

Summer 2005

# Companions of the Cross

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Experiencing  
God's Beauty



To Fr. Bob – With Love



# Tributes

FROM FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS

On the Golden Jubilee of Fr. Bob Bedard's Ordination to the Priesthood (1955-2005)

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Companions of the Cross



## FEATURE

by Fr. Jim MacGillivray

# Community *Life* as Family *Life*

At our Christmas gathering, Fr. Bob mentioned something which was really food for thought for the men in our house. It was a hopeful thing too. I believe that he said something to the effect that in the first days of the community, the reason four or five men got together with him, was not to evangelize or disciple others – it didn't have anything to do with charisms. They got together to support each other. They had concluded that they needed support and they would have a better chance of getting through the seminary and getting ordained if they stuck together. That was the first reason for the Companions of the Cross to exist.

That need for support has not changed with the years and we have all heard him say, many times, that the quality of our ministry will be directly related to the quality of our life together. Fr. Roger has been reinforcing this especially in the last couple of years. I know I have heard him say that when doing evaluations for life membership, if we can't say we would be willing to live with and work with this man for 12 years, then we shouldn't vote for them to be ordained. That's how important our life together is.

The apostolate in which we are working comes second to our life together and it depends on that life together for its vitality and life. Living together is not to be something we endure in order to get a chance to do some job. If we get it backwards, we will soon dread going home. We will spend as little time there as we can, and we will put in only what we must. We will search for community and validation or approval outside and our home will suffer. Isn't that what happens when a man puts his job ahead of his mar-

riage and his children? How long will it be until he is confiding in his secretary instead of his wife?

We know that today "family" is under attack on all sides. Maybe it was providential then that in this day and age a new religious community chose the example of family to describe its way of life. Words are very important and by choosing to describe ourselves as family, we are also deciding to model healthy family. The last thing our society needs is another example of a dysfunctional family. We believe that a healthy family is the basic context, the place, the condition for people to grow into the people they are called to be. It is within the healthy family that a person has the best chance to be healed and freed and to come to wholeness. Our houses are to be places that witness to the truth of the Lord's words: "*Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom*". Wholeness comes about when wholeness, not dysfunction, is modelled and lived.

Presumably, when we chose to describe ourselves as family, we really meant it and so we really mean "brothers, father, home, family". Those are not just words to us. If they are just words, then we do a disservice to real families and we add to the cynicism about the possibility of real family life. Normal family life is not quite as common as it used to be. We shouldn't be too surprised then that not all those who come into the community are able to look back to the family they have come from and use that as a compass for what normal life is like. So it becomes all the more important for us to model authentic family because for many, it will be a new experience.

The words "home, family, father, brothers" are not just important words; they are roles that we model for better or for worse. Maybe they deserve a closer look to make sure that we are not just using words, and to make sure that we are using them as they were intended to be used.

It seems to me that we haven't yet said a whole lot about the importance of making our houses, homes – real homes. I think it was Robert Frost, the American poet, who said that "Home is where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." That's a pretty basic definition and I hope our homes are a lot more than that. I hope my home is the place (or better, the group of people) among whom I can really be myself – no pretense, no bullying, and no fear. I hope my home will be a place where it is safe for me to admit my weaknesses, be accepted with them, and supported as I try to find healing for them. In *Becoming Human* Jean Vanier says: "Each of us needs to belong, not just to one person but to a family, friends, a group, a culture. It is only through belonging that we can break out of the shell of individualism and self-centeredness that both protects and isolates us." If our homes and our communities are to be places where there is to be real life and growth into the freedom of the sons of God – Vanier says "growth towards openness means dialogue, trusting in others, listening to them, particularly to those who say things we do not like to hear, speaking together about our mutual needs and how we might grow to new things. The birth of a good society comes when people start to trust each other, to share with each other and to feel concern for each other."

*Continued on page 2...*



I don't think we should dismiss too quickly the idea of our houses being real homes. We need to reflect on what is essential to a home. Our community homes do not need to be – in fact, shouldn't be luxurious, that would be a scandal. Most of us don't come from luxurious homes and we shouldn't forget where we come from or despise the fact that we may have come from a poor home. The priesthood should not be an escape hatch that we use to move up into a new social class. So, not luxurious homes. On the other hand there is no excuse for us to be slobes either. Just because we are men living together and we have no women to civilize us, shouldn't excuse us to live in a dump. What do people mean when they use the word "homey" to describe a place? They usually are describing a warm place where they feel welcomed – as if they were at their own home. Does the word "homey" describe our homes?

Another characteristic of a good home is that it is a place where laughter comes easily and often. Life is tragic, but it is also comic and if we can't see it and enjoy it, something is wrong. O Henry said that

life was made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles – with sniffles predominating. Lack of a sense of humour is a sure sign of emotional illness. Homes as well as individuals can be emotionally ill. For example, we don't think of an alcoholic home as a place of laughter.

In our homes, the primary responsibility falls to the House Father. In a school, the Principal sets the tone that the rest pick up. Is the House Father warm and welcoming? Is he worried all the time that his authority is being questioned? Are we, as House Fathers, living out the best of what a good father does? Are we present to all the family members? Fr. Allan often talks about the "ministry of presence" as the main job of the House Father. Are we concerned about each family member, keeping abreast of how they are doing? Do we know what they are doing? Do we care? Have we committed ourselves to be for them? Isn't that what a father does for his family? Paul tells husbands to love their wives as Christ has loved the Church – by laying down his life for her. That pretty well defines the role of House Father for me.

The key to successful family life is love and that's not something we can simply presume. It could be just another word to which we give our own meaning. We must honestly ask ourselves if we are prepared to love each one in our house. Do we? Do I? If not, then nothing else will work. I have to wonder how often has a word or action of mine come not from love but from anger or resentment or frustration. A person will know whether or not they are loved and will respond in kind.

