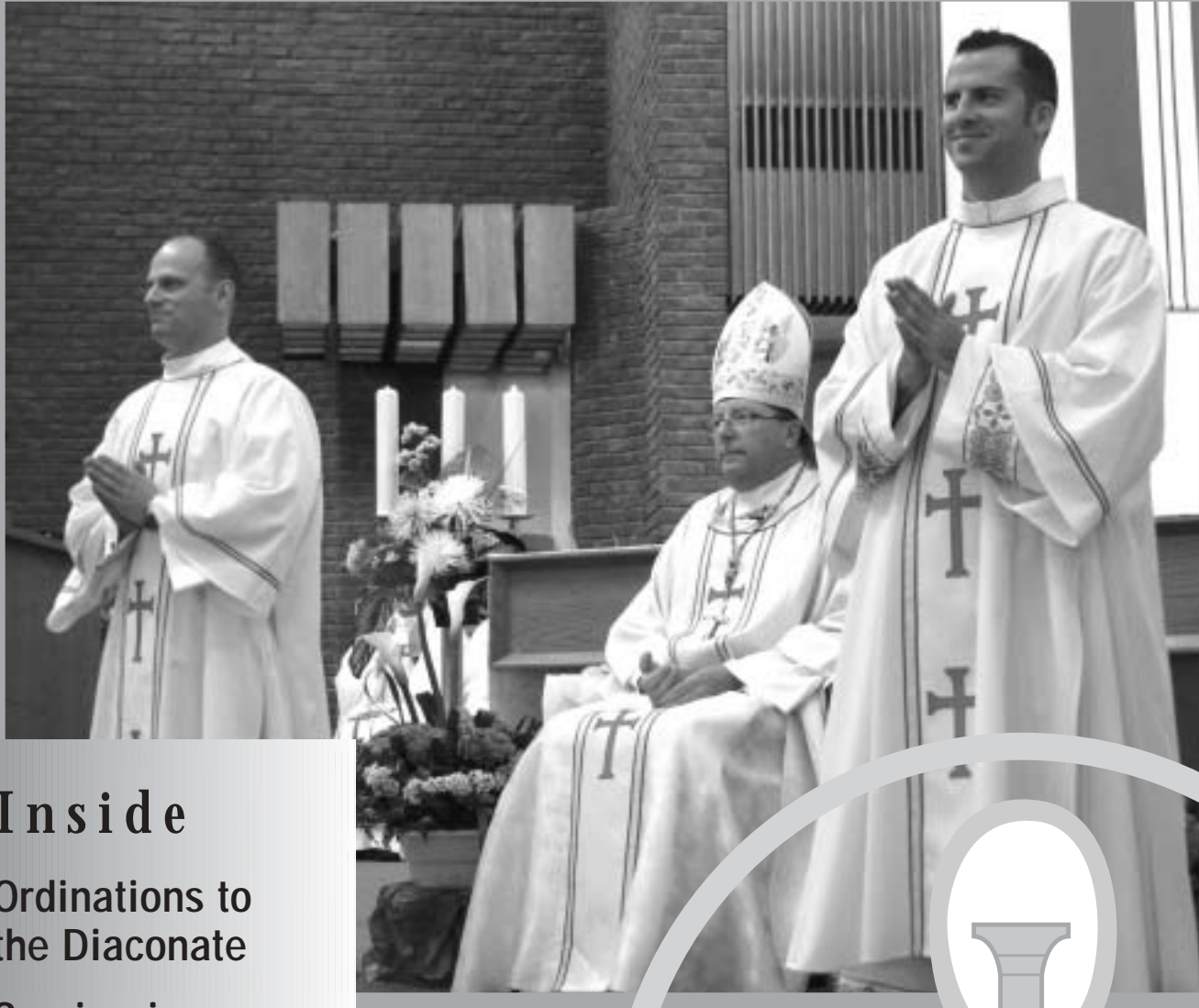


Fall 2007

# Companions of the Cross

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Ordinations to  
the Diaconate

