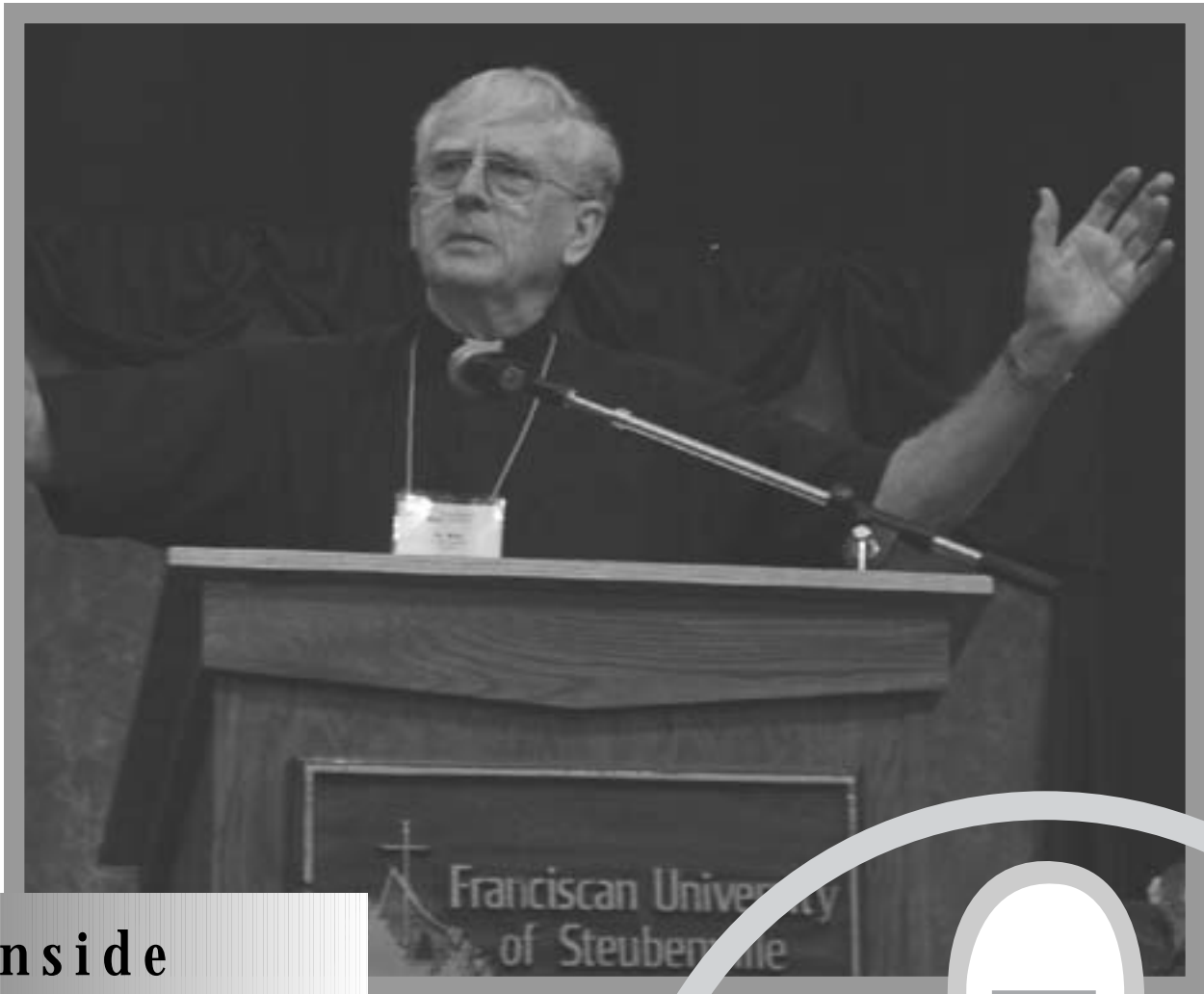


Summer Issue 2004

Companions of the Cross



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St. Maurice

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Companions of the Cross

DIACONATE ORDINATION
ANNOUNCEMENT

*&
Invitation*



The Companions of the Cross are proud to announce that

Francis Ching
Brian Christie
Michael Minifie
Michael Scherrey

will be ordained to the diaconate on Tues. Sept. 14th,
at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary's church, Ottawa,
by the Most Rev. Marcel Gervais, Archbishop of Ottawa
(Reception to follow in parish hall)

All are welcome to attend this holy event!

Pray for these men as they consecrate themselves to the Lord's service on
the day of the Triumph of the Cross – our Companions feast day!

Fr. Bob Receives 2004 Shepherd's Award

Franciscan University of Steubenville
2004 'Shepherd's Award'



The Shepherd Award Explained

The Shepherd's Award recognizes a true shepherd who consistently and effectively pastors his priests, deacons, religious, and lay people in spiritual renewal and growth. The award is presented at the national gathering of priests, deacons, and seminarians held annually at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. Past recipients of the Shepherd's Award include Bishop Sam Jacobs, Francis Cardinal Arinze, Bishop Charles DuFour, Christoph Cardinal Schonborn, and Bishop Stanislaw Rylko. Franciscan University is pleased to honor the 2004 Shepherd's Award recipient, Father Robert Bedard CC (presented on Thurs. June 10, 2004).

Fr. Michael Scanlan's Tribute to Fr. Bob Bedard

After being ordained for the Archdiocese of Ottawa in 1955, Father Robert Bedard began the usual round of diocesan appointments. He served as an assistant pastor, a high school teacher, and a principal. Then in 1975, the extraordinary grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit transformed his priesthood – and these ordinary ministries – with a new direction, power, and anointing.

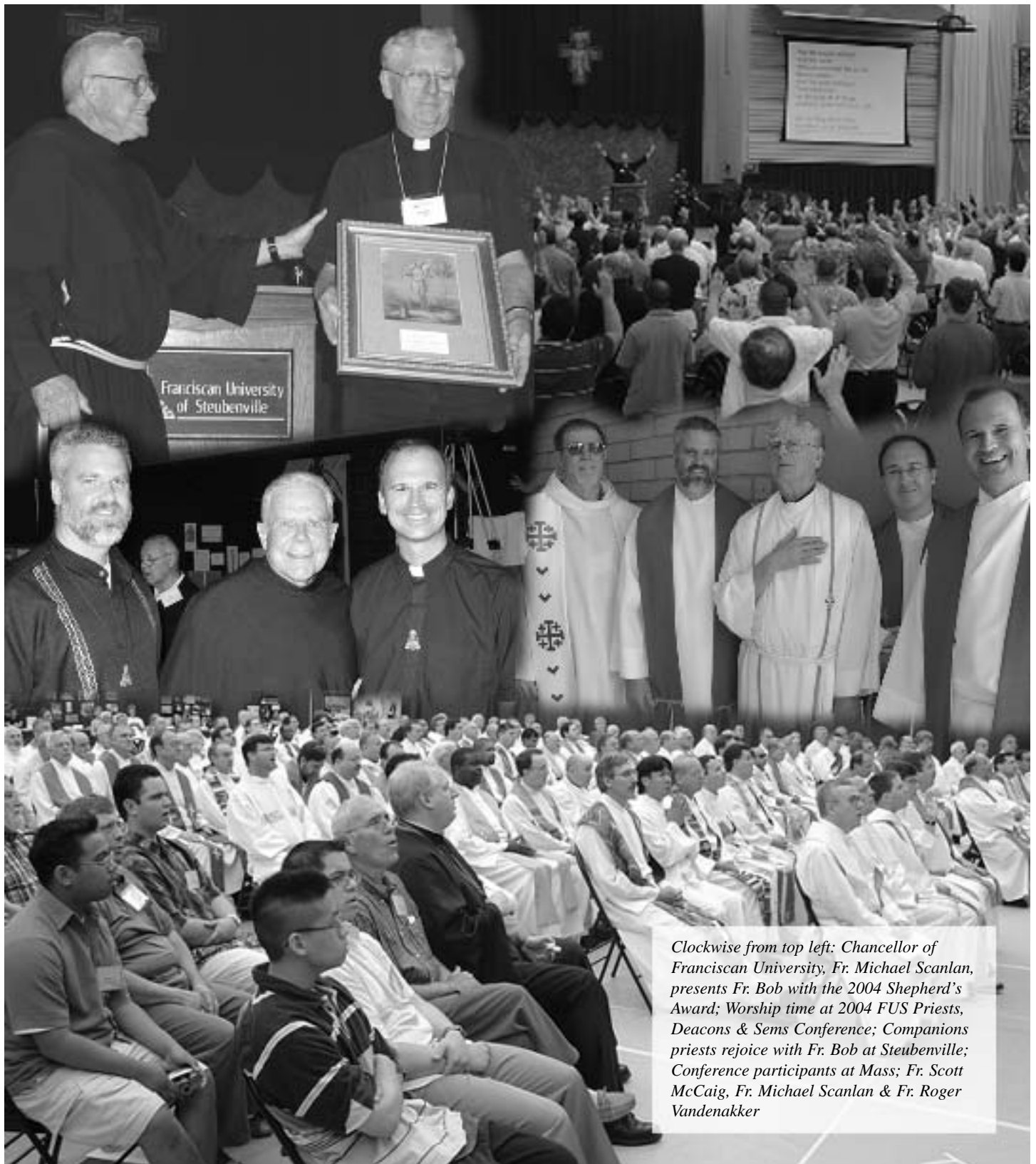
Father Bob founded a prayer group at the high school, which set many youth on fire for the Lord. He began preaching throughout Canada at charismatic conferences and retreats. He became the bishops' liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

All of these activities flowed from a deeper awareness of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist as the ultimate source of his spiritual nourishment, and from a newfound, radical commitment to daily prayer. Dedicating at least an hour each day to communion with the Lord, Father Bob grew adept at waiting on the Lord – a virtue that he surely needed to accomplish the next two great tasks set before him.