If we are describing ourselves as home and family, maybe another point should be made. I wonder if it is because most families today have no experience of a grandfather or grandmother living with them, that they don't often know how to treat grandparents? Or is it just an attitude toward "what is old"? When I tell the guys that I bought a movie, the first question I get is, "How old is it? Is it black and white? Is there a piano player?" If I tell them it was filmed in 1942 you can hear the groans. Well, I was born in 1943 and I am still here and I think I still have something to offer. If a movie is still here it is because it has staying power and surely has something to recommend it. But we hear today of "seniors abuse" and prejudice against the aged and its real. I for one get a little tired of hearing about the awful '60's and '70's, and so I remind people that it wasn't all bad. Charismatic Renewal came out of the '60's. We laugh about the hippies and the communes but they really were trying to live community and one of the things that was taught in the '60's was a sincere and deep respect for the value of every single human being regardless of whether or not they had a title or a position of authority. I want to give you a very brief excerpt from a beautiful book written by Dr. Rachel Remen, M.D. entitled *My Grandfather's Blessings*. This piece is entitled Teachers Everywhere:

"I can clearly remember something that happened when I was in third grade. I was walking with my mother on a downtown street in New York City, pushing through



the crowds on our way to I no longer remember where. I had just been put into a special class at school because I had done well on an IQ test, and my new teacher had told us that being in her class meant we were brighter than most of the people in the country. As we moved through the hurrying crowds, I remembered this and was filled with an eight-year-old's outrageous pride. I told my mother that my teacher had said that I was smarter than most of the people around us. She stopped walking immediately and knelt down so that we were at eye level with each other. As the crowd flowed past us on either side, she told me that every one of the people around us had a secret wisdom; each of them knew something more about how to live, about being happy, about loving than I did.

"I looked up at the people passing by. They were all adults. 'Is this because they are all grown-ups, Mama?' I asked her, taken aback. 'No darling. It will always be that way,' she told me. 'It is how things are.' I looked again at the crowd moving around us. Suddenly I wanted to know them all, to learn from them, to be friends.

"This lesson became lost among the many others of my childhood, but shortly after I became a physician I had a dream that was so powerful that I remembered it even though I did not understand it. In this

dream, I am standing in the threshold of a door. I seem to have been standing there a long time. People are passing through the door. I cannot see where they are going or where they have come from, but somehow this does not seem to matter. I meet them one at a time in the doorway. As they pass through they stop and look into my face for a moment and hand me something, each one something different. They say, 'Here, here is something for you to keep.' And they go on. I feel enormously grateful.

"Perhaps we are all standing in such a doorway. Some people pass through it on their way to the rest of their lives, lives that we may never know or see. Others pass through it to their deaths and the Unknown. Everyone leaves something behind. When I awoke from that dream, I had a sense of the value of every human life."

But back to grandfathers. Today, instead of older people being seen as a treasure house of experience and wisdom they are sometimes treated as useless – they are no longer doing what our society values – so they are useless. How sad. What a waste. Families who have a grandparent living with them will tell you that besides experience and wisdom, another thing that they have, that the father or mother does not have – is time. They are available to

listen, to understand, to advise, to encourage, to lift up – to be interested in – to be an ear and a heart. As our community ages (and we hope it will be around long enough to do that), let's hope that we learn to value the old as well as the young. Already five of the 30 lifetime members are over 60 years of age. Let's beware of glorifying youth – for a lot of people it isn't such a great time. "To grow in wisdom, in age and grace"- should be happening to us at every age until we get to heaven.

Hopefully a good number of us have seen the film "Therese". You may have noticed that she didn't let her attempts to show love for someone become derailed by their response. She simply went on doing what she should be doing – loving. Eventually there was a positive response. Will our household be perfect if we all act out of love? Of course not, because we love imperfectly. But then perfectionism is a disease. Of course we want to improve and we work at it, but we also accept limitations, our own and others. Vanier again: "If we deny our weakness, if we want to be powerful and strong always, we deny a part of our being, we live an illusion. To be human is to accept who we are, this mixture of strength and weakness." If we can only love the ones we feel have it all together, then this is really "conditional love" not real love. Maybe we will have to ask ourselves whether or not we are capable of real love. Have I accepted myself? Do I love myself? Until we do, we are incapable of loving the other solely for themselves.

So these few ideas are presented to you to stimulate thought and discussion around the very basic ideas that were adopted early on – home – family – brothers – fathers. Living them better will provide the life for our ministries. ☺

.....  
*Fr. Jim MacGillivray is the Personnel Assistant to the Moderator and a member of the Seminarian Formation Team.*



**The Companions of the Cross**  
Cordially Invite You to  
Join in the Celebration of

**Fr. Bob Bedard's**  
**50th ANNIVERSARY**  
of Ordination to the  
Priesthood  
(1955-2005)



**MASS OF THANKSGIVING**

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Note: Limited seating available. Deadline for tickets is August 10th, 2005. Tables can be reserved ahead of time for groups of 8 or 10 (call the office for details).

*In lieu of gifts and cards please consider a donation to the Companions of the Cross (a collection will be taken up).*

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**Other CC priests  
celebrating anniversaries  
in 2005 and being feted  
at these events include:**



**Fr. John Vandenakker**  
Ottawa, ON Ord. 1985  
20 Years



**Fr. Rick Jaworski**  
Winnipeg, MB Ord. 1990  
15 Years



**Fr. Pierre Ingram**  
Guelph, ON Ord. 1995  
10 Years



**Fr. Scott McCaig**  
Kamloops, BC Ord. 1995  
10 Years



**Fr. Charles Orchard**  
Cobourg, ON Ord. 1995  
10 Years



**Fr. Sean Wenger**  
Vernon, BC Ord. 1995  
10 Years



**Fr. Daren Bryk**  
Edmonton, AB Ord. 2000  
5 Years



**Fr. Terry Donahue**  
Oakland, NJ Ord. 2000  
5 Years



**Fr. John Likozar**  
Toronto, ON Ord. 2000  
5 Years

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'Spiritual Bouquet' to Fr. Bob



Visit our web site at [www.companionscross.ca](http://www.companionscross.ca)  
(then click on Upcoming Events) and sign our special  
'Fr. Bob 50th Anniversary Guest Book/Spiritual  
Bouquet.' You can express your best wishes and list  
what acts of prayer you will offer up on his behalf  
(i.e. rosaries, Masses, etc.). These will be printed out  
and presented to Fr. Bob at the Gala Dinner in August.  
(If you do not have access to the internet you can mail  
in your bouquet to our CC Office).