Seminarian  
Mission Tour

Mary and the  
Priesthood



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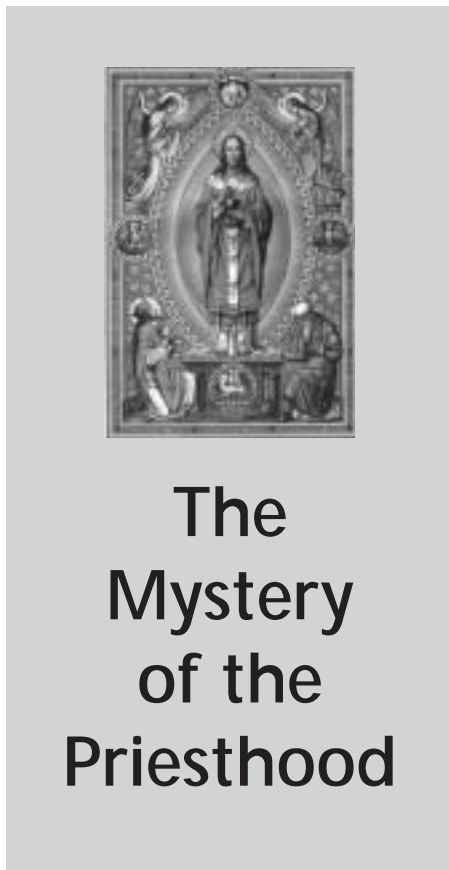
## FEATURE

by Fr. Scott McCaig

Each spring at Assumption Farm we give our new Applicants a retreat on the priesthood. Instead of trying to preach the retreat ourselves, we let Catherine Doherty do the talking. We listen to recorded talks of retreats she gave to priests in the 1960's and 1970's. Catherine Doherty, for those unacquainted with her, is the foundress of Madonna House. She was a tremendous woman of faith and she had a penetrating mystical understanding of the priesthood. Her words brought clarity to priests about their call in those confusing times and still ring with prophetic truth and conviction.

Catherine loved the priesthood. Her concern for priests and reverence for their office was obvious and sincere. But she was not naïve. She was well aware of all the faults and shortcomings of priests, probably more than most people. Indeed, she suffered a great deal in her life because of them. In her various apostolates she often encountered the misunderstanding, contempt, and even the opposition of priests. But she saw with the eyes of faith what most of us miss. Our Lord allowed her to see beyond the priest, whoever he might be, into the very mystery of the priesthood.

She tells many striking stories from her own experiences to illustrate this. One story she tells is of being a young woman in Russia at the time of the communist revolution. She relates how some communist soldiers walked into a church in a certain city and shot the last priest as he distributed Holy Communion, stepping on the sacred species as they left. As the last crumbs of the desecrated Body of the Lord were distributed, a stark realization set in to everyone present. Having no more priests meant no more Jesus in the Eucharist.



## The Mystery of the Priesthood

As you listen to her recount this experience you can almost feel what those people might have felt. How precious the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus would have seemed to them at that moment. And how precious the priesthood would have seemed, through which the Eucharistic Jesus came to them. How precious the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the other Sacraments now that there were no longer any priests to minister them. How vacant the church must have felt! You can't help but feel along with them a whole new appreciation for the incredible treasure and gift of what it means to be a priest. The mystery of the priesthood suddenly became very real to them!

What is this incredible and beautiful mystery? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* touches upon it by summing up its treatment of the Sacrament of Holy Orders with a quote from St. John Vianney. Very simply and powerfully the holy Curé of Ars says that "the priest continues the work of redemption on earth... if we really understood the priest on earth, we would not die of fright but of love... the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus" (CCC #1589). This is the mystery of the priesthood at its very core! It is the love of the heart of Jesus.

The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus because it was love that compelled Jesus to become our High Priest in order to bring about our redemption. And it is this same love that compels him to continue to call weak and sinful men, like us, to continue his work of redemption by sharing in the saving power and grace of his own priesthood.

It was love that compelled him to leave aside his glory and humble himself to come among us as a man. Lovers need to be with their beloved and so he needed to be with us. And it is this same love that compels him to make his priestly love humbly visible again to his beloved bride, the Church, through his priests.