First, his archbishop asked him to practice what he preached by becoming pastor of a shrinking parish in downtown Ottawa. As he and his parishioners learned to give God permission, the parish experienced a dramatic resurgence in life and pastoral activity, and has since become a sign of hope for the renewal of parish life. The second task grew out of his care and concern for young seminarians. Father Bob had been meeting with a small share group of seminarians for a little over a year, when they heard the Lord's call to form a new community. In response, Father Bob founded the Companions of the Cross, a Eucharistic, Marian, charismatic community committed to the magisterium of the Church. Of primary importance to him was the formation of a faith-filled, loving environment of mutual support from which members could live out their charism of evangelization. In May 2003, the Companions of the Cross was established canonically by the Holy See as a new Society of Apostolic Life. It currently numbers 30 priests and 35 seminarians serving in parishes and university chaplaincies in four dioceses.

For his enthusiastic response to the Lord's gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for his encouragement and pastoral care for the spiritual growth of priests, seminarians, and lay people, it is with great pleasure that I present Father Robert Bedard with Franciscan University's 2004 Shepherd's Award. ☺





Clockwise from top left: Chancellor of Franciscan University, Fr. Michael Scanlan, presents Fr. Bob with the 2004 Shepherd's Award; Worship time at 2004 FUS Priests, Deacons & Sems Conference; Companions priests rejoice with Fr. Bob at Steubenville; Conference participants at Mass; Fr. Scott McCaig, Fr. Michael Scanlan & Fr. Roger Vandenakker

New Liturgical Artwork For Two Companions' Chapels

Fr. Scott McCaig's
Assumption Farm Report:

On April 14th of this year the chapel at Assumption Farm, our house of formation in Combermere, became much more beautiful. Four paintings by local artist Michael O'Brien were officially installed and blessed by our Moderator Fr. Roger Vandenakker.

The Executive Council of the Companions of the Cross commissioned these paintings to commemorate the official establishment of our community as a Society of Apostolic Life on May second of last year. We were extremely pleased that Michael O'Brien accepted the commission – not only because of his immense talent as a Christian artist but also because of his close friendship with us.

The paintings exceeded all our hopes! They are exceptionally beautiful and inspiring. The first painting is of the Crucifixion of our Lord. At the foot of the Cross is Mary, the first true companion of the Cross, and the beloved disciple, St. John. It is a stirring reminder of our call as Companions of the Cross! The second painting is of the Transfiguration of Jesus. This theme was chosen for the chapel because the goal and purpose of our time in formation is to open our lives as completely as possible to the transforming grace and power of the Lord. The third painting is of St. John Vianney, who is the patron saint of parish priests. The parish is, of course, the privileged place of much of our ministry as a community. The final painting is of St. Therese of Lisieux, patroness of evangelization. May



Michael O'Brien

we always imitate her witness of unshakeable loving confidence in God, persevering prayer, and zeal for souls.

Thank you Michael for these truly inspiring paintings, and thank you Lord for the gift of our Society of the Companions of the Cross.

For more information about Catholic painter, novelist and essayist Michael O'Brien and his work visit: www.studiObrien.com.



**Catherine Marshall's Bio
& Holy Rosary Report:**

Who? - Catherine Marshall, artist and student of art history. Trained in fine art at Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto (1983-1986). Worked in animation industry in Ottawa for Hinton who produced "The Raccoons". Worked as an artist in Ottawa area a few years painting and showing art. About to begin third year of an undergraduate degree in Art History at Carleton University.

Raised in a Catholic family, drifted away from the Church from age 18 to age 37, returned in late 1997 and found conversion of the heart in January 1998 through the Alpha program at Holy Rosary parish then under the direction of Father Charles Orchard. Love exploring Christian history through reading, it is endlessly fascinating. I don't think we know enough about the history of Catholicism and it is important.

What? - The wall-hangings are made of fabric, with appliqued pieces and hand-embroidered details. The designs are inspired by Russian Icons in the Byzantine tradition. The steps to make one are to design the drawing, then enlarge it to finished size. Next it must be transferred to the fabric and cut out. Then with a sewing machine that does appliqué stitch, the different coloured pieces are patched on to the background. Finally the finishing touches of line-work and detail are added by hand. It is a similar process to quilting, but without the quilt batting or quilting lines. Icons are very adaptable to a flat medium like cut-out fabric because they rely on strong two-dimensional design rather than perspective or tonal gradations to make their impact.

Where? - The current "collection" resides in the chapel at Holy Rosary's rectory (a residence of the Companions of the

Cross), and was designed especially for the chapel. I am developing a website which may feature more designs revolving around other forms of historical Christian art, such as Icons, Romanesque sculpture, and Gothic stained-glass windows for a start. Since I am a full-time student (and wife - which is also time-consuming) this will necessarily be a gradual process and I don't expect to have much art to view on the site until after I have graduated in 2006.

Why? - Father George Sammut has been my special patron, giving me encouragement in all of this. Thanks to him I am looking at making more than a passing hobby of this art form.

For more information about Catherine's work please contact her at: cemarshall@rogers.com. ☺



The Call to Live a Joy-Filled Life as a Priest

by Fr. Stephen Rossetti

“The Kingdom of God is like a buried treasure, which a man found in a field. He hid it again, and rejoicing at his find, he went and sold all he had and bought that field. Or again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant’s search for fine pearls. When he found one really valuable pearl he went back, put up for sale all he had, and bought it”

(Mt 13:44-46).

I’d like to speak this evening about the call to a ministry and a spirituality of joy as priests – joy in the Christian life. Our Holy Father, when speaking to the seminarians of St. Joseph’s in New York in 1995, said this to the seminarians, “Open the doors of your hearts in order that Christ may enter and bring you his joy.” The Church needs joyful priests capable of bringing true joy to God’s people which is the Good News in all of its truth and transforming power.



Sometimes it’s easy for some of us to live what I call lives of ‘spiritualized depression’. Now we all know that the Christian life carries some suffering with it. We all experience varying degrees of suffering at different times in our lives. But I would say that many of us are suffering to a certain degree needlessly. It’s true that crosses come into our life and we try and accept these as best we can, but that’s different from being afflicted with what I call spiritualized depression. We are living a life that is not supposed to be as difficult as we make it. And so I say to our guys, “Father, I want you to know that from where I stand life is not supposed to be as hard as you are making it. There’s supposed to be a little bit more joy in there, a little more fun. Perhaps hard moments yes, but you are carrying around a lot of bad stuff which you could get rid of with a little bit of help. You are living what I call a spiritualized depression. And it’s easy for us to rationalize it sometimes. We sort of think to ourselves the tougher life gets the holier I am or the more grace I’m living. That’s not always true.”

They did a survey of fifth graders and they gave them a list of 35 different vocations and told them to rank the order of these vocations in the list that you would like to live them. The choices included: saint, doctor, lawyer, and all sorts of things. You know where ‘saint’ figured on the list out of 35? It was second to last (last was garbage collector). When you ask the children why don’t you want to be a saint? They all come up with these images that were very negative about what it meant to be a saint: suffering,

pain, on your knees in church all day, very negative things.

Sometimes we ourselves can fall into that trap in what it means to be a holy person. Ever see someone

try to look holy? They always look pretty comical. There is a gaunt look on their face and a kind of sort of pained look and usually they have a few eccentricities just to let you know that they are not a part of “this world”. But I tell people the only thing that eccentricities prove, is that you are eccentric.

If you want to look at some ways of fermenting out sanctity, if you will, one of the signs of real sanctity is an abiding gift of joy. Sanctity is an abiding sense of having the joy of the Lord. Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, along with love, peace, patience, faithfulness, endurance, gentleness and self control. Joy is one of those signs from the Spirit that God is present in our life. Now sometimes that surprises people. I remember when I was in the seminary for the first time, and my brother came to visit. My family didn’t really grow up very Catholic. So he came to the seminary and was walking around and finally he looked at me and said, “Those guys over there,” he said, “those are seminarians and those three guys there those are priests?” And I said “yes, why?” “Oh, they look happy.” I said “why, I think they are, I think they are.”

Now I’d like to make a distinction between joy and happiness. I think that happiness is an emotion; it kind of comes and it kind of goes. When good things happen we are happy, and when bad things happen, we feel sad – that’s nor-

mal. Up you go and down. Sometimes when we feel bad we say that something's wrong with me, but that's not necessarily true. When someone dies that you love an appropriate response is sadness and grief. And so happiness kind of comes and goes. But joy is something different. It's about recognizing the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. There's a nice quote from St. Ignatius Loyola that sheds some light on what that kind of joy is like: "The good angel touches the soul quietly, lightly, pleasantly, like a drop of water that is absorbed by a sponge. The good spirit enters silently as into his own dwelling, the door being open." So how is it that this spirit of joy touches us; gently, quietly, kind of moving through our whole spirits, raising them up quietly, so quietly that we don't even recognize it sometimes. Many times we don't even recognize it.

I was once on a retreat with the Carthusians. All those stories you hear about the Carthusians are true. They are like what I call the "Green Berets" of the spiritual life. All those practices you heard about in the Middle Ages, they are still doing. They break their sleep up at night for prayer, they wear "hair shirts" as a way of doing penance, they don't eat meat, there is no heat in their cells. I remember one night going to the midnight office of prayers, which went from midnight until three in the morning, so you're there for some time. There's no thermometer so you couldn't tell how cold it was, but it was always very cold. So I could tell how cold it was by how much frost was on the inside of my glass. If there was just a little bit of frost that was a one sweater night, if there was a lot of frost that was a two sweater night. No hot water in the cells. It was a very difficult existence, but it was paradoxically a time of great joy and blessing for me. I stayed there about four months. When I got

through with this retreat I went down the mountain and got onto a bus to travel home. It was just two days before Christmas. As I was riding at the back of the bus all of a sudden it hit me, I said, "Geez, these people are really sad." Because I had received no news about the outside world while living in the monastery (no TV, radio, or newspaper) I figured that something really bad must have happened that I didn't know about,



some devastating thing, so I wondered what it might have been that I missed that made all these people so sad two days before Christmas. So I rode on the bus about 20 minutes more before it finally dawned on me. I said no, nothing has happened to these people, there is nothing wrong with these people, they are always this sad but they don't recognize it. And how did I recognize it? By being with some people who really had a sense of joy. St. Bruno characterized the Carthusian life "as peace that the world knows not, and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Perhaps one of the real healings that we need in life is from spiritualized depres-

sion, from this heaviness that we carry with us. I was at a Healing Mass in Washington D.C. one day with Fr. Ralph Diorio, a priest from Worcester. This was back in the early 1980s. When he came out the place was packed, there must have been a thousand people there. Fr. Ralph said to the people, "I know a lot of you have come here for a physical healing and I am sure that God will grant many blessings to us here this evening but I have to tell you, as I am sitting here looking out, the thing that strikes me is how much heaviness and sadness there is here. And perhaps what is needed most is to heal this depression, this sadness so that God's joy might touch our lives and give us spiritual healing."