## Ordination to the Priesthood of Michael Scherrey (Houston – April 30th, 2005)

*From the Arkansas Catholic, May 14th, 2005 (used with permission):* Fort Smith native Father Michael Scherrey, 57, was

ordained a priest of the Companions of the Cross April 30 at the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston. The new priest is administrator of the center which is operated by the religious order. Galveston-Houston Coadjutor Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo ordained Father Scherrey. On May 7 Father Scherrey celebrated a first Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Boniface Parish in Fort Smith where he attended the parish grade school

from sixth through eighth grade. A reception followed. Concelebrants included Father Placidus Eckart, OSB, former pastor of St. Boniface and a long-time family friend, as well as Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, of Subiaco Abbey. Father Scherrey attended Subiaco Academy as a freshman, and then finished high school at Fort Smith's St. Anne Academy which closed in 1973. The Ordinand is one of the 11 children of John B. Scherrey and the late



1) Deacon Mike Scherrey Processes into his Ordination Mass at the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston, Texas.



2) Bishop Daniel DiNardo ordains Fr. Mike to the Priesthood.

3) Fr. Mike celebrates his 'First Mass' in his hometown parish of St. Boniface in Fort Smith Arkansas.



# Ordination Photo Album

Margaret Mary Scherrey. The senior Scherrey and his new wife, Rita, are St. Boniface parishioners. On May 8 Father Scherrey celebrated the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fort Smith where he had attended grades one through five. Msgr. John F. O'Donnell, pastor of Immaculate Conception, called Father Scherrey's ordination "a wonderful day for Fort Smith". Father Scherrey told the *Arkansas Catholic* that involvement in the Catholic

Charismatic Renewal movement, initially encouraged by his sisters, eventually led to his joining the Companions of the Cross and then to a desire to be ordained. He joined the community five years ago. Ordained a deacon last September, Father Scherrey did extensive mission work in Eastern Europe and in Africa before beginning studies for the priesthood. Prior to joining the Companions of the Cross, the priest had careers in business and broadcast. He is a 1971 business graduate

of Arkansas Tech University where he attended on a football scholarship. Founded in 1985 and headquartered in Ottawa, the Companions have ministries there as well as in Houston, Toronto and Halifax. In May 2003 the community was formally recognized by the Holy See and the Archbishop of Ottawa as being a new "Society of Apostolic Life" in the Church. The Companions currently number 33 priests and about 30 seminarians.



4

4) Skit at Fr. Mike's reception.

5) Fr. Michael Scherrey & Dad.

6) As new Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center, Fr. Mike Scherrey chats with Fr. Sean Wenger.



5



6

# Ordination to the Priesthood of Brian Christie, Francis Ching & Michael Minifie and Reception

(Ottawa – May 14th, 2005)

On the Saturday of Pentecost weekend (May 14th), Companions of the Cross deacons Brian Christie, Francis Ching, Michael Minifie, and Archdiocese of Ottawa deacon Anthony Hannon, were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Marcel Gervais in Notre Dame Basilica. It was a beautiful and grace-filled liturgy! After Mass, there were long line-ups formed by people waiting for a “priestly blessing” from the Ordinands. Later that day a joyful reception banquet for the three Companions’ priests was held at St. François d’Assise parish hall in Ottawa. It was a day that these men, their families and friends, and all the Companions of the Cross, will not soon forget. Let us continue to hold these men up in prayer as they begin their ministerial lives serving God’s people in his Church.



*Clockwise from top right:*  
1) From left to right: Deacons Brian Christie, Francis Ching, and Michael Minifie prepare for Ordination.  
2) Archbishop Gervais presents chalice and patten to Michael Minifie.  
3) Archbishop Gervais lays hands on Francis Ching.  
4) Ordinands lie prostrate on the floor of Notre Dame Basilica.

# Ordination Photo Album



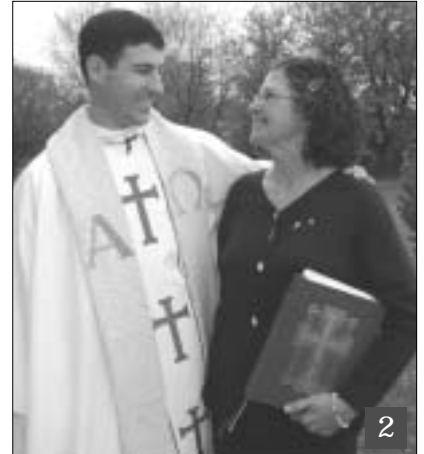
- 5) *Fr. Brian Christie imparting a priestly blessing on a couple.*
- 6) *Fr. Mike Scherrey joins newly ordained priests Francis, Brian & Mike in cutting the cake at the reception.*
- 7) *Fr. Francis Ching shares some wine with Fr. Brian Christie during the reception banquet.*
- 8) *Head Table and Guests sit down for dinner.*
- 9) *Guests listen to after-dinner speeches.*
- 10) *Fr. Roger congratulates Fr. Francis Ching.*

# Ordination Photo Album

## First Masses of Frs. Francis Ching, Mike Minifie and Brian Christie



1



2



7



3



6



4



5

*Clockwise from top:*

- 1) Fr. Mike Minifie & Altar Servers prepare for Mass at St. Daniel's parish in South Mountain, Ont.
- 2) Fr. Mike with his mother Noreen.
- 3) Fr. Mike is given flowers and a card by the children's liturgy group at St. Daniel's.
- 4) Fr. Francis and Fr. Brian distribute Holy Communion.
- 5) Fr. Francis' parents and sisters singing during Mass.
- 6) Fr. Francis Ching and concelebrants at First Mass in St. Maurice parish, Ottawa.
- 7) Fr. Mike presides at Mass, with Fr. Bob Bedard concelebrating.

# Ordination Photo Album



*Clockwise from top:*

- 8) *Fr. Brian Christie and concelebrants at First Mass in St. Peter's parish in Sarnia, Ont.*
- 9) *Fr. Brian imparting a special first blessing.*
- 10) *Fr. Brian entrusting his priesthood to the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

## Acknowledgements

The Companions of the Cross wish to thank Fr. Clifford Cogger, pastor of St. François d'Assise parish in Ottawa, for graciously providing their church hall free of charge for the Ordination banquet. Overseeing the set-up and use of these facilities was Leo Boileau and his helpers. Your kindness and hospitality were a great blessing for our new Ordinands. Merci beaucoup St. François!