It was love that compelled Jesus to teach, heal, forgive, and sanctify those to whom he was sent. And it is his love that flows through his priests as he continues to teach, heal, forgive, and sanctify his people through them.

It was love that compelled him to suffer for us and to let his heart be pierced. And it is love that compels him to call men to share the sufferings of his priestly ministry. Like Jesus, the heart of a priest will

*Continued on page 2*

also be pierced. He, too, will become "victim" as well as priest. A priest is called to share in the self-sacrificing love of Jesus.

It was love that compelled Jesus to offer to the Father the perfect sacrifice of his death and resurrection for us. And it is this same love that compels him to re-present the perfect offering of his paschal sacrifice to every time and place in the Mass through the ministry of his priests.

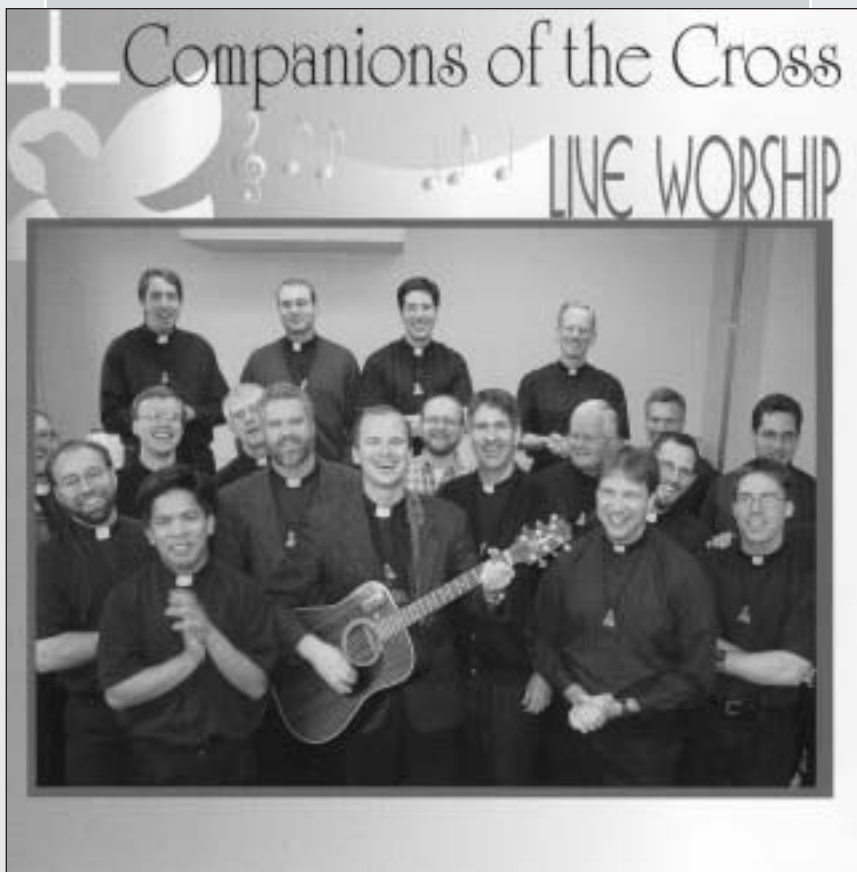
It was love that compelled him to give himself to us in the Eucharistic banquet so that he might always dwell with us and draw us into communion with himself. And it is this same love that compels him to continually offer his Eucharistic love and Presence to the world through the hands of his priests.

Through ordination a priest shares in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ and is called to be a channel for his priestly love to the whole world. Unfortunately, as we know, it is not always easy to see the love of the heart of Jesus in priests. The weaknesses, sins, and failures of priests can obscure the mystery. Many, like Catherine Doherty, have been hurt by priests. This, of course, is a tragedy and true injustices should always be put right. But like Catherine, we must also look deeper. Like her, we need to see with the eyes of faith. We need to open our hearts to the revelation that dawned upon all those people in that church in Russia so many years ago. We need to see beyond the priest, as it were, to the love of Jesus which is so much bigger than any priest or his faults. We need to see Jesus continuing, with indescribable love, his work of redemption through his imperfect ministers.