I think many times we present the wrong sort of perspective of the Christian life to people. We say to ourselves basically, life is miserable now but God will reward you in the end. So that's when you come out with that long face and give that bad news homily and say don't worry things are rough now, but God is going to reward you in the end.

I heard a good version of that once. I was sitting with an older priest who was not noted for his cheerfulness and we were sitting at a Confirmation and we were talking about St. Augustine, and he looks at me and says, "That's the way to do it. St. Augustine had the right idea. Have your fun first and then convert." Now think about that message. Here again we're seeing the bad news – Christianity is a lousy time, but don't worry, God will reward you in the end. I don't think so, and I don't think St. Augustine would have thought that either if you asked him what his life was like before his conversion. I think he would have said that it wasn't so great.

The fact that Christ calls us to conversion,

to a deeper life in the Spirit, always happens in the context of joy. I challenge you to find in the New Testament the idea that life is bad, but God will reward you in the end. I don't think you'll find it, but what I think you will find is that phrase in the New Testament that says "*the Kingdom of God is at hand*" (Mk 1:15). That is God's presence, God's power, God's very self is right now breaking into the world. Right now Jesus in the Spirit is breaking into our lives. And that's kind of exciting and good news isn't it?

Right now in this room, Christ is present in the Spirit giving us all those gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, including joy and peace, and that's good news. And then you say to yourself, well I don't see it. I don't hear it. That is the problem precisely. Jesus said, "*You have eyes, but do not see, and have ears, but do not hear*" (cf. Mt 13:15). Can't you hear the Spirit, can't you see, can't you taste, can't you feel the presence of that good Spirit raising us up and giving us

his joy? Pray for that grace, claim that grace! When we don't do that, I think it's easy to get stuck living like the Pharisees; follow the rules and in the end God will save you. I'm not against following the rules, but there's more to life than that.

Now there are a couple of things, I think that especially stop and block joy in our lives. The first one I think which especially affects priests and males particularly is a kind of buried anger that gets stuck in our hearts and just lodges itself there. Now I'm not speaking about the anger that we all feel from time to time. Someone hurts us and we get angry. We see an injustice and we get angry. We get angry when we see evil things or people being treated poorly, that's normal, that's normal anger. That's good anger. I'm talking about the anger which gets stuck in us, and we become angry people.

A while ago at St. Luke's one of the therapists was trying to ask me to talk to one of the residents, but she couldn't remember his name. So she said, "You know who he is", and I said "No, tell me more", well, she tried to describe him and finally she said, "You know who he is, the angry one." I said, "Well, that doesn't narrow it down much". I tell you, if there is one thing that I see among priests when they are not doing well it is that they are angry. They have just become angry men. If you ever see that happen to you, stop



whatever you're doing. You're going in the wrong direction. You'll become angrier and angrier. If I were going to define anger I would say it is being consumed by your own rage. Hell is a place of rage and torment and not a place of joy and peace. When we have joy we are living in God and God's Spirit. So sometimes we get stuck in anger.

I remember a pastor in his late fifties or early sixties who wasn't doing too well. He kind of did the minimum just enough to get by - he was just kind of cruising and a pretty unhappy guy. As a young priest he was a pretty enthusiastic guy and so we all said well what happened to him? Well it turned out that in his thirties he had been passed over for some chancery job that he really wanted and it made him angry. He became hurt and he never let it go, he just held on to it, and became more

miserable and more miserable until finally he just became an angry isolated old guy. I thought this was a terrible waste of a person's life - to end up being angry and isolated.

And that's the second thing. Sometimes we get angry because we are alone. Tomorrow I will speak more about relationships. Many of our guys are alone. They simply really have no close relationships. So what happens is you're giving a lot but you're not getting much back in return on an emotional level. When you don't get much back, you kind of feel short changed. And you say to yourself who loves me? Who cares about me? You can't think of anybody. And when Sunday night comes where do you go? No place to go. So you start throwing yourself these "pity parties" and then when it starts the more isolated you become. You become alone and you become quietly angry.

So ask yourself "how am I doing?" Am I living a life that has some joy in it? If the question comes to you, I would say the best place to look would be to look in the mirror. You have been working on that face for quite some time. And how do you like it? Do you see any joy, kindness, or compassion in it?

Fr. Frank McNulty tells a wonderful story. When Fr. Frank was in Newark he was doing exit interviews with priests who were retiring after 50 years of priesthood. They would retire and they would come in and he'd ask them how it went. So in this one, two week period, there were two priests who retired. Both of them grew up in the same town, went to the same high school, graduated the same year, went to the same seminary, had similar assignments throughout their 50 years, and retired in the same summer. The first guy walks in. Fr. Frank was going to ask him

how it went, but he didn't have to. The guy sat down and had a haggard look on his face, and proceeded to tell Fr. Frank in no uncertain terms what he thought of him, the Archdiocese, the priesthood, and where all those things could be "put", and then walked out. Two weeks later the second priest comes in and he has a kindly smile on his face, and Fr. Frank said, "Well, how did it go?" And the guy said to Frank "Well you know there were some tough times, but you know I really loved it. People loved me, I loved them. I'm going to miss them terribly. And frankly, I wish I could do it all over again."

I think in the end it's a choice that we all make. You might say yeah, I didn't like my parents growing up, I didn't like the bishop, I didn't like my neighbour, or I didn't like my whatever. In the end I don't really think that any of those things matter when it comes to God's joy. I think it's we who choose. We can choose life, or we can choose death. The choice is ours. Now it's kind of exciting to realize that we have that choice to let God's Spirit into our lives. It's an awesome responsibility as well. But I think the choice is ours.

As the Holy Father admonished us all, let us open the doors of our hearts in order that Christ may enter and bring us his joy. The church needs joyful priests, capable of bringing true joy to God's people which is the Good News in all it's true and transforming power. ☩

Fr. Stephen Rossetti is President and CEO of the St. Luke Institute, a residential treatment centre for clergy and religious in Silver Springs, Maryland. This article was transcribed, edited, and abridged from an audio tape of a talk he gave at the International Institute for Clergy Formation 2004 Winter Meeting held in Winter Park, Florida (Jan. 11-16th). Used with permission.

FEATURE

St. Maurice Parish at Worship

St. Maurice Tuesday Night Holy Hour

by Maria Pirrone

Introduction

St. Maurice parish in Ottawa has all-day adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday in the main church. Adoration begins at 7:00 a.m. with exposition, continues up until the 7:00 p.m. Mass (during which time it is reposed in the Tabernacle), and then re-exposed after Mass for a "special Holy Hour" until 8:30 p.m. The Holy Hour consists of various prayers including: 1) Litany of Jesus; 2) Prayers of reparation to the Sacred Heart; 3) Prayers for the sick & dying; 4) Prayers for the protection of human life at all stages; 5) Divine Mercy chaplet; 6) Time of silent adoration; and 7) Benediction. Everyone is invited to attend! You will be blessed! For further information please contact the coordinator of the Holy Hour: Maria Nicastro (613) 723-1135.

Explanation

One evening several years ago St. Maurice parishioner Maria Nicastro and I were discussing the love of the Father and His mercy. She was telling me about a mental vision she had of Our Lady holding Jesus in her arms. His Body was lifeless. As she was holding Him up to the Father in reparation for our sins, she saw everyone in the parish kneeling and while reciting the Divine Mercy, we were all holding Jesus up in our arms and asking for mercy-united with Mary. She felt a sense that the Father wanted so much for all of us to have His mercy and He was showing us the way through the sufferings of our KING, united with our sincere love and repentance. He needed intercessors. That's how the idea of the Holy Hour was born. For the last 8 years at St. Maurice we have come together every Tuesday



evening in order to pray, worship and adore our Lord present in the most Blessed Sacrament. We include personal intentions, but our main focus is intercessory prayer and prayers of reparation for the living and the dead and for profanities committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We began at the time with reciting the Litany of Jesus, King of All Nations and the chaplet of the Divine Mercy, with spending silent time with the Lord. It was so successful that we have been blessed with all-day adoration with the continuation of the prayers of reparation and the chaplet of the Divine Mercy whereby we offer the passion and death of Jesus to God the Father in order to obtain graces and mercy for us and the whole world. Last spring, we were blessed to obtain three papal blessings for every time the Holy Hour gathered for prayer. We received these blessings due to the fact that we pray the Divine Mercy publicly, before the Blessed Sacrament for the intentions of: 1) reparation of sins; 2) for the sick and dying, abortion and euthanasia; and 3) in reparation for the church. Maria Nicastrò, the leader of Holy Hour, a very faithful servant of the Lord, has done such a superb job in bringing the importance of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as a lay person together with the blessings of having the support of the Companions of the Cross priests – who keep faithful to the rich traditions of our Catholic Church (with the Eucharist being one of the pillars of their spirituality). Praise God. Every year Holy Hour members host an almsgiving project in order to make reparation for the dead. This past year, a special collection was taken with proceeds going towards the Blessed Sacrament Oratory which will be built in the near future when St. Maurice undertakes its Architectural Renewal Project. Jesus wants His reign to be recognized on earth. We owe HIM true love and worship with the end goal the sanctification and resulting salvation of our souls. We invite each parishioner and their family and friends to open their hearts and remember the value of Jesus present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I would love to see all the parishioners especially the youth (our future) of St. Maurice join the Holy Hour

members, uniting their sufferings with Jesus in reparation to the Father. The Holy Father himself encourages every parish to have Eucharistic Adoration. Saints have found their sanctity by spending hours before Jesus and allowing Him to transform their thoughts into His thoughts, their words into His words, their actions into His actions. Padre Pio has stated that he would literally stay up all night before the Blessed Sacrament in order to make reparation for thousands of souls in purgatory that would ask him for assistance. Though we are unworthy sinners, we can still be of great value to the body of Christ by merely walking into a church and adoring Jesus the Divine Mercy, Incarnate King, in the Eucharist!