Special thanks also go out to Moe Atallah of the Newport Restaurant in Ottawa for providing a first-class buffet dinner for the Ordination banquet. Over 425 people were served! The food and service were simply outstanding. Our Ordinands are indebted to Moe for his generosity, in that he did not charge anywhere near the going rate for such a massively catered event. Blessings on you Moe, and on your dedicated staff, especially Marcel Belanger! For great food, and the chance to encounter Elvis, check out the Newport Restaurant's web site at [www.newportrestaurant.com](http://www.newportrestaurant.com).

Finally, the Companions wish to express their deepest gratitude and affection to CC Lay Associate Joan Surette, and her assistant Dawn Saunders, for the extraordinary amount of time and TLC they put into coordinating and managing this wonderful Ordination banquet. They were not alone in their efforts to decorate the hall, over a dozen helpers pitched in too (including Larry)! All of their efforts made the whole event a joy-filled and very appetizing affair. Afterwards, some talk was heard of Joan wanting to "retire" from being CC Ordination reception coordinator, but our seminarians would hear nothing of it! Please stay on Joan, we'll even give you next year off!

## Photography Credit

Photography of the Ordination, Reception Banquet, and Fr. Francis Ching's First Mass, was provided by Richard Donnelly (see photos above). Richard has taken many other photos of CC community events, with many of them appearing in our newsletter, calendar, and on our web site. If you would like make use of Richard's photographic services, please call him at (613) 797-2005 or visit his web site at: [www.rgbpics.com](http://www.rgbpics.com).



# Companions of the Cross

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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!



# Support Team Companions!

*Something to Cheer About!*

**GREAT COACH**  
= Fr. Bob Bedard

**TALENTED FIRST  
STRING PLAYERS**  
= CC Priests

**DEEP BENCH**  
= CC Seminarians  
*many of whom  
can outperform  
the priests!*



*Help us win One for the "Digger"*

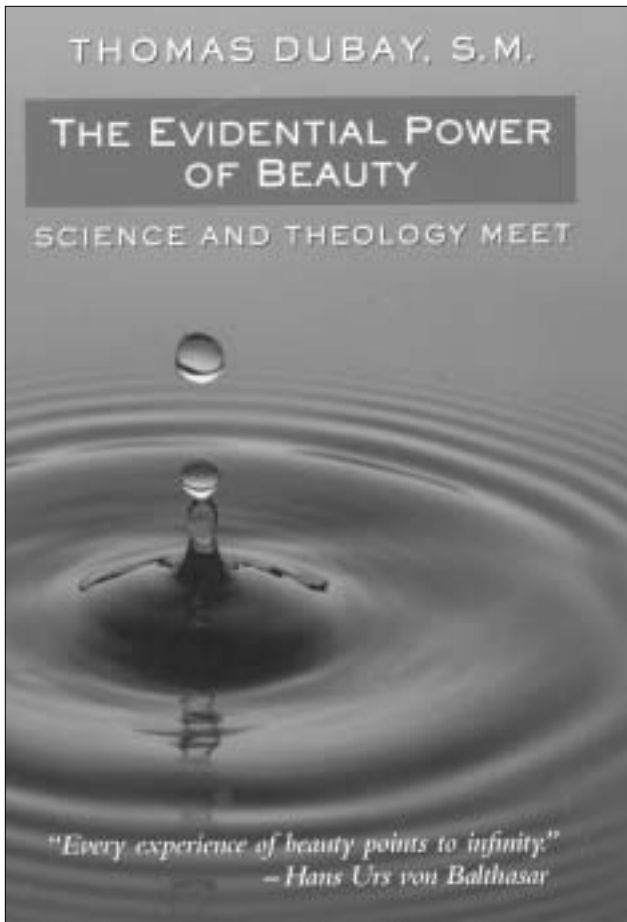
Our Team of Companions' priests and seminarians are eager, talented, and fired up to win one for the "Digger" (Fr. Bob's nickname in the seminary). The Companions know how to pray and play with great gusto. But before we can put on a "full court press" for the Kingdom of God, we need to be fully trained and equipped. That is why we as a community dedicate so much of our resources to the formation of our seminarians. Can you help us field a team

for tomorrow? New players are coming up out of the lower ranks all the time and making it into the line-up. Earlier this spring 4 new guys were added to the first string. But more raw recruits await. So we need you, our partners and friends, to continue your fantastic support of this unique "God Squad". Why not consider becoming a "season-ticket" holder (monthly donor)? Remember, without your prayers and financial support we wouldn't even have a team.

*So keep those prayers and cheers coming!*

---

## FEATURE



# Experiencing God's Beauty

An excerpt from a book by **Thomas Dubay, S.M.** (*The Evidential Power of Beauty*, San Francisco, Ignatius Press, 1999).

**Y**ou and I, each and every one of us without exception, can be defined as having an aching need for the infinite. Some people realize this; some do not. But even the latter illustrate this inner ache when, not having God deeply, they incessantly spill themselves out into excitements and experiences, licit or illic-

it. They are trying to fill their inner emptiness, but they never succeed, which is why the search is incessant. Though worldly pleasure seeking never fulfills and satisfies in a continuing way, it may tend momentarily to distract and to dull the profound pain of the inner void. If these people allow themselves a moment of reflective silence (which they seldom do), they notice a still, small voice whispering. Is this all there is? They begin to sense a thirst to love with abandon, without limit, without end, without lingering aftertastes of bitterness. In other words, their inner spirit is clamoring, even if confusedly,

for unending beauty. How they and we respond to this inner outreach rooted in our deep spiritual soul is the most basic set of decisions we can make, they have eternal consequences.

To become psychologically and spiritually men and women, what has to happen within us personally, individually, and communally? First of all, we need to begin to wonder, to be alive to what surrounds us. Self-encasement is death, sooner or later. God loves to astound us, for everything he has made is amazing, all the way from the sharp micro mountain ranges on the surface of an ordinary egg when viewed under a powerful microscope, to the incredible technologies within any living cell, and on to the mind-boggling enormities and power in a single one of the 50 billion galaxies in our cosmos. Wonder is the normal response to

splendour. Great minds constantly ask questions, often in astonishment. Theoretical physicist Erwin Schrodinger has noted that "the first requirement of the scientist is to be curious. He must be capable of being astonished and eager to find out." St. Thomas Aquinas was of like mind and habit, for he was continually wondering, asking questions in his theologizing. Healthy people seek explanations. Beauty is crucial to the human enterprise because it triggers wonder. We need, secondly, to experience delight. God made us for ecstasy, "*a joy so glorious that it cannot be described*" (1 Pet 1:8). This is our final destiny – the beatific vision. One cannot imagine a more splendid doctrine.

