in Procession; Fr. Marc dancing; Fr. John's birthday party*



Feedback from Fr. Tim's Parish Mission in Woodstock

Oct. 2002. Dear Father John Vandenaeker, On behalf of Fr. Runstedler and St. Mary's Church, Woodstock, ON, I would like to thank the Companions of the Cross for allowing Deacon Tim Devine to minister to us from Sept. 29th - Oct. 2nd. As you will remember I made the first contact with you about our Mission and coordinated the event. Deacon Tim's teaching was based on our Holy Father's teachings and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Tim has great faith and God has worked miracles in his life. His joy and love for Jesus reflects in his smile and he received the words and wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Tim asked us and prayed for us to dedicate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He also shared his own personal journey and spoke about God's love and forgiveness for us all. Wednesday evening was the highlight when he spoke about God's healing power and the prayer teams prayed with those who asked for prayer. No altar calls but we prayed with people where they were seated. Each evening the church was filled and a different choir sang and played. We have all promised to pray for Deacon Tim on his Ordination Day Nov. 23rd. Our Catholic community was very touched by Tim's gentleness and great faith and knowledge of the Word. Due to the shortage of priests (in the London, ON diocese) many parishes have clustered and are preparing for a one priest community; which would mean one "mega" church for Woodstock and area. Much discussion has taken place and many parishioners are disheartened! The future could mean the destruction of St. Mary's church (128 yrs. old) with a very beautiful interior, which has been the place of worship for many for a lifetime. Nearby St. Rita's (53 yrs. old) would also be demolished so as to pave the way for this new mega church in Woodstock. Since I am on the committee we still have some hope and I am asking you if there would be a group of 3 or 4 priests from the Companions of the Cross available in

the near future. We have Sacred Heart parish in nearby Ingersoll, Sacred Heart in Princeton, and Holy Cross (Polish parish) in Woodstock. All these 5 parishes need help in the future. We know that the Companions want to live in community. St. Mary's church has a large rectory from where the priests could travel to the other 4 churches. Please let me know about the possibilities so we may propose this to Bishop Ronald Fabbro and leave the rest up to them and the Holy Spirit. Thanking you in advance. In Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Van Veen.

Editor's Note - we receive many such requests and all are forwarded on to the Fr. Roger and the CC Executive Council for due consideration. The shortage of priests we are facing here in North America is a real sad sign of the times. We hope to continue to grow so as to be of service to the church far and wide. Decisions as to where our next foundation will be are probably a few years in the future. Keep praying!

Feedback from the Fundraising of the Scarboro Missions

The following email was received from Mr. Paul Nazareth, a fundraiser for the Scarboro missions who recently met with Mrs. Dale Balkovec and myself to offer his advice about such matters. The words in bold represent sections of my original email to him. Many thanks Paul for your encouraging words!

Hi Paul. Dale and I would like to say thank-you for taking the time to meet with us in Ottawa last week at our Companions of the Cross Office. The information and insights you shared with us were very helpful and encouraging.

Thank you for having me! Frankly I found the visit invigorating! The Companions are an exciting new Canadian community who is taking Ottawa and soon the rest of the country by storm! It was a pleasure to learn a little

more about you, and I hope to learn more as the Society goes on (who is the pastor at the parish you have here in Toronto?). It was also very fulfilling to be of service to the Church in this way, I hope you get someone very soon.

We are still learning the ropes here, but we seem to be making progress.

Ha! Let me tell you, you are farther ahead than most people in terms of communication are. You have the fire, you have the attitude, and you have the most important media in place. I hope you are very confident in terms of communications because you should be very proud of what you've put out there.

I have added your name to our Newsletter mailing list. When you have the time, could you please email me that list of contacts you have for Canadian Catholic publications?

Thank you, I have told so many people already about what I learned in Ottawa and how many of our benefactors attended Fr. Devine's ordination (100% of those I met) as well as passed on your material already to a benefactor who was interested in learning more. As for those Catholic Publications please find attached a small spreadsheet I put together of those contacts; I am so very happy to save you the year or so it took me to put this list together. If you mention my name they all know Scarboro Missions.

We would like to begin to issue "press releases" and the like. Knowing whom to contact in this regard is a big help. Thanks again for your kindness. We will keep you and the ministry of Scarboro in our prayers. Peace - Fr. John Vandenaeker

Thank you for being so darn open and making Canadians feel great about the priesthood again! Scarboro welcomes their new partner in the Societies of Apostolic Life; I personally look forward to getting to know the organization as time goes on. I wish you all God's blessings in your work to Fr. V and I thank you for remembering our work in your prayers as well. I remain, Yours in Christ, Paul C. Nazareth, Scarboro Missions www.scarboromissions.ca.

Win a Beautiful Custom Quilt!