Festivals of Praise & The Fiat Praise Band

By James G. Anderson

*“O sing to the Lord a new song,
For He has done marvelous things!
Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the earth; Break forth into joyous
song and sing praises!”*

[Psalm 98]

There’s something about a good song... a catchy tune and heartfelt lyrics, perhaps a beat that sets your toe a-tapping. You smile, then hum, whistle a little, and before long you’re singing too! A good song – it will lift the spirits of even the most sombre soul. Just think of the plagued King Saul of Israel, inconsolable until soothed by the pluck and thrum of the shepherd’s harp. Music has that power – to soothe, to cheer, to encourage, to bring one to tears in the depths of sorrow or the heights of joy, to express any of the myriad movements and emotions of the human heart. And the human heart is a heart created for worship, created by God and for God, the desire for God “written in the human heart,” as the *Catechism* teaches in its opening pages. Little wonder, then, that at the heart of worship is song.

The work of the Holy Spirit among the Christian churches over the past 30 years has brought to fruit music which is prayerful, powerful and beautiful. Indeed, in the past decade Christian contemporary music has come to reflect deeply the human desire for God and God’s outpouring of the gift of worship. It seems that there is a fresh anointing of the Spirit as more and more people and more and more communities respond to the Psalmist’s exhortation and break into “a new song.”

Glenn Pereira, music director at St. Maurice Parish in Nepean, Ontario, has responded to the prompting of the Spirit to form a band to lead Festivals of Praise, gatherings which might best be described in the words of St. Paul as he instructed the Ephesians to “*be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.*” Glenn describes the coming together of the group as steps in an ongoing journey.

“My earliest recollection of praise music,” he reflects, “was experienced as a teen on staff at Nazareth Centre in Combermere. It was there in that little chapel where I first drew a connection between prayer and music.” Later Glenn attended a Steubenville Youth Conference and felt that he “wanted to be around that kind of atmosphere.” He returned in the early 1990’s to study at Franciscan University. It was there that he was first introduced to the “Festival of Praise” and, after studying under Jim Cowan, began to feel a tug in his heart.

“Almost eight years later, while working as a music minister, I could no longer ignore my heart and I started to discern starting a praise band. God wanted something more. That year I married Kerri, and together we agreed that we would pursue the call the Lord had placed on my heart. For two years I tried to put together a band with little success.”

During this time, Glenn and Kerri were faced by many challenges, the greatest of which was the loss of their first child.



Fiat Praise Band

“There were times when we questioned God’s love and life became frustrating.” Yet despite their trials, Glenn continued to experience the desire to form a praise band. He knew it was God’s will. Laughing, he says, “Before we knew it we had the support of both a full band and our parish priest. Looking back on it all, God had a plan. He wanted my fiat, our fiat, our complete ‘yes’ to the Lord.”

So came into being the Fiat Praise Band, a group of over a dozen singers and musicians who, under Glenn’s direction, lead the music for the monthly Festival of Praise at St. Maurice’s.

Kerri regards the Festivals and involvement in the band as not only a time to offer the Lord prayer in song, but also as a chance to draw strength from her fellow worshippers. “Sometimes the challenges in life seem like too much, but gathering together can be a wonderful source of support and an opportunity to ask for their prayer. Daily I have to recommit myself and say ‘yes’ to the Lord in my life. These Festivals are an opportunity to do that in a more public way.”

Daniel Jeffrey, percussionist for the Fiat Praise Band, echoes Glenn’s and Kerri’s understanding of the group’s purpose. “At it’s heart, we’re aiming, with our individ-

ual ‘fiats’ to seek the Lord’s direction in learning how to pray. For us it’s like Our Lady’s ‘fiat’, expressed through music, to the Lord’s desire for us to enter into deeper communion with Him. ‘Fiat’ is our ‘yes’, our availability, our openness, our willingness to ‘Do whatever He tells you.’” He is quick to add, “This isn’t just the invitation for all of us musicians, but also for everyone who joins us at the Festivals of praise and worship.”

There is a richness in Dan’s sense of the movement during the Festivals of Praise, from the upbeat, joyful, often more boisterous praise music into the slower, gentler and somehow more personal worship music.

“Praise,” he says, “is the starting point of helping us all to enter into our hearts. Praise helps us set aside the barriers to intimacy with God. Worship is the state we then enter into—it’s a state of ‘being’, attentive and open to receiving what the Lord wishes to impart to us. Really, it is intimacy. Perhaps the music has become at this stage much quieter. Perhaps it fades into silent adoration. So then worship is communion with God, not only individually but all of us together. We aim in the Festivals of Praise to foster an environment of worship for us all. Everybody is a part of this. It’s a work of the community.

Of course adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at our Festivals unites us to the very reality of the person of Christ.”

It seems strange, perhaps, that a drummer – particularly one who seems dwarfed by the expansiveness of the kit which surrounds him when he plays – should speak in terms of intimacy, quietness, prayer and meditation. And yet, as is evident in worship, Christian musicians, among them the members of Fiat, will ‘pray’ rather than ‘play’ their instruments – keyboard, voice, fiddle, guitar or, as in Daniel’s case, the drums. It’s a tangible gift of the Holy Spirit, and it flows from the heart.

In recent years, contemporary Christian music has more and more come from the “heart of worship”. While it may seem a style unfamiliar to the Catholic worship setting, the music is a powerful means of proclaiming the Gospel and inviting all believers into communion with God. One member of Fiat describes the music as “an inspiration to go deeper into my faith. Singing these songs, which are so powerful in so many ways, has inspired me to go to my Bible and look up the references of each song, so they have become even more meaningful to me when I sing His praises. The Festivals have truly drawn me closer to God; it has renewed my commitment to draw ever closer to Him, and has made me more committed to spread the Good News.”

And this is the true heart of Fiat and the Festivals of Praise, an invitation for all who gather for prayer to imitate Mary’s surrender and to come into intimate communion with Jesus. It is an invitation to journey, an invitation back to the heart of worship.

The Festivals of Praise at St. Maurice’s Parish are held on the first Saturday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm. For further information, please contact Glenn & Kerri Pereira at (613) 224-8387. ☎



Companions of the Cross

D O N O R R E S P O N S E F O R M

I would like to participate as a partner with the Companions of the Cross in the formation of candidates for the priesthood. I have indicated below the method of support that I prefer. To view our Privacy Policy please visit our web site www.companionscross.ca. All information sent to us will be kept strictly confidential.

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Number: _____ Expiry: ____ / ____ Amount: \$ _____

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I would like a free subscription to the Companions' quarterly newsletter.

Please pray for the following special intention: _____

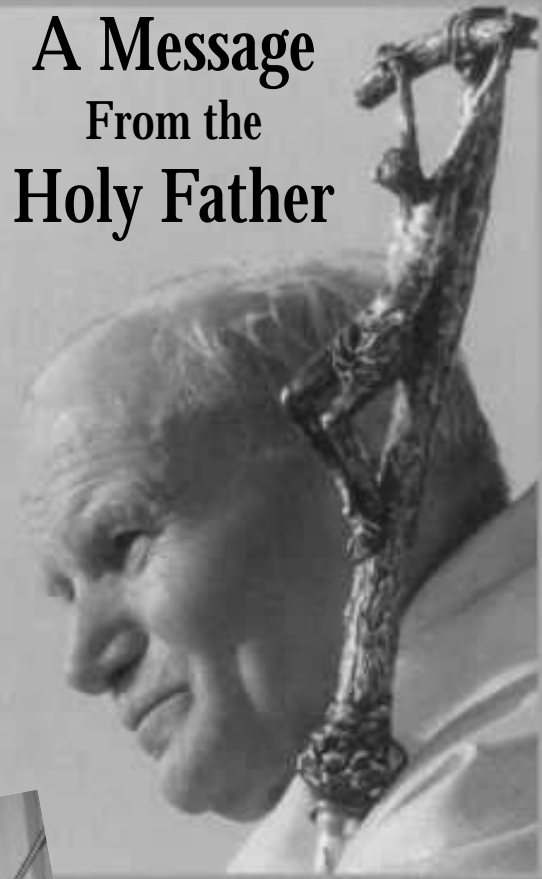


Please tear out this entire page, place it in the postage paid envelope provided, and then drop it in the mail. Your support of our community is very much appreciated!

"The Church must never cease to pray to the Lord of the harvest that he send labourers into his harvest. She must propose clearly and courageously to each new generation the vocational call, help people to discern the authenticity of their call from God and to respond to it generously, and give particular care to the formation of candidates for the priesthood."

- Pope John Paul II

A Message From the Holy Father



Companions Seminarian Music Group from left to right: Luc Filion, Barry Phillips, Mike Lees, Chris Vonesch, Mishko Micousek, Simon Lobo and Brian Christie

The photo left of Companions of the Cross seminarians in music ministry was taken at our annual Foundation Day Mass (held in May 2004).

At this Mass, we commemorate the "founding" of our community by Fr. Bob Bedard back in 1985.

This year we celebrated our 19th anniversary of founding, and the 1st year anniversary of our formal establishment as a Society of Apostolic Life.

Please consider becoming (or continuing to be!) a spiritual and temporal benefactor of our community. Help us form the "next generation" of priests for the Church, as the Holy Father is praying and asking for.

We need you. We thank God for you. We are praying for you!

FEATURE

National Catholic Register
(Feb. 15-21, 2004 edition)

PRIEST PROFILE: *Canadian Companions Kicked Off a Texas Tornado*

by Stephen Vincent
(reprinted with permission)

Parish life at Houston's Queen of Peace Church was running on empty. There were few lay ministries. Mass attendance was low and school enrollment was edging toward extinction. By the accounts of parishioners who prayed their way through the lean years, the inner-city community sorely needed... well, *something*.

God responded to the prayers, say those same parishioners, with a *someone*. Or, more accurately, several of them: Father Christian Riesbeck and his new religious community, the Companions of the Cross, from Ottawa. Father Riesbeck came to Queen of Peace in the fall of 1999 as pastor and three other priests from his community, came to staff the local Catholic Charismatic Center. Together, it seems, they set off a firestorm of the Holy Spirit.