Our third need satisfied by the beautiful is personal enrichment. We need an enlightened appreciation for nature together with a deepening contemplative prayer life and an immersion in authentic liturgical worship. Men and women blessed with all of these experiences become themselves beautiful and sources of enrichment for those who are privileged to know and love them. Pursuing and finding truth, that is, being in touch with reality as we actually find it, is a fourth need, and fundamental to all the others. A cabbage needs no companions to be a perfect cabbage, but men desperately require all sorts of other people if they are to achieve their aims in life: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, writers, musicians. Maturing, fulfilling, and happy relationships are replete with experiences of the beautiful, and no life is complete without them.

A genuine falling in love, our fifth need, is a capitulation to the beautiful. Falling in love here does not refer to superficial infatuations or egocentric lust but rather to a selfless commitment made to a fascinating beloved. While this is seen in ideal and holy marriages, it is especially clear in the case of saints who are head over

heels in love with the supreme Beloved, whose name is God. Saints see and are smitten. The heroic response is the only response. They know from experience that anything less than “everything” is simply not enough. In his masterpiece, *The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky placed on the lips of one of his characters the observation that “beauty is the battlefield where God and Satan contend with each other for the hearts of men.” The one is supreme glory (the biblical name for super eminent beauty); the other is supreme ugliness. Though our free wills make the choice, it is beauty that provides the powerful attraction to the only victory that ultimately matters in this peak of all combats.

The personal inability to perceive truth and beauty is related as first cousin, if not sibling, to a lack of wonder, which in turn, often if not always, arises from jadedness, from a perduring and even disgusting boredom caused by excess and overindulgence. The dimming of the soul’s light – is not this the very essence of sin? And thus sin necessarily suffocates wonder and joy. Unremitting and unrepented sin begets satiety, surfeit, and personal burnout - all of which add up to the personal disaster of jadedness, which radically dulls a lively response to the beautiful. It is troubling that in a universe replete with mind-boggling fascinations masses of people live dull and drab lives. Some are not only apathetic and listless but even insensibly hardened.

We have noted that this problem is general, not restricted to one class. People with no eye for the splendid do not see it whether they are scientists, philosophers, theologians, or truck drivers. Those with no ear for music are unmoved by Bach or Beethoven. Fully jaded men and women, old or young, marvel at nothing. To be listless, dull, bored, and lifeless is not only a miserable condition; it is an illness,

a fact obvious to anyone who is intellectually alive. To respond to reality and to appreciate it is normal; not to respond is abnormal. It seems fair to say that a person blind and deaf to beauty, uninterested in anything noble in literature, science, philosophy, religion, and the arts, focused on sense pleasures alone (licit or illicit), is not only unattractive to others but most likely incapable of genuine love and delight. This tragic illness seems identical to what a few decades ago the atheistic existentialists of absurdity (e.g., Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus) had in mind when they spoke about existential boredom. This was not simply a particular boredom with a book, a lecture, a cocktail party. It was an insipid tedium with existence itself. Reality was a colossal blah. Dim indeed. If healthy infants begin life with an inquisitive interest in their surroundings and then grow to delight in attractive sights and sounds and experiences, how does existential boredom come about?

Teachers content with communicating mere facts, and who themselves never thrill at what they teach (even mathematics can be exciting!), are hardly going to stimulate their students. Dullness begets dullness. But probably the chief cause of jadedness is a satiation, a surfeit born of a hedonistic immersion in sensual gratifications, together with avarice and pride. A lifestyle of selfish egoism and continuing dissipation progressively deadens an excitement with reality born of innocence and solid virtue, self-denial, and genuine love. Saint Paul was on target when he connected permanent joy with God centeredness: “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!*” (Phil 4:4). The sinner makes ends out of means. This perversion, being a reversal of the dynamics of human realism, must dull and eventually kill inner vitality. In *The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky explored and laid open the depths of the

human soul and the question of God. On the lips of one of his characters we find the remark that “to live without God is nothing but torture. ...Man cannot live without kneeling. ...If he rejects God, he kneels before an idol of wood or of gold or an imaginary one. ...They are all idolaters and not atheists. That’s what they ought to be called.”

Everyone worships something and directs everything else to it: position, pride, power, pleasure, money, vanity, sex. When created things, good as they are in themselves, are no longer sought as means but are made into idols, a jaded satiation appears on the horizon. Indeed, sin does obscure sight. All of this goes a long way in explaining why some people have an eye and an ear for beauty and elegance and others do not. ☸

### **Late Have I Loved You**

A Prayer of Saint Augustine

*“Late have I loved you, O Beauty,  
so ancient and so new, late have  
I loved you!*

*And behold, you were within me and  
I was outside, and there I sought for  
you, and in my deformity I rushed  
headlong into the well-formed things  
that you have made. You were with  
me, and I was not with you. Those  
outer beauties held me far from you,  
yet if they had not been in you, they  
would not have existed at all. You  
called, and cried out to me and  
broke open my deafness; you shone  
forth upon me and you scattered my  
blindness. You breathed fragrance,  
and I drew in my breath and I now  
pant for you.*

*I tasted, and I hunger and thirst;  
you touched me, and I burned for  
your peace.”*

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## LAY ASSOCIATES CORNER

### Welcome New Texas Lay Associates!

In Houston Texas, at a special Mass held at Queen of Peace parish on May 8th, several new Lay Associates of the Companions of the Cross were enrolled. They are: Victor Villarreal, Mary Sanchez, Donna Walker, Evelyn Hein and Esmeralda Garcia. They join our small but growing band of Texas "Las" who support the priests and ministry of the Companions in so many great ways (see photo above). To learn more about what being a Lay Associate is all about, simply visit our web site: [www.companionscross.ca](http://www.companionscross.ca) and click on "Lay Associates" in the menu.