St. John Vianney was right. The priesthood is truly all about the love of the heart of Jesus. It is the mystery of his priestly love taking flesh once again. ☩

*Fr. Scott McCaig is the Moderator of the Companions of the Cross.*

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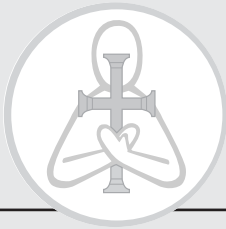
**Sean Libby**  
Yarmouth, NS



**Justin Yu**  
Ottawa, ON



N e w   A p p l i c a n t s



# Ordination to the Diaconate PHOTO ALBUM

During the Friday, September 14th celebration of the Companions of the Cross feast day at St. Timothy's parish in Toronto, seminarians John Paul Bolger & Bernard Messier made their lifetime commitments to the community. The next day, on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, they were ordained to the diaconate by the Most Rev. John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.

This montage of photos is a pictorial retelling of these blessed events.

Special thanks to our photographer Chris Lau.

Please continue to keep Deacons Bernard & JP in your thoughts and prayers!

**Scripture quote from  
Ordination Program:**

***“For the Son of Man  
came not to be served  
but to serve, and to  
give his life as a  
ransom for many”  
(Mk 10:45).***



1. Bernard with his parents on September 14th.
2. John Paul is invested with the CC Cross on September 14th.
3. Bernard & JP make their Oath of Fidelity on September 14th.
4. Bishop Boissonneau's Ordination homily.
5. Invoking the Holy Spirit.
6. Deacon Bernard assists at the Elevation.
7. Deacon John Paul distributes Holy Communion.
8. Deacon Bernard prays for Sister.
9. Bishop and new Deacons process out.
10. Deacon John Paul is greeted at reception.







## FEATURE

by Deacon Mark Miravalle

# Mary & the Priesthood

*Note: Dr. Mark Miravalle is a leading Marian theologian who teaches at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He is author of numerous Marian books. He appears frequently on EWTN. The following was transcribed from a talk he gave to the Companions during their annual Community Days at Camp Red Pine at the end of August. Used with permission. To subscribe free of charge to Dr. Miravalle's weekly Marian ezine visit [www.motherofallpeoples.com](http://www.motherofallpeoples.com).*

In his talk to priests, the late Bishop Fulton Sheen would often begin with some choice observations about the patriarchs, prophets, and priests of the Old Testament. He would list their sins and weaknesses, as recorded in Scripture. But he would point out that these were the men God called to be of special service to his people. He would then tell the priests that Jesus knows their sins and weaknesses too, but that doesn't change the fact that he called them to serve God's people as his priests.

There are two creatures very interested in your priesthood. One is the Mother of Jesus, the other is the Adversary. The Evil One is very interested in your priesthood because he seeks in an ongoing way to damage it. He can sow a gradual despair about one's lot in life, especially in something as important as a vocation to the priesthood. It would please the Adversary very much if you focused more on your human weaknesses, rather than on God's call and provision for you.



Jesus knows your limits, your struggles, and the frustrations you have with yourself. These add up to your “thorn in the flesh”. But surprisingly, Jesus wants you to rejoice in your humanity and its limits. This doesn’t mean rejoicing in your sins. This ties in with the spirituality of the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. She once said: “The greatest thing I can do to please God is to accept my weakness.” What this means is that we do not become paralyzed by our weakness, but that we accept it and move on. Don’t be tempted into thinking that your human limitations are going to completely obstruct your priesthood. Jesus knew of your limitations from all eternity, but that didn’t stop him from calling you to the highest objective calling in the Church. He still beckoned you to “come, serve my flock, and bring souls to me.”

I am a deacon, married to a beautiful woman, with eight wonderful children. You could have had that too. Why did you choose not to have that? Because you wanted to go full-time in the service of the Lord, as priests, to save souls. That’s something Jesus will remember for all eternity. You gave up great things for even greater things. When I hear people talk about a married priesthood, I am simply nonplussed. Because if I had a night call, and it meant deciding whether or not I should leave my six-year old daughter, who was actually sick with a fever two nights ago while my wife was out of town moving my son into Catholic University, and going out on a call to administer the Sacrament of the Sick, I wouldn’t leave her. And that would mean that someone Jesus wanted attended to in the hospital wouldn’t get attended to because I have children. There is nothing arbitrary about the fact that you gave up children. It is the quintessential manifestation of your willingness to serve the Lord above all else.