When the new priests arrived, Queen of Peace had about 800 families on the parish rolls. Four years later, that number had doubled. The religious-education classes mirrored that rate of growth – enrollment is now up to 600 students –



Queen of Peace priests from left to right: Fr. Randy Hendriks, Fr. Christian Riesbeck, Fr. Daren Bryk

and the school boasts a modest but growing student body of 140. Most parishioners are Hispanic, with a large number of newly arrived Mexicans. To serve them better, Father Riesbeck spent seven weeks in Mexico learning Spanish before taking up his pastorate.

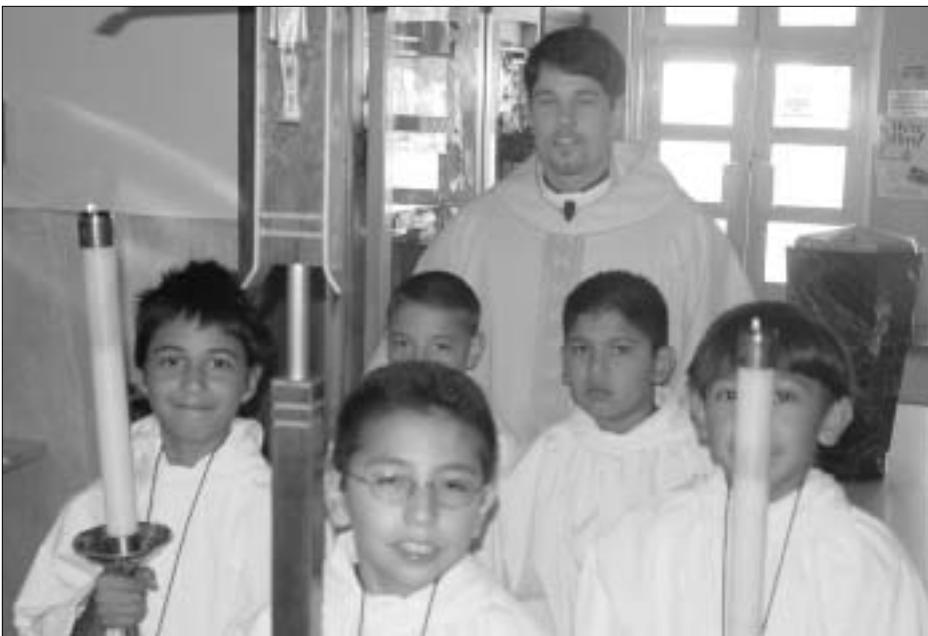
Father Riesbeck “was given a parish that nobody else wanted. Pastors would leave after a year or two in the past,” says Deena Wolf, who teaches religion at Queen of Peace School. “Now our parish is thriving. I hear constantly from the children that Father Christian has brought them closer to God. Many of them are expressing interest in the priesthood. Parents send their children to our school because of Father Christian. Our school was close to being shut down before he arrived.”

“Father Christian has gone above and beyond the call of duty,” says Mica Espinosa, who prepares children for the Sacrament of Confirmation and leads a youth program. “God has sent us an angel in our midst. He is firm and to the point and does not sugarcoat his teaching. He speaks the truth about what the Church teaches.”

Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston has called Father Riesbeck “a very good and zealous priest who’s doing a very good job at one of our Hispanic parishes.” Recalling his early days as the only resident priest at the parish, Father Riesbeck says: “I was alone, a young new pastor with five Sunday Masses to celebrate. There were no sacristans. In fact, after every Mass, because of the tight schedule, I would have to run back to the sacristy and get ready for the next Mass with just enough time for a quick restroom break.” Three of the five Masses on Sunday are offered in Spanish, as well as one of the two Saturday evening Masses.

The church also was in a fast advancing state of disrepair. “I found out after a heavy rainstorm that the new flat roof that had just been installed over parts of the church was leaking,” he says. “The sacristy started flooding and I found myself on the roof trying to brush off the water to minimize the damage. It took almost 10 return visits from the roofers to get it fixed.”

After a month of this exhausting routine, his fellow priests at the Catholic Charismatic Center rearranged their schedules to help Father Riesbeck on



Fr. Christian and some Queen of Peace altar servers

weekends. Once the weekly routine and leaky roof were settled, it was time to attend to the spiritual needs of the parish. Father Riesbeck formed a youth group and an evangelization committee. A small group of zealous parishioners were trained to run adult catechism classes and go through the neighborhood inviting people to return to Mass.

“There were 200 students preparing for First Communion and many of them were not even attending Sunday Mass,” Father Riesbeck says. “We realized that we needed to start evangelizing the parents as well and started classes for them.”

The parish hired a business manager to take care of finances and deal with vendors, installed a new rectory staff, opened a St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter to take care of the poor families in the area and formed a Knights of Columbus Council to activate the lay apostolate.

“We have more than 300 volunteers involved in various ministries,” Father Riesbeck says. The parish was shaping up, but the pastor still had a dream.

In Adoration Falling

One of the goals Father Riesbeck had when he arrived was to establish perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

This goal was realized a little more than a year and a half into his pastorate.

He turned the church’s crying room into a round-the-clock adoration chapel. Parishioners sign up for an hour or more of adoration each week. “Since I was ordained a priest, it was my dream to see a perpetual adoration chapel instituted wherever the Lord would send me,” he says. “I was overwhelmed by the response and since Easter of 2001, Jesus has been adored in the Blessed Sacrament around the clock in our chapel.”

“I can see how the parish has changed over the years,” says Paul Blubaugh, who attended the parish grammar school in the 1970s and was married in the church in January. “Father Christian is into experiencing Jesus in a very personal way. He has helped me in that regard to renew my faith and become more active in the church.”

Wolf concurs. “Father Christian teaches all catechists and school teachers that we must evangelize first,” she says. “He tells us that everyone must first develop a personal relationship with Jesus. He stresses this from the pulpit. The miracles that have happened because of this are astounding. Many who had turned away from the church are now coming back.” ☪



Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

with the Father & Son team
of Fr. Ben St. Croix (the son)
and Deacon Victor St. Croix
(the father)

October 18-31, 2004

Cost: \$1895.00
(based on dbl occ.)

Participation in a five day
“**Healing Retreat**”
with Fr. Jozo Zovko
is optional (extra \$75).
Departing from Toronto
and Montreal.

For more info call
Deacon Victor at
(807) 468-7654 or
Bibiane O’Gorman
(613) 567-0579.

LAY ASSOCIATES CORNER

A Vision for the Future

by Fr. Terry Donahue, CC

As the newly-appointed Spiritual Director for the Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross, I am pleased to present a vision for the future of the Lay Associates along with news about upcoming events.

Lay Associates Days

First, I believe that we need to gather together as Lay Associates to pray, share and learn from each other. To meet this need, I have decided to institute day-long gatherings called *Lay Associates Days*, consisting of Mass, prayer, talks, workshops and opportunities for discussion, focusing on four key areas: *formation, communication, gatherings for fellowship & prayer and mission*. The first will be held at St. Mary's church in Ottawa from 9am to 5pm on September 18, 2004. The second will be held at St. Timothy's Parish in Toronto in mid-October, 2004. In the upcoming year, we hope to offer a similar day for Lay Associates in other locations as we are able.

Formation

Every association of lay people needs to provide formation in the mission and spirituality of the group. To quote Vatican II's *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*: "Lay groups and associations ...should carefully and assiduously *promote formation* for the apostolate in keeping with their purpose and condition."

In the upcoming year, the Companions of the Cross will be offering Lay Formation courses on the following three topics: (1)

Apologetics for Evangelization (October-December, 2004), (2) *The Gospel of John* (January-March, 2005) and (3) *The Documents of Vatican II for Lay People* (April - June, 2005). Each course will last from 6-8 weeks, with classes on Tuesday evenings, offering in-depth teaching with accompanying resources and course materials.

During the Lay Associate Day, I will present an overview of these formation courses and answer any questions you might have. The day will also include a formation talk on *Living the Spirituality of the Companions of the Cross*, as well as a separate workshop for those interested in becoming Lay Associates.

Communication

Pope John Paul II writes that "Church communion, already present and at work in the activities of the individual, finds its specific expression in the lay faithful's working together in groups..." (*The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People*, 29). In order to work together effectively as a group, we need to communicate. During the Lay Associates Day, there will be times of discussion in smaller groups on various topics: a chance for you to share your ideas and experience.

In recent years, groups of Lay Associates have sprung up through Canada and the United States, and have expressed a desire to share their experiences and learn from each other. To facilitate this, we will be setting up an electronic mailing list for interested Lay Associates. I am open to your input on how we can communicate among us more effectively.

Gatherings for Prayer & Fellowship

In addition to attending communal celebrations of the Companions of the Cross, when and where possible, some Lay



Associates have formed groups to pray and share together. To support this, the Companions of the Cross are in the process of developing a Prayer Booklet filled with prayers reflecting our spirituality and mission. These will be published and distributed during the Lay Associates Day, for your use at home and in prayer gatherings. During the Lay Associates Day, there will be an opportunity for those who wish to form or participate in such a prayer group to receive information on how to do so, along with a format for such meetings.

Mission

"The faithful should participate in the apostolate by way of united effort. They should be apostles both in their family communities and in their parishes and

LAY ASSOCIATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Healing Masses

September 7, 2004

St. Maurice parish
with Fr. Fernando Suarez
7:00 p.m.

October 27, 2004

St. Mary's parish
7:30 p.m.

dioceses... as well as in the informal groups which they decide to form among themselves." (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 18). I am pleased that several of you have approached me with ideas for particular apostolates in the areas of evangelization and formation of lay people.

During the Lay Associates Day, there will be several presentations from Lay Associates involved in various apostolates, as well as a chance to get involved in the work of the Companions of the Cross in the areas of administration, lay formation and missionary outreach. There will be a special presentation of recent missionary trips of Companions priests and seminarians in collaboration with Renewal Ministries, and information for those interested in joining in an upcoming mission.