### Welcome New Nova Scotia Lay Associates!

At St. Paul's parish in Herring Cove, Nova Scotia, a special Mass commemorating the founding of the community was held on May 6th. Fr. John Fletcher presided. At this Mass many of our new Nova Scotia Lay Associates made their commitments, were formally "enrolled", and then were given their CC LA pins. The photo below depicts Fr. Ben St. Croix along with existing CC LAs Theresa Doyle, Esther Lancaster and Richard Rout. Joining them as new CC LAs are: Julie Ross, Linda Phelan, Vincentine Woodbury, Elizabeth D'Sousa, Vivian and Ian MacLennan, Jean Coyle, Linda MacKenzie, Rose Turvey, Bill Sullivan, Pat Miles, and Maureen Bourque. Missing from the photo are Keith and Karen Williams. What an awesome sight! Please pray for us and know that we are praying for all of you.



### Texas Fundraising Dinner a Huge Success

Two days before Fr. Mike Scherrey's ordination to the priesthood (on April 28th), a dinner held to honour CC founder Fr. Bob Bedard on his Golden Jubilee, and to raise money for the community, was held at Brady's Landing restaurant in Houston. It was definitely a fun and festive evening. Many people contributed their time and talents to make this affair such a rollicking success. The Companions thank you all. Fr. Bob was very touched by the speeches and tributes that poured his way. And over \$20,000 was raised for the CCs. Way to go Texas!



# Companions of the Cross

## Lay Formation Courses

### 2005-2006

#### ***Catholic Apologetics from Scripture and the Church Fathers***

Dates: October 12 – November 23 (7 weeks)

Learn how to explain and defend Catholic teachings from Scripture and the writings of the early Church, including the Authority of Scripture & Tradition, Apostolic Succession, The Pope, The Eucharist, Purgatory, Mary, Relics, Sacramentals & Statues. Learn how to answer questions charitably and effectively, while explaining the scriptural and historical basis for distinctively Catholic teachings.

**Cost: \$70.00**

(Includes teaching outlines and apologetics tracts)

#### ***The Book of Revelation and Liturgy***

Dates: January 11 – March 22

[except March 8] (10 weeks)

The Book of Revelation is one of the most fascinating, beautiful, and controversial books of the Bible. Discover its distinctively Catholic elements and the surprising way that we enter into it in our everyday Catholic life. Learn how to interpret its rich symbolism and find out what it really says about the End of Time, the "Rapture", the Second Coming of Jesus, the Millennium, and the Number of the Beast.

**Cost: \$100.00**

(Includes teaching outlines and a study guide on the Book of Revelation)

#### ***The Gospel of Life by John Paul II***

Dates: April 19 – May 24 (6 weeks)

Promote a culture of life through an in-depth study of John Paul's Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. Learn recent Catholic teaching on the issues of Abortion, the Death Penalty, Euthanasia, Stem Cell Research, and Cloning, along with the reasons for the teachings. Understand how to make End-of-Life Medical Decisions and design your Living Will in accordance with the plan of God.

**Cost: \$60.00**

(Includes teaching outlines and a copy of the text of the Encyclical)

Classes are taught by Fr. Terry Donahue CC, from 7:15 – 9:15pm on Wednesdays in the hall of St. Mary's Church on Bayswater & Young. Pick up a registration brochure at your local church or call Mary Lauzon at 613-728-3175.





Companions of the Cross

# Eucharistic Mini-Conference



No registration fee required! A free will offering will be taken up at the morning Mass. Bring a friend and get blessed!

**Come Celebrate the  
Close of the Year of  
the Eucharist!**

**Saturday,  
October 25, 2005  
St. Mary's Church,  
Bayswater & Young**

- 9:00 MASS  
9:45 Break in Hall  
10:15 **Talk – The Eucharist  
and the Renewal of  
the Church**  
Learn how the Liturgy can  
bring renewal to the Church,  
as taught in John Paul II's most  
recent Letter: *Ecclesia de  
Eucharistia*  
11:15 **Liturgical Questions  
& Answers**  
Get your questions answered  
on the topics of Liturgy and  
the Eucharist  
12:00 LUNCH (on your own)  
1:15 Exposition – Eucharistic  
Adoration – Praise &  
Worship  
**Talk – Personal  
Encounter with Jesus  
in the Eucharist**  
Guided Prayer & Silence  
Eucharistic Procession  
Benediction and Reposition  
in Church  
3:45 Final Announcements  
4:00 END



## CALLING ALL YOUTH!

### Join us for Youthfest VI

An evening of praise, worship, and celebration,  
with Fr. Mark Goring CC  
Admission is free!

7:30 p.m., Sat. Oct. 25th, 2005

For more info contact Mary Lauzon at our CC Office  
**(613) 728-3175**

## 2005-2006 St. Augustine Seminary/TST Theology Courses Offered by the Companions of the Cross

### FALL 2005 (Sept.-Dec.):

#### **SAH1001HF-L0102 – 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.

**This course will be offered in 5 installments, 3 classes per installment, on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. & Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., on Sept. 14/15, Oct. 6/7, Nov. 9/10, Nov. 23/24, Dec. 7/8.**

#### **SAB1003HF – Introduction to the Old Testament** (Fr. Rick Jaworski)

An introduction to the study of Sacred Scripture; 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.

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

#### **SAT1101HF-L0102 – 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.

**Fridays 9:00 - 11 a.m. Begins Sept. 16th**

#### **SAT1901HF-L0102 & SAT1902HF – Fundamental Christian Ethics I & II (double course)**

(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 - 3:30 p.m. & Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. begins Sept. 12th**

### WINTER 2006 (Jan.-April):

#### **SAB2181HS – Prophetic Literature** (Fr. Rick Jaworski) (Prerequisite: SAB1003)

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. 5th**

#### **SAB2271HS – Wisdom Literature**

(Fr. Rick Jaworski) (Prerequisite: SAB1003)

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. 9th**

#### **SAT2401HS - L0102 – 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. 6th**

#### **SAT2222HS - L0102 – 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.

**Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. Begins Jan. 4th**

**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](http://www.staugustines.on.ca) Email: [info@staugustines.on.ca](mailto:info@staugustines.on.ca) Cost = \$418.50 per course (half-price for seniors 65+), plus college incidental fees of \$116.10 (good for 1-3 courses) per term and the University of Toronto Student System Access charge of \$20.00. 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 audit fee of \$410.00 (\$205.00 for seniors) per course.