Usually in early seminary life and the first few years of priesthood, there is a great deal of satisfaction in your life. Things are going well; people are responding well, there’s freshness to your sacramental ministry. But then as time goes on, there’s the possibility that things grow arid, and some of that initial excitement and consolation is lost. Even Bishop Sheen got the idea that he was regressing in the spiritual life. What he really found was the fact that the cross was getting bigger and the consolation of the Holy Spirit seemed to be getting smaller.

*So it’s time, in a humble way,  
to once again acknowledge  
that dignity. If you have lost  
a sense of this in your  
priesthood lately, I ask you  
to ask Our Lady to help  
restore it in your heart.*

If a child is given a candy bar each time he cleans up his room, even when he turns 18, we know that something is wrong. If we serve the Lord only when there’s profound consolation, what has happened to our spiritual maturity? Jesus asks his priests to serve him even when he consoles the people the priest ministers to, but not the priest himself. In some mysterious way the Lord allows this so that he can give his people more. But the cost is the quiet suffering of the priest. It is service without candy or consolation. This spiritual principle in the Mystical Body is quite paradoxical. That is why priests

often do not receive “visible” consolations, in the same way the people they serve do, even when it comes to offering holy Mass. Is that not in fact the life of Jesus?

How many times did Jesus try to speak a word of truth and salvation to the people, only to have them turn away, grumbling about the “hardness” of his words, even when he was trying to tell them about the Eucharist? Is it not the same with priests? You have spoken a word of truth from the pulpit, about something the world deems “controversial”, or have ministered holy things to ungrateful or indifferent people and have received no thanks. So I would like to take a moment to thank every priest here, and every seminarian who is a priest *in potentia*, for the service you have rendered to Christ’s Body. For every sacrament, for every time you were a vessel and channel of Christ’s mercy, thank you!

I know it may seem less appropriate for one person to thank you for all the priestly ministry you have done, but isn’t that in a real sense what the Blessed Mother did for each one of us? St. Thomas Aquinas said that when Mary said yes to the announcement of the Archangel, she said yes for each and every human being. Your priestly yes to God’s will is an incredible blessing for God’s people in the order of grace.

I also want to say that for those who have been particularly burdened by the recent scandals in the Church. I believe it is the will of God, that once we have responded to them in the proper manner – with repentance, reparation, and justice for the victims, even though they were the actions of a few that tarnished the many, that it’s now time to move on. We have to be aware that the Adversary and other

*Continued on page 8*

enemies of the Church have used these scandals to disrupt the future progress of Christ's Body.

I want to mention one other thing that is important to understand in terms of the scriptural concept of priesthood, in the order of Melchizedek. That is the element that most distinguishes the priest from any other member of the Body of Christ. It is your very definition: a priest is set aside to offer sacrifice for the people. If we ever lose sight of this fact, Bishop Sheen said, it will be grievously detrimental for not only priests, but mostly for the people. In the Old Testament if the priest did not offer the sacrifice, you were threatening the Covenant. Whether by means of the world, the flesh, or the devil, if a priest ever loses sight of this spiritual principle today, as applied to the sacrifice of the Mass, he loses his soul.

There are many things that a priest does by way of apostolic ministry. But let him never forget the most important thing he does. If he does forget, Bishop Sheen says, that priest will suffer a profound identity crisis. Do not let the many other "good" things you are called upon to do as priests (i.e. attending parish council meetings, administration, etc.) distract you from this primary ministry as a priest. I know how flooded your lives can become in trying to manage the "details" of parish life. Sifting through the mail a typical parish priest gets on a daily basis is akin to being consigned to one of the lower circles of purgatory. Trying to keep up with the new computer systems, changing laws governing bingo regulations, etc... can leave you drowning in paperwork. You almost need to be a Business Major to run today's parishes!