In conclusion, I am excited about the future of the Lay Associates. I look forward to collaborating with your Coordinator, Mary Lauzon, and with all of you at our upcoming Lay Associate Days and Lay Formation courses. Hope to see you there! ☺

Lay Associates Days

September 18, 2004

St. Mary's Church, Ottawa

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closing BBQ at 3:30 pm

\$5 per person or

\$10 per family

Babysitting available

St. Timothy's Parish, Toronto
Mid-October



Dan Lalonde, a very artistically gifted youth member of the **Witnesses for Christ Catholic Youth Group** (Cornwall, ON), has made an inspiring portrait of our Holy Father using only coloured pencils. Dan, after attending WYD in Toronto in 2002, was blessed by the opportunity of being in close proximity to our Holy Father. He was inspired to make this portrait (picture displayed here shows only the face - actual size of print is 15"x20").

Dan has had this drawing reproduced on quality paper.

Proceeds from the sale of this print will help cover Dan and other WFC members's expenses to attend WYD 2005 in Köln, Germany. Cost is just \$25.00 (Cdn), which includes shipping & handling.

To order please call Kevin or Emma Rayburn at (613) 528-1230 or email them at Kcrayburn@aol.com.

Your support is much appreciated!

'FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (OTTAWA)' PRESENTS:

"I have a Destiny"

Two days of Music, Teaching & Concert
with Fr. Stan Fortuna - the Rapping Priest

**Saturday, September 25 &
Sunday, September 26, 2004**

Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave., Ottawa

Includes: Healing Service with Fr. Mark Goring and
Fr. Fernando Suarez of the Companions of the Cross

Guest appearances, music & testimonies by
David MacDonald & Dennis Girard

Students (with ID): \$12 for one day or \$20 for both days
Adults: \$15 for one day or \$25 for both days

For more information visit: www.BeFree.ca
or call 613-830-0593



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

"Through His Wounds We Are Healed" Isaiah 53:5



with Fr. William Halbing – Oct. 29th -31st
At the Caruso Club, 385 Haig Street, Sudbury, Ontario
Sponsored by the little servants of Christ the King prayer
community

Early Registration: \$25.00

Youth 16 and under: \$15.00

For further information and application forms please contact:

Larry Arsenault at 705-523-4370 – maglaw@searsconnect.ca

Terry Shannon 705-673-8273 – terrence.shannon@sympatico.ca

Marlynn McBain 705-522-5560 – marlynnlila@hotmail.com

Rekindle the Fire

*A day of renewal hosted by the Bread of Life Renewal Centre
Renew your Faith, Hope, Love, Commitment
A chance to meet and talk with writers of The Bread of Life magazine*

Featuring: Fr. Peter Coughlin, Christine Labrosse, Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R., Sue Atkinson and other writers of *The Bread of Life*

Location: Holy Trinity SS, 2420 Sixth Line, Oakville, Ontario Date: Saturday, September 11, 2004 Time: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 includes bag lunch

For more info, call 905-529-4496 or
e-mail: info@thebreadoflife.ca



Talks include:

Jesus the Bread of Life by Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R. – Renew your faith

Journey of Hope by Sue Atkinson – Renew your hope

Covenant of Love by Christine Labrosse – Renew your love

Rekindle the Fire Within by Fr. Peter Coughlin – Renew your commitment

Holy Mass – Rekindle the Fire

2004-2005 St. Augustine Seminary/TST Theology Courses Offered by the Companions of the Cross

FALL 2004 (Sept.-Dec.):

SAH1001HF - The Church to A.D. 600

(Fr. Francis Donnelly)

An historical overview of the genesis of the Christian community, its early development, its relation to its surrounding culture, its various forms of life and worship, and its geographical expansion from the first through the sixth centuries.

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. Begins Sept. 14th.

SAB1003HS - Introduction to the Old Testament

(Fr. Rick Jaworski)

An introduction to the study of Sacred Scripture in general; more particularly the study of the Old Testament; and specifically, the Pentateuch and Historical Books. Includes an overview of the Pentateuch and Deuteronomistic History, with a concentration on Genesis and Exodus.

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon (includes 1 hr. seminar). Begins Sept. 16th.

SAT1101HF - Foundations of Theology

(Fr. John Vandenakker)

An introduction to the study of theology. Examines the nature and dynamics of divine revelation and faith. Explores how experience, faith, reason, and theology are interrelated. Topics covered include: Revelation, Faith, Tradition, Magisterium, Biblical Inspiration, Church Doctrine, Development of Dogma, Infallibility, Hierarchy of Truths, and the Role of Theologians in the Church.

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. Begins Sept. 15th

SAT2222HF - The Mystery of the Trinity

(Fr. John Vandenakker)

An examination of the 'Triune' understanding of God in the Christian tradition. We begin with a brief exploration of the problem of atheism and unbelief in the world today. Then we will focus in on the Biblical experience of God's self-revelation and our human response as recorded in the Scriptures. This will be followed by an extended inquiry into how the 'doctrine' of the Trinity came to develop in the early Church. Finally, we will touch upon some contemporary reflection on the mystery of God.

Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. Begins Sept. 17th

SAP1711HF - Introduction to Canon Law

(Fr. Francis Donnelly)

This course deals with the theological foundations of Canon Law and the fundamental principles of the Law in the light of the Second Vatican Council. Particular attention will be given to the role of the ministerial priesthood.

Thursdays 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Begins Sept. 16th

WINTER 2005 (Jan.-April):

SAT1901HS & SAT1902HS - Fundamental Christian Ethics I&II (two courses)

(Michel MacDonald)

An exploration of the moral message of the Scriptures, Old and New Testament; conversion, the basic moral imperative of Jesus; historical overview of the ethical wisdom of the Church, the moral agent and his acts, the natural law, the role of the Magisterium, positive law, virtue and sin, mortal and venial sin, the formation of conscience, and methodology in Ethics.

Mondays 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. & Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. -11 a.m. Begins Jan. 5th

SAB2181HS - Prophetic Literature

(Fr. Rick Jaworski) (Prerequisite: SAB1003HS)

An introduction to the study of biblical prophecy and its associated questions; to biblical prophets-early, and classical (pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic); as well as the development towards the apocalyptic form. Objectives: To have a greater understanding of what biblical prophecy is and who was a prophet. To gain a basic understanding of the major (and some more minor) prophetic figures and the role they played in their historical context. To learn more about forms of prophetic speech. To gain a more in-depth knowledge (historical-critical, doctrinal, and spiritual) of certain prophetic passages.

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon (includes 1 hr. seminar).

Begins Jan. 6th

SAB2271HS - Wisdom Literature

(Fr. Rick Jaworski) (Prerequisite: SAB1003HS)

This course serves as an introduction to biblical 'wisdom literature' in general; and in particular, to the wisdom psalms, and the books of: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth), Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach), and the Song of Songs. Objectives: to grasp the nature and scope of biblical wisdom literature, gain insight into the meaning and purpose and of the above mentioned books, and obtain a more in-depth knowledge (historical-critical, doctrinal, and spiritual) of certain well-chosen passages in each book.

Mondays 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon (includes 1 hr. seminar).

Begins Jan. 10th

SAT2401HS - Ecclesiology

(Fr. John Vandenakker)

An introduction to the 'theology of being the church.' We will examine biblical, historical, systematic and pastoral developments that have led the Christian community over the years to express its nature, composition, mission, and organization. We will focus on the ecclesiological teaching of Vatican II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Finally, a look at some post-conciliar reflection on various contemporary issues (e.g. ecumenism, the role of women in the church, the papacy, etc.)

Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. Begins Jan. 7th

Note #1: All classes will be held in the "Skinner Room" at the Dominican College (96 Empress Ave., Ottawa).

Note #2: Registration, payment of fees, etc., is under the auspices of St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto (2661 Kingston Rd., Toronto, Ont., M1M 1M3). Telephone: (416) 261-7207. Web Site: www.staugustines.on.ca Email: info@staugustines.on.ca Cost = \$418.50 per course (half-price for seniors 65+), plus college incidental fees of \$116.10 (good for 1-6 courses). Call for fees for full time students.

Note #3: Sorry, but St. Augustine's seminary guidelines prohibit people from just "sitting in" on these courses and following them for interest sake. You can audit them if you like, but you must still pay the required tuition.

**For further information please contact the Academic Coordinator of the Companions:
Fr. John Vandenakker (613) 728-1938 or email frjohnv@rogers.com**



COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

by Fr. John Vandenkaker

Fr. Dennis Hayes Undergoes Heart Surgery

Defibrillator Program Gets Save Credit (Ottawa Sun - April 28, 2004) by Sun staff/wires: "Ottawa paramedics are crediting the public access defibrillator program with saving the life of a 49-year-old man. The man lost consciousness shortly after 9 p.m. Monday while swimming at the Nepean Sportsplex. Swimmers noticed the man's condition and pulled him to the side of the pool. With the automatic external defibrillator, lifeguards treated the man with an electrical shock and within a few seconds, he regained a pulse and was breathing. He was taken to the Ottawa Hospital's Civic campus and was in stable condition."

Fr. Dennis' June 2004 Report:

Dear friends in Christ,
As I write to you today, I still find myself basking in the afterglow of Divine Providence and the gentle mercy of God. Over a month ago now, on the evening of April 26, I suffered a heart attack while swimming at our local Nepean Sportsplex here in West Ottawa. Thanks to the quick response of other swimmers, a very competent team of lifeguards and the assistance of an automatic external defibrillator machine, I was resuscitated and brought back from a near brush with death into the land of the living.

Subsequently on May 5th, I underwent open heart surgery, specifically a triple bypass operation in order to correct several arterial blockages in my heart. Many of you who know me well are aware of my ongoing reputation as one who takes his place in our community of priests and seminarians as a confirmed health and exercise nut! I come away from these recent events humbled and with a renewed sense of awe. Truly, our lives



and our own individual destinies remain in the hands of the Almighty... every dimension and moment of our lives is precious in His sight! (Psalm121)

The prayers that were offered up for me and my immediate family during this whole ordeal are beyond estimation or counting. We certainly continue to feel the support of your love and concern and for this we are so grateful. In return, we can only offer a simple promise of keeping all of you in special remembrance at prayer and daily Mass.