Anthony & Diane Van de Sande of Falmouth, Nova Scotia have donated a lovely quilt to the Companions of the Cross. An inscription sewn onto the reverse side of the quilt includes our Logo and a message which reads as follows: "This Flannel Log Cabin Quilt was made by Diane Van de Sande and was machine quilted by Anthony Van de Sande." It has beautiful images of ducks, bears and fish inlaid on a background of cattails and forest images. It is green and rusty tan in colour. It is valued at approximately \$2,000-\$3,000. We want to really thank the Van de Sandes for their thoughtfulness and creativity. Because we couldn't agree on who in the community should get such an expensive quilt (which is worth more than Fr. Francis Donnelly's car!), we decided on a Solomon-like course of action. What we have decided to do, with the Van de Sande's approval, is offer this quilt to you in a draw! Here's how it will work. Anyone who donates to the community in the first quarter of 2003 (Jan. 1st to April 1st), will be automatically entered in the draw for the quilt. If you are already donating to us by automatic monthly payments, you too will be entered. The draw will be held on April 8th, 2003. If you are a potential new donor and wish to qualify for this draw simply fill out the form and envelope that comes with this newsletter and mail it in to us before April 1st. This draw is one small way in which we can show our appreciation to you our supporters.



Top:
CC Seminarians display quilt;
Right:
Knights of Columbus Ad with Fr. Allan MacDonald

them our name and logo across the top, a red fabric bulletin board area in the middle, and clear plexiglas brochure trays along the bottom. They will be placed in various Companions' parishes, chaplaincies, and in other settings (from Houston to Halifax and everywhere in between!). They will serve to make people more aware of who it is we are. Each bulletin board will carry photos of the community and hold a variety of important brochures (everything from "How To Become a CC Lay Associate" to how to participate in our "Come and See" vocational discernment weekends). We will update the photos approximately three times per year (by mailing packages of material from our offices here in Ottawa). What we are looking for is someone from each of our CC parishes to act as the recipient of this material and who would take responsibility to update them when required. We do not want to let this become another burden on the hard working pastoral staffs of our parishes. We hope that some interested lay person in each locale would step forward and volunteer to coordinate this mini-project. If you can help us please give Mary Lauzon of our Lay Associate's Office a call at (613) 297-0899 or by email at: maryd@rogers.com.

Help Needed with Our Companions' Bulletin Boards

The community has recently purchased a dozen specially designed bulletin boards from St. Joseph Communications in Ottawa. They are very colourful and distinct looking! They each have printed on



Fr. Allan MacDonald Featured on Back Cover of K of C Columbia Magazine

Columbia magazine is a monthly publication of the Knights of Columbus. It has a circulation of about 1.5 million copies. Our own Fr. Allan MacDonald was interviewed and featured on Columbia's back cover "vocations" page last fall. Wow! Talk about a major witness and publicity boost for the Companions of the Cross. Fr. Allan, who is a member of the Knights of Columbus (as are a number of other CCs) had met the editor of this feature at a vocation conference in Montreal in the spring of 2002. Talk about a fortuitous meeting! The Knights have always been good supporters of the Companions. Many local Councils donate funds to support our seminarians. We are very appreciative of all they do for us. This publicity will help us immensely in our efforts to become more widely known in the church across North America and beyond. ☺

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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.

COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
For the Fiscal Year Ended
August 31, 2002

I N C O M E :

General Donations	\$1,168,597
Other Income	51,943
Reimbursed Expenses	152,312
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TOTAL INCOME	\$1,372,852

E X P E N S E S :

Administration (office salaries, rent, supplies, phones, professional fees)	\$ 154,442
Amortization	56,620
Communication (newsletter, brochures, fundraising)	130,238
Financing Charges	61,357
Intra-Community & Outreach (Community staff salaries, supplies, retreats)	346,044
Residential Operations (utilities, food, supplies, cook's salaries, maintenance)	237,464
Seminarian Formation (formation team salaries, tuition, medical, graduate studies)	348,282
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,334,447

OPERATING SURPLUS 38,405*

Loss on Investments	(46,317)
Net Result	(7,912)

***Notes:**

We carry liabilities of \$1,048,455 which are primarily mortgages owing on all our properties.

Our Chartered Accountants, Parker, Prins, Seel, have done a thorough audit of our financial operations and we have submitted their full report to our Executive Council and to the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

We are grateful to all our spiritual and temporal benefactors for their prayers and financial support over the past year. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Companions of the Cross
MASS CARDS



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

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

To obtain the Mass Card(s), simply fill out the form below and mail it in to our CC Offices at: 199 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 2G5

(Please make cheques payable to "The Companions of the Cross")

Intention: _____

Requested By: _____

for _____ Masses

Please send _____ Mass cards.

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

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

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