*So the great responsibility and graces that come with priesthood make it incumbent on you to "protect" your spiritual life. As Mother Angelica says, "the many good things you are called to do as a priest should never jeopardize the greatest thing you are called to do."*

This is all the more reason not to lose sight of the primacy of your sacrificial ministry. Recall the signs Mother Teresa hung up in the sacristies of her convents for priests to read when they came to vest: "Say this Mass as if it were your first Mass, your last Mass, your only Mass." This was the approach St. John Vianney took. The primacy of the Mass will be the ultimate foundation for everything else you do for Jesus. That means you will have to prepare for Mass and have proper thanksgiving after Mass. I myself noticed a big change when I moved from pew to sanctuary as a deacon. I found it a real offering that I didn't have the luxury of having my own heart prepared to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist. I didn't have the quiet because I wasn't in receptivity mode; I was in active mode as a minister. I was getting frustrated by this. One day I asked my spiritual director about this problem. He told me you will have to take more time before and after to prepare

your heart, because you will not be able to do it in the same way you were used to as a layman. So the great responsibility and graces that come with priesthood make it incumbent on you to "protect" your spiritual life. As Mother Angelica says, "the many good things you are called to do as a priest should never jeopardize the greatest thing you are called to do."

So the dignity of priesthood is something you must battle to guard in your heart. No one can take that dignity from you. Because it wasn't given to you by anyone; it was given you by Our Lord. In the mystical tradition of the Church is the teaching that the priesthood is its own level of created dignity. I am not putting you on the level of Our Lady, nor am I trying to start a new dogma movement. But indeed, there is a level of sanctity, an ontological reality you were ordained with, that makes you a "type" of a new creation. So it's time, in a humble way, to once again acknowledge that dignity. If you have lost a sense of this in your priesthood lately, I ask you to ask Our Lady to help restore it in your heart.

Ask this because it will bring you to the joy of priesthood that is so contagious. This is part of the dynamics of the New Evangelization: priest + joy + salvation of souls. There is nothing more contagious than a joyful priest. Especially a priest the world looks down upon, saying, "What's he smiling about? Doesn't he read the papers? Doesn't he know the state of the Church?" This was the secret to St. Philip Neri's apostolate in Rome. And I pray it will be the secret to your own as Companions of the Cross. St. Philip Neri's experience of the fire of Pentecost

in his heart has been compared to the experience of the stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi in terms of its conformity to the likeness of Jesus. St. Philip Neri used to pray daily in the catacombs, for a greater endowment of the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. One day, on Pentecost, he had a powerful mystical experience – he saw a ball of fire coming towards him and settling in his heart. His heart was burning so much afterwards, that he had to beg Jesus to let up a little, because he felt it was going to kill him by bursting his heart! Ever since that mystical encounter, St. Philip could never wear a coat over his cassock; even in winter he had to sleep with the window open in his room. So “on fire” was he literally! St. Philip’s abiding personal charism was joy.

I believe that no one can help oversee, and protect, and sustain priests better than Our Blessed Lady. Why? Quite simply, because it is a task that Jesus has given to her. Remember the special predilection that Our Blessed Mother has for her priest son. The priesthood is lived out in “imitation” of Christ. The Blessed Mother gave birth and life to Jesus the first priest. At Calvary she was there helping her son attain the graces of our redemption. But then Jesus leaves her; he ascends. What does she do then? Well, she “mothers” the Church. And so who is she dependent on to remain in touch physically with the Body & Blood of her son? She is dependent on the priest-apostles, most notably John. That is why she loves her priestly sons so much.