Now, on to a completely different topic - I am also writing you at this time to let you know that I will soon be returning to Southern Ontario. Effective July 1st, I will take up my new appointment as pastor of St. Timothy's Parish in North York. This is a significant move for me since I will be leaving the Ottawa Region where I have lived and ministered for almost nineteen years. It is with a certain degree of sadness that I leave the Archdiocese of Ottawa. Here, in this wonderful place, I have met so many of you and experienced the blessings of enduring friendships and of sharing and growing in our common faith. I pray that distance may never extin-



Clockwise from top: Sportsplex Lifeguards who saved Fr. Dennis; Fr. Dennis awaits surgery; Fr. Jeff Shannon prays over Fr. Dennis

guish the bonds of fraternity and community we have enjoyed over these many years.

As I am still in recovery from surgery and will continue to recover for most of the summer period, I am grateful for the pledge of assistance from several priests of the Companions of the Cross who will be present with me on a temporary basis at St. Timothy's during July and August.

For those who are familiar with the Toronto region, St. Timothy's Parish is situated just North West of the intersection of Highway 401 and Don Valley Parkway (Hwy #404). We are a stone's throw from the Fairview Mall Shopping Centre. I hope every one of you enjoys the summer months ahead. Thank you once again for all your support and prayers.

Sincerely Yours in Christ -
Fr. Dennis Hayes

New Appointments & Moves

The Companions of the Cross are pleased to make the following announcement regarding new appointments some of our Companions' priests and seminarians have received (effective summer 2004). Please note that any and all appointments to diocesan positions have been made by the respective bishops in charge (Archbishop Gervais for Ottawa, Archbishop Prendergast for Halifax, Archbishop Ambrozic for Toronto, and Bishop Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston), with the consent of the community. Other internal CC appointments and moves have been made by Fr. Roger Vandenaeker and the CC Executive Council. A complete roster of CC households will be published in our next newsletter. Here are the new appointments & moves:

Fr. Marc Syrenne joins Fr. Scott McCaig on the Formation Team at Assumption Farm in Combermere to help out with the first year applicants.

Fr. Allan MacDonald, still on the Formation Team, moves from Assumption Farm to our Ottawa Primrose residence and is named House Father there and is put in charge of all second year Applicants. He also becomes the Formation Team's secretary (handling its administrative work).

Fr. Terry Donahue moves from our Young St. residence to Primrose Avenue

to assist Fr. Allan. He continues with all his other duties.

Fr. John Likozar moves from St. Timothy's parish in Toronto and becomes pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Ottawa.

Fr. Jim MacGillivray moves from Primrose to Holy Rosary where he'll become House Father and Director of all Members in Temporary Commitment.

Fr. Dennis Hayes moves from St. Maurice parish in Ottawa to become Pastor of St. Timothy's parish, Toronto, and is named House Father as well.

Fr. Yves Marchildon moves from St. John the Baptist, Halifax to become Associate Pastor at St. Maurice Parish, Ottawa.

Michael Scherrey will become Assistant Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston, Texas effective 17 Sept. 2004 (after his ordination to the diaconate).

Fr. Ed Wade stays at the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston but only works half-time for the CCC. He does mission work for the Companions the remainder of his time.

Fr. Sean Wenger moves from St. Thomas Aquinas, Halifax to Houston. He will minister half-time at the Catholic Charismatic Center and begin graduate studies on a Doctor of Ministry degree (D. Min).

Fr. John Fletcher leaves the Dalhousie University chaplaincy in Halifax and becomes Pastor, along with Fr. Tim Devine as Associate Pastor, of two new Halifax parishes assigned to the

*Clockwise from top:
Fr. Sean Wenger;
Fr. Yves Marchildon;
Fr. Ben St. Croix*



Companions: St. Paul's (Herring Cove) and St. Peter's

(Ketch Harbour). They will continue to pastor a third area parish as well: St. John the Baptist. Regrettably, to allow for these changes, it means the Companions have to leave St. Thomas Aquinas.

Fr. Ben St. Croix moves from the York University chaplaincy in Toronto to the Dalhousie chaplaincy in Halifax. He will assist Fr. John Fletcher and Fr. Tim Devine in their parishes on the weekend.

Fr. Dan Cross takes on the York University chaplaincy in Toronto, residing in our St. Timothy's household.

Seminarian Gerald Whittaker begins a year of "pastoral internship" at St. Maurice parish in Ottawa.

Note: A full report chronicling our new Halifax ministry will be featured in the next CC newsletter. As for leaving St. Thomas Aquinas parish, this was a difficult decision the Archbishop and the



Fr. Marc Syrenne



Fr. John Likozar



Fr. Jim MacGillivray



Fr. Dan Cross



Gerald Whittaker

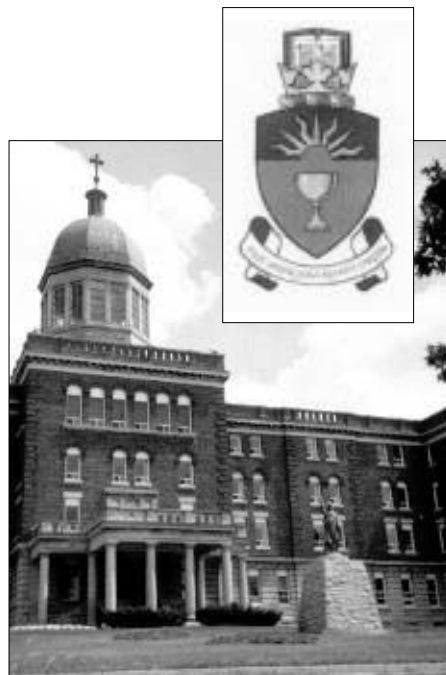
Companions had to make. When news got out that we were leaving St. Thomas Aquinas, we received many calls/ letters/e-mails from parishioners expressing thanks and wishing us well. Here are two brief excerpts that express this sentiment:

1) "...the remarkable work which has been done by the Companions of the Cross...our parish has been rejuvenated. Now, many new young families are attending our church from outside our parish boundaries as well as many from within. Sunday services are joyous with all these young families. With the Companions' deep spirituality and great interest in teaching the laity, we have been blessed with many opportunities to learn more about the Catholic faith as well as the work of evangelization. These dynamic, reverent and holy priests have shown us "The Way, the Truth and the Life"; and

2) "Youth, families and senior parishioners are joining in Bible studies, family Rosary, Adoration, Catechesis, formation group, CCO has arrived, etc, etc. As an example, two Thursdays ago following the 7pm Mass, we had the CCO Bible study, a prayer group in the hall with Mass and the Crew Night prayer group meeting. It was great to see so many people of all ages seeking the Lord!...They (the Companions) have set exemplary examples and inspiration for all, young and senior. I myself was actually considering leaving St. Thomas Aquinas prior to the Companions arrival, seeking something more than just an hour on Sunday. I said there must be more than this, there has to be something. I was searching. Today, I see Jesus, I know Jesus and I love Jesus with new eyes, new mind and new heart!"

New Academic Agreement with St. Augustine's Seminary

Elsewhere in this issue of our newsletter you will notice an advertisement for the theology courses we are offering for the upcoming academic year. This kind of ad is something we always run in our summer issue. But this year marks a signifi-



St. Augustine's Seminary

cant change in what institution we are offering these courses through. For the past several years we have been academically affiliated with Saint Paul University in Ottawa. Our relationship with Saint Paul's has ended, and now we are pleased to announce a new academic affiliation with St. Augustine's Seminary (SAS) in Toronto. We will be offering a full year's worth of courses here in Ottawa, the content of which will be similar to what we offered in the past, but the credits will now count towards a St. Augustine's degree. SAS is a member of the Toronto School of Theology (TST). This change also means that some of our seminarians will now be going to Toronto in the latter stages of their theology studies to complete their degree. For this coming year the following Companions' seminarians will be in residence at St. Augustine's seminary: John Paul Bolger; Francis Ching, Brian Christie, Mickey Dopp, Geoff Guitard, Bernard Messier, and Mike Minifie. This is an interim arrangement only, because we would dearly love to be able to keep our men in formation here in Ottawa. However, because we lack a sufficient number of teaching staff with doctorates, we are not able to properly set up our own college program (that would meet Ontario Ministry of Education requirements). We also lack a

proper building from which to teach out of (remember Vision 2005 anyone? – hint, hint). We have undertaken some long-range planning in this area that will allow us to meet our goals sometime in the hopefully not-too-distant future. In the meantime, we wish to thank Saint Paul University for the help they have given us in the past. We look forward to working under this new arrangement with St. Augustine's seminary in Toronto. Both the rector of SAS, Msgr. Bob Nusca, and the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Fr. Tom Lynch (along with his Administrative Assistant & Registrar: Theresa Vicioso) have shown us some really wonderful hospitality, support and friendship. We certainly feel "at home" with SAS (even though we are looking forward to the day we can finally fly the coop!). To allow our men in Toronto to live community more effectively while attending classes, we will be looking next year for a place that can house about a dozen men. If anyone knows of a vacant convent, rectory, house, or other facility we can rent/lease/buy, that is near downtown Toronto (or which is near a subway station), please contact our office. Please note that we will still be doing a substantial amount of seminarian formation in Ottawa and at Assumption Farm in Combermere. New candidates to the community spend their initial year with us at Assumption Farm. In their second and third years they usually study philosophy at Dominican College, while living in a CC household in Ottawa. They would then begin the first year of their program in theology with us here in Ottawa (with us teaching SAS courses). There are also two summers spent up at the Assumption farm partaking of our summer formation program, as well as a year of pastoral internship in a CC parish. So, although our current situation necessitates this change, we are confident that it will not undermine our formation goals. What it does ensure is that our men will obtain a quality theological education that is fully Catholic and that is also attuned to the needs of candidates for the priesthood.