**For further information please contact the Academic Coordinator of the Companions:  
Fr. John Vandenakker (613) 728-1938 or email [frjohnv@sympatico.ca](mailto:frjohnv@sympatico.ca)**



## COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

by Fr. John Vandenakker



### CC Dinner for Fr. Bob

For us Companions of the Cross, there is no better example of a dedicated and caring priest than our own beloved founder, Fr. Bob Bedard. June 6th 2005 marked the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the

priesthood. The community will host a great celebration later this summer (Aug. 28th & 29th) with a special Mass of Thanksgiving and Gala Dinner. But already at an in-house gathering that was held for Fr. Bob on June 4th, the community paid tribute to him with a special plaque honouring this milestone, along with a beautiful Marian stole. The inscrip-

tion on the plaque reads as follows: "To Fr. Bob Bedard - With Love and Respect from your Fellow Companions of the Cross - On the Golden Jubilee of your Ordination to the Priesthood - June 6th, 1955 - June 6th, 2005." Also, at the bottom was a quote from Matthew's gospel that sums up the impact that we feel Fr. Bob has had on our community: "*Jesus put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches'* (Matthew 13:31-32)." There is real cause for rejoicing here! May Fr. Bob's legacy of faithfulness inspire a whole new generation of Companions' priests!

### 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 2005). 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 Vandenakker and the CC Executive Council. A complete roster of CC households will be published in our next newsletter. Here are the new appointments & moves:

- Newly ordained **Fr. Brian Christie** joins our Halifax CC household and takes over as Chaplain at the St. Joseph Newman Centre on the campus of Dalhousie University, in Halifax.
- **Fr. Rob Arsenault** joins our CC Halifax household and becomes Pastor of St. Michael's Parish (Spryfield), in Halifax (more info below).
- In a re-organization of the pastoral care of our Halifax parishes, **Fr. Tim Devine** is named Pastor of the smaller parishes of St. Paul's (Herring Cove) and St. Peter's (Ketch Harbour), while **Fr. John Fletcher** remains on as Pastor of the larger St. John the Baptist.
- Newly ordained **Fr. Francis Ching** joins our CC St. Timothy's household in Toronto and becomes an Assistant Pastor of St. Timothy's Parish.
- **Fr. Allan MacDonald** joins our St. Timothy's household in Toronto and takes over as Chaplain of the York University Catholic Chaplaincy.
- **Fr. Francis Donnelly, Fr. Ben St. Croix** and **Fr. Fernando Suarez** are named to our new CC "Mission" household in Toronto (more info below).
- Newly ordained **Fr. Michael Scherrey** takes over as Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center, in Houston, with **Fr. Francis Frankovich** acting as the Associate Director.
- Newly ordained **Fr. Michael Minifie** joins our Houston household and becomes an Assistant Pastor at Queen of Peace Parish, in Houston.
- **Fr. Jim MacGillivray** is assuming a new position as "Personnel Assistant to the Moderator". In this position he will be overseeing the development and implementation of a mentoring program/plan for newly ordained priests. He will also be assisting the Moderator, in particular cases, in the care and supervision of our priests and

in the fostering of our local community life. He will continue to be a member of the Formation Team, overseeing the seminarians that are in their pastoral internship year as well as the seminarians that are engaged in an apostolic year and any seminarians that are living outside of Ottawa.

- **Fr. Marc Syrenne**, as a member of the Formation Team, will be overseeing the formation of seminarians in temporary commitment, as well as being the local superior of the household at 58 Primrose. He will also assume the role as Secretary of the Formation Team, handling administrative matters.
- **Fr. Roger Vandenakker**, Moderator of the community, is on a four-month sabbatical leave for the purpose of spiritual renewal and personal study. The Executive Council gladly granted his request and determined that the dates from July 1st to Nov. 1st, 2005 would be the least disruptive, given his responsibilities as Moderator. He will be residing at our CC cottage at Lac Beau Clair for the duration of his sabbatical. He will be present at our Annual CC Community Days at Red Pine in August and at the festivities honouring Fr. Bob's Golden Jubilee. He will also remain available for any emergencies that may arise. Fr. Rick, as Vice Moderator, will otherwise oversee and attend to the day-to-day needs of the community and the CC Office. Fr. Roger writes: "I will be praying for all of you and I ask that you pray for me that this time will be grace-filled and renewing. Sincerely in the Lord, Fr. Roger."
- The Executive Council has discerned both the need and benefit of having seminarians undertake what is known as an "Apostolic Year" (as distinct from the Pastoral Internship Year which is still required). The purpose of the Apostolic Year is two-fold: to pro-

vide specific personnel assistance/support that the community has need of in particular ministries, and to strengthen and enhance the overall pastoral formation experience that our seminarians are receiving prior to ordination.

During the upcoming year the following seminarians will be engaged in an Apostolic Year:

**Simon Lobo** – assistant to Fr. Scott in the First Year Applicancy Program at Assumption Farm.

**Carlos Martins** – assistant to Fr. Tim Devine as Pastor of St. Paul and St. Peter's Parish in Halifax.

**Chris Murphy** – assistant to the Founder, Fr. Bob, at 199 Bayswater and assisting Fr. Jeff in admissions regarding hospitality and visitors to the community.

**Brian O'Neil** – assistant to Fr. Fernando and member of the Mission Team/Household in Toronto.

- **Fr. Dan Cross** is on a leave of absence from the community for personal reasons and discernment. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Fr. Jerry Gauvreau** is appointed to assist Fr. Scott McCaig in the Applicancy Program at Assumption Farm in Combermere.

## New Parish in Halifax

At the request of the Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, Archbishop of Halifax, the Companions have taken on the pastoral care of a fourth Halifax-area parish: St. Michael's in Spryfield. CC Moderator Fr. Roger Vandenakker notes the following: "We see the addition of St. Michael's parish as completing and uniting a region since this parish lies between our existing parishes of St. John the Baptist and St. Paul's. Our overall vision for these  
*Continued on page 22...*

parishes (which is the vision of the Archdiocese of Halifax in its 'Forward in Faith' parish restructuring and amalgamation plan) is to move towards consolidation, amalgamation, and collaboration of pastoral ministries and administration in order to facilitate parish renewal and evangelization. We want to work together as a team and not as isolated or autonomous pastors, pooling our resources and our gifts to maximize our effectiveness in ministry and to promote a common and dynamic vision for parish life and Christian discipleship." Fr. Rob Arsenault has been named the new pastor. The Companions look forward to serving the good people of St. Michael's parish!