May 13th Ordination Banquet Report

A great time was had by all. Four CC priests were “toasted & roasted” in grand style at Capone’s banquet hall in Ottawa this past May 13th as we celebrated their various anniversaries of ordination (we currently commemorate any ordination anniversary that is a multiple of five). Our guests of honour were: Fr. Francis Donnelly (25 years); Fr. Roger Vandenakker (15 years); Fr. Allan MacDonald (10 years); and Fr. George Sammut (5 years). Also present was a gate-crasher: Fr. Rob Arsenault – celebrating 10 years (we couldn’t “officially” announce that we were going to honour him ahead of time because the news that he would be leaving his diocese to come and join us this summer as a priest candidate had not yet been made public by the Archbishop of Kingston). Fr. George Sammut was honoured by long-time friends Cyril & Melanie Dowling. They spoke of how their seven daughters greatly loved Fr. George, and of the hard work, generosity, and dedication he had shown as a priest. They also admired his car. In his remarks afterwards, Fr. George said he was thankful to be a priest, and that his aim in life was “to help get people to heaven” (and that he had a nice car with which to help him do this!). Fr. Allan MacDonald was honoured by Fr. Rob Arsenault. He revealed that he always had a secret admiration for Fr. Allan’s permanent hair cut and its indestructible nature (resistant to fussing or musing of any kind!). Fr. Allan’s supposed motto in the seminary was: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” (referring to the Council of Trent). Fr. Rob also had another pet name for Fr. Allan, which referred to his “tough love” style of ministry, but which cannot be reprinted in this family publication. Fr. Rob concluded his remarks by saying how much he admired Fr. Allan’s faithfulness, friendliness, and forthrightness. In his remarks afterwards, Fr. Allan noted that of his two other brothers, one is a cop, and the other an undertaker. So no matter what you do in life, sooner or later



Left to right: Fr. Francis Donnelly, Fr. Rob Arsenault, Fr. Roger Vandenakker, Fr. Allan MacDonald and Fr. George Sammut

you’re bound to encounter a MacDonald! (As a side note: Fr. George reported once having had an encounter with Officer MacDonald while cruising on Hwy 401 one day. When he was pulled over for speeding, he did not recognize the officer, but he was wearing his clerics and so he tried to charm him with a line from a scene he had seen in old TV movie – “Sorry officer, but I’m a preacher.” Officer MacDonald’s response: “I heard you preach last week, and you went over the limit on that too!”). Fr. Roger Vandenakker was honoured by Fr. Scott McCaig. Fr. Scott was amazed at what a little sugar can do for Roger’s system (it can have him singing “Day-O” at the top of his lungs in under 12 minutes flat). He also noted the incredible burden Roger shouldered as Moderator of the community, as he worried about the health and welfare of his brother priests. But Fr. Roger has shouldered it well because of his deep faith in the providence of the Lord. He is a delightful guy to be around; a real “brother” to his fellow Companions. In his reply, Fr. Roger thanked Fr. Bob for founding the community, and in giving such an example to us all. He also thanked all of our supporters, especially those who were there that night. He was genuinely touched by people’s kindness and consideration. Last, but not least, Fr. Francis Donnelly was honoured by his brother, Fr.



Guess who?

Patrick Donnelly (a priest of the Archdiocese of Montreal), and by Fr. Bob Bedard. We heard that Fr. Francis is a gifted golfer, and that he preaches the same way he golfs – full out! Fr. Patrick shared how he dearly loved his brother, but was convinced nonetheless, that he had run off and joined a certifiably “nutty bunch” (hence a group Francis has no problem fitting into!). Fr. Bob shared how easy a guy Francis was to live with, incredibly helpful, and very passionate about the faith. In response, Fr. Francis reflected on the “odyssey” these 25 years of priesthood have been for him. He expressed gratitude to the Lord for all His mercies, and hope that the best was still yet to come for his priesthood and the work of helping to renew the Church.

Many thanks to Mary Lauzon for organizing the event which such style and flair

(and to all who had a hand helping out)! Please note that Linda O'Donnell, our CC Office Receptionist, reports that over 40 people called the office in the last couple of days before the dinner to try and get tickets, but sadly the deadline for acquiring them had passed (the Banquet Hall sets the deadline for ordering meals). Please call earlier next time, as next year we get ready to celebrate Fr. Bob Bedard's 50th anniversary of ordination!

Halifax Companions Celebrate Foundation Day

Every first Friday in May the Companions of the Cross celebrate their annual "Foundation Day". A special Mass and reception are always held at St. Mary's church in Ottawa. As in the past, our Halifax brothers also gathered locally to commemorate this festive event that marks the founding of our community by Fr. Bob Bedard back in 1985. You may notice that the cake below says "Happy 1st Anniversary". That is because we were only officially established as a new Society of Apostolic Life in the Church just last year (May of 2003). Joining our Halifax brethren on this occasion was Fr. Scott McCaig (a notorious party crasher). Missing from the photo was Phil Halldron.

Seminarian Farewell

Every year it is with regret that we say "fare thee well" to a number of seminarians and/or other applicants who take their leave of us. This is always sad but inevitable, for not everyone who comes to us is called to the priesthood and/or to our community way of life. But for all who have journeyed with us we hope that it has been a time of personal blessing and an opportunity for them to help clarify their vocational discernment. We have been enriched by their presence and the time they have spent with us (however long or short it has been). And so we say a fond farewell and Godspeed to seminarians: Matt Chojna, Rod Davis, Richard Donnelly, David Fletcher, Patrick Gallagher, Chris Kinsella, Joel Mercer, Cory Roan, Ryan Schmidt, Lucian Schulte, Nick Villalobos, Chris Weber, Joseph Yawney, and to Fr. Bob Shaldone (who was a priest applicant to the community). All of these men are friends of ours forever. May the Lord guide all their steps in His pathways! Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Left to right: Fr. Yves Marchildon, Fr. Scott McCaig, Fr. John Fletcher, Nick Simoni, Fr. Sean Wenger and Fr. Tim Devine

Priest Farewell

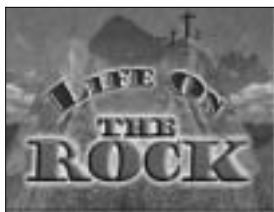
It is one thing to have seminarians and applicants leave the community, after all, they are here for the express purpose of discerning their call; it is quite another to see priests who have made a life-time commitment take their leave of the community. That is why it is with much "heaviness of heart" that we report that Fr. Ross Lambton, who has been on a leave of absence from the community for the last two years, has decided to make his departure from us permanent. Fr. Ross, as his former parishioners at St. Maurice parish know (via a letter he had published in the parish bulletin dated Sept 21st, 2003), explained that he suffered what is commonly known as "burnout". He goes on to note: "The year that followed was both difficult and healing for me, the details of which are too personal to note here. Burnout is a very painful and disorienting experience – one that requires time and recovery. I am still pursuing the path of healing that I set out on last summer, and it continues to be both difficult and good." This spring, Fr. Ross informed us that he will not be coming back to the Community. He is grateful for the friendships that he has made and it is with sadness that he takes his leave of us. Please keep Fr. Ross in your prayers as he discerns his future and what it is he feels the Lord calling him to do. Fr. Ross has made an immense contribution to the community over the years, in all the various ways he served us. We will miss you brother!

It is also with sadness that we report that Fr. George Sammut will be taking his leave of the community. Fr. George has served as pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Ottawa these past four years. He has displayed much dedication to his parishioners and zeal for the ministry. Fr. George has decided to pursue ministry in the diocesan priesthood in St. Catharines in Southern Ontario (St. Patrick's in Caledonia). As a bonus, he will be closer to his family who live in London, Ontario. We wish Fr. George all the best in his new

ministry and pray for “a double portion of the Spirit” to be with him as he continues serving God’s people. Fr. George has made many friends with the Companions and with parishioners here in Ottawa, and he knows he will always be welcomed here and held up in prayer. Parishioners at Holy Rosary held a farewell party for Fr. George on Sunday June 20th in the new hall that he had built. May God bless you Fr. George.

Life on the Rock

Fr. Tim Devine and his brother Matthew flew down to Birmingham, Alabama to be guests on EWTN’s “Life on the Rock” television show. The show was broadcast live on May 20th, and replayed on May 23rd. The program is hosted by Fr. Francis



Mary and other friars of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word. Fr. Francis interviewed Fr. Tim and Matthew on this spirited and LIVE call-in show. Fr. Tim and Matthew boldly witnessed to the reality of their Catholic faith and sang some songs from their latest musical CD: “Devine Not Ordinary”. They also fielded questions from viewers across North America, many of whom wanted to know how Fr. Tim copes with his handicap and still manages to be a busy priest. It was a great experience for both Matthew and Fr. Tim, and it generated some great awareness and PR for the community! Fr. Tim and Matt Devine’s CD “Devine Not Ordinary” may be ordered through the following link: <http://www.catholicrock.com/devine/devine.html>. ☺

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

presents



A CATHOLIC ALLIANCE OF FAITH, INTERCESSION, REPENTANCE, AND EVANGELISM

RALLY

“I pray that all of you who participate in the 2004 FIRE Rally will be open to all the many gifts that the Holy Spirit will shower on you during this event. My thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you.”



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Saturday,
November 6, 2004
Tudor Hall

3750 Bowesville Rd., Ottawa

8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
(Doors open at 8:00 a.m.)

\$25.00 for adults
\$20.00 for clergy
\$10.00 for youth
(17 & under)
\$30 at the door
(based on availability)

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Join us in the evening for the YOUTHFEST!
The youthfest is open to all high school aged youth and young adults. Enjoy an evening of praise, worship and celebration with musician Garth Pereira and featured FIRE speaker Peter Herbeck.

Also at Tudor Hall
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FAITH

- a challenge to Catholics to renew and deepen their relationship with the Lord.

RALPH MARTIN is the founding President of Renewal Ministries, host of a popular weekly television series, *The Choices We Face* and founding editor of *New Covenant* magazine. He has authored many books and tapes.



INTERCESSION

- a call to united prayer as our most important spiritual weapon available for renewing the face of the earth.

SR. ANN SHIELDS is the superior of the Servants of God’s Love, a Catholic community in Lansing, Michigan. She is a regular co-host on *The Choices We Face* and hosts a short-wave radio program, *Food for the Journey*. She is a popular author and a frequent speaker at national and international conferences.



REPENTANCE

- an exhortation to turn away from personal and corporate sin to a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled life according to the demands of the Gospel.

FR. MICHAEL SCANLAN is the Chancellor and former President of Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. In 1990, Fr. Michael was awarded the cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* by Pope John Paul II. He is the author of many titles, including his autobiography, *Let the Fire Fall*.



EVANGELISM

- an invitation to spread the Good News of salvation and the gift of authentic Catholicism.

PETER HERBECK is Director of Missions at Renewal Ministries where much of his work is devoted to helping equip Catholics for ministry through training in the exercise of spiritual gifts. Peter and his wife Debbie have four children and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.