### Mission House Opens

CC Moderator Fr. Roger Vandenakker writes: "One of the exciting directions that the Lord has indicated and confirmed for us this year is the establishment of a CC 'Mission Household' in Toronto. The brothers assigned to this household will all be involved in full-time availability for parish missions, retreats, conference speaking, healing masses, days of renewal, etc. The actual house which we will be renting and taking possession of on August 1, 2005, is located in Scarborough. The brothers that we are appointing to this household and ministry are: Fr. Francis Donnelly; Fr. Ben St. Croix; Fr. Fernando Suarez; and seminarian Brian O'Neill (Apostolic Year). Please keep these men and this new endeavour in your prayers over the summer months as they move, settle in, and begin this specialized ministry." (See Mission House ad elsewhere in this newsletter.)



*St. Michael's parish in Spryfield, Nova Scotia*

### 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: David Dobbelsteyn, Mishko Mlcousek, Geoff Guitard, Michael Garcia, Ray Reitzel, Nick Simoni, Kenrick Webb and Gerald Whittaker. Let us keep these men in our prayers for we know it is the desire of some of them to return to us at some point in the future. Also, the Community wishes to inform people that Ngugi Githinji is no longer a seminarian with the Companions. Let us remember all these men in our prayers as they continue their journey of faith and discernment.

### Transitions

- Pierrette Ingram, beloved mother of Fr. Pierre Ingram, and a dedicated parishioner of St. Mary's parish in Ottawa, passed away on May 10th after a brief illness. Her funeral Mass was celebrated on May 16th at St. Mary's. Please continue to pray for the repose of her soul and for the consolation of Fr. Pierre and her family and friends left behind.
- Stanley Cybulski, father of Colleen Cybulski who worked in our CC Office (Finance) died suddenly on May 29th. His funeral Mass was celebrated on June 6th at St. Casimir's parish in Round Lake. He is survived by his wife Myrtle. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the remaining family and friends who grieve his loss.
- Colleen Cybulski, after more than 7 years of dedicated work in our CC Office (Finance), left her position with us at the end of June to pursue a call from the Lord to teach Montessori school children starting this September. We offer her our thanks for her service and best wishes and prayers for her future "ministry".

## Companions' Spring Mission Blitz

CC seminarian Simon Lobo writes: "Fr. Jeff Shannon and CC seminarians Mickey Dopp, Luc Fillion, Luke Jalsevac, Simon Lobo, Brian O'Neill, Barry Phillips, and Chris Vonesch, went on a missionary blitz through Southern Ontario during the first week of May. Loaded down with sound equipment, musical instruments, and sleeping bags, the team headed first to the Martyr's Shrine in Midland, Ontario, to put on a retreat for grade 12 students. The team then backtracked to Orillia to partake in a Knights of Columbus meeting that evening. The following days included 3 more retreats and 2 school Masses in

Woodstock, along with a Healing Mass in Mississauga. The retreats were high-energy and interactive, including skits, dramas, praise & worship, testimonies, talks, and games. Fr. Fernando Suarez and Christopher Murphy then joined the team for 2 fundraising concerts on the weekend of May 7th & 8th. This helped raise some funds for Fr. Fernando's "Mary Mother of the Poor" Foundation, which in turn supports seminarians who will be going on missions to the Philippines and Africa later this summer. When the requests for these high school retreats first came to Fr. Jeff's attention, he enlisted some CC seminarians to help plan for this unique missionary "blitz". Incidentally, the seminarians trained for one week and evangelized for a second week, all during their time-

off. It was the unanimous impression of the team that sharing the gospel with youth is priceless. Not only was it good for honing evangelization skills, but it was also a great opportunity to grow in brotherhood with a common goal: the salvation of souls. One of the many amazing blessings was the hospitality shown by priests and families to the Companions. Furthermore, the generosity of the schools was so great that not only were all of the expenses covered, but there was even some excess revenue for the community. This was taken as a sign that God was blessing the ministry. It is hoped that the kind of "team missionary outreach" personified in this experience will continue to grow and bear fruit down the road, for the greater glory of God!"

*Continued on page 24...*



## Chapel at #58 Primrose Renovated

Last fall, Fr. Allan MacDonald did a wonderful job spearheading an overhaul of the chapel at our #58 Primrose community residence in Ottawa. The walls were freshly painted. New carpeting was laid down. A raised “sanctuary” with hardwood flooring was installed. Paintings by renowned Ottawa Valley artist Michael O’Brien were moved there from Assumption Farm. Newly refurbished “individual” pews that had originally come to us from St. Clare’s monastery in Alexandria were installed. It all helps this chapel look and feel even more like a cenacle of prayer. Most of these items were donated, with the elbow grease supplied by Fr. Allan and the seminarians. Well done guys!



## Invitation to the Companions’ Annual Feast Day Mass

The Companions of the Cross  
Annual Feast Day Mass  
(the Triumph of the Cross)  
will take place on **Wed. Sept. 14th**  
beginning at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary’s church  
in Ottawa (corner of Young & Bayswater).

All Ottawa-area CC priests and seminarians will be present. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Everyone, especially CC parishioners and Lay Associates, is invited to join us for this noteworthy event!

## Outdoor Marian Statue Photos Wanted

We are planning to run a feature next year on the different ways our Lay Associates and other friends of the community honour Our Blessed Mother Mary in small shrines of all kinds outside their homes. So if you have a statue of the BVM sitting on your front lawn, or in a grotto somewhere out back, why not snap a photo and send it in to us? (Attention: Fr. John Vandenakker.) You can even email it to us if it is a digital photo (frjohnv@sympatico.ca). We would love to hear from you! ☺



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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.*



*Photo of the Month: “Fr. Galen Bank on the losing side of a Tug of War with his St. Maurice parishioners during their Corpus Christi day picnic.”*



INTRODUCING

# The Companions Mission Team



Fr. Fernando Suarez

Fr. Francis Donnelly

Fr. Ben St. Croix

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For more information on how to book a Companions of the Cross priest to minister at your event, call our CC office at (613) 728-3175 or toll free in Canada at (866) 885-8824 or e-mail Fr. Francis Donnelly at [frfrancisd@hotmail.com](mailto:frfrancisd@hotmail.com)



Companions of the Cross