But there is this mystical principal in our faith concerning the mystery of freedom. Put rather bluntly, the Mother can only

*She will aid you in ways that you will know did not come from you. I can guarantee you, the more you “live” the consecration, the more you will bring in “fish” you never thought were possible. She is the Star of the New Evangelization. She will sanctify you according to your vocation. There will also be a newfound peace and grace. She exercises this role as mother of priests.*

help your priesthood to the extent that you allow her. She wishes to inundate your priesthood with her presence, her grace, and her sustaining intercession. That’s why the consecration to Jesus through Mary you do as Companions of the Cross is not some pleasant pious action. It results in an ontological release of supernatural grace and power for your priesthood. Now why do I say that? Recall the messages of the BVM at Fatima, when God wished to bless the world in a powerful way, to end the scourge of atheistic communism in the world - the means given was consecration. Now, Our Lady could have asked for something else, such as special fasting, or other acts of penance, etc., in order to ensure the triumph of her Immaculate Heart. But what in fact did heaven prescribe for such a huge, monumental problem? - A simple act of consecration. Why? Because the right words, coupled with the right inten-

tion, coupled with the proper jurisdiction, results in heaven sending torrents of grace into human history. And that’s what happened on March 24th, 1984. Pope John Paul II fulfilled Our Lady’s request and consecrated the world, inclusive of Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The prayer Pope John Paul prayed was a very powerful prayer that ended with a kind of litany of deliverance. Some four years later the Berlin Wall fell without a single bullet being fired. Communism was in retreat, a spent force of history. That goes to show you the power of consecration.

Now that was “world” consecration, but the same principle applies to your Companions’ consecration. And if you live it out in faith and humility, and daily get into the “habit” of calling upon the BVM for her help, asking her to enter any number of perplexing pastoral situations you find yourself dealing with (from needing direction in the confessional, to dealing with taxing financial problems in the parish); wisdom comes. She will aid you in ways that you will know did not come from you. I can guarantee you, the more you “live” the consecration, the more you will bring in “fish” you never thought were possible. She is the Star of the New Evangelization. She will sanctify you according to your vocation. There will also be a newfound peace and grace. She exercises this role as mother of priests. ☩

# Signs of the Kingdom

by David Bergeron

**In January 2007, seminarians Simon Lobo, Carlos Martins, Brian O'Neill, and myself, were asked by the community to undertake a Spring "mission tour" as part of our formation program. Our mandate was to work as a team of itinerant preachers and go evangelize! We called our effort the "Signs of the Kingdom" mission tour.**

After prayer and discernment, contacts were made and a program was developed. It consisted of three different events: 1) an exposition of holy relics of the Saints; 2) Reasons to Believe – which was geared to youth; and 3) encounter with Christ. With an approved budget for evangelistic materials and multimedia tools, we prayed for the Lord to prepare the way. After a really busy week of final preparations, we hit the road for our first event. It was held on May 11th in Toronto, in the Companions' parish of St Timothy's. Over six weeks, 10,000 kilometres, and 20 stops later, we

would finally conclude our mission tour in another Companions' parish: St. John the Baptist in Halifax.

The purpose of the mission was to lead participants into a deeper relationship with the Lord. We intended to do this by engaging people on both the level of the mind and the heart. Being called "Signs of the Kingdom Tour", the name pointed to our goal which was to show that the Kingdom of God exists, and that Christ is calling each of us into it.

Our first type of event was called a "Holy Relics of the Saints Exposition". The purpose of this evening was to lead people to a greater awareness of the Communion of Saints and to demonstrate how we are intimately united with the Saints and with one another as one mystical Body of Christ. A PowerPoint Presentation was used to outline the Church's teaching on relics (by way of Scripture and Tradition). The faithful even had an opportunity to venerate more than 200 sacred relics of the Saints. Seminarian Carlos Martins is the custodian of this impressive collection. This turned out to be the most popular and well attended of the events we offered.

The second type of event, "Reasons to Believe" was geared toward the youth and was the event that was presented the most often on the tour. Our presentation took advantage of the natural scepticism that teens are prone to, by showing evidence of the miraculous (some of the "signs" of God's Kingdom). Events which defy scientific explanation, such as the "dancing of the sun" at Fatima, the miracle at Hiroshima (where eight priests and their rectory were unscathed by the atomic blast of 1945), saints whose bodies are incorrupt, the miraculous staircase in Santa Fe (New Mexico), and the Eucharistic miracle at Lanciano, were presented and explained. The youth were given an opportunity to enter into rela-

tionship with God who is desperately trying to reveal His love to them. Often times, this opportunity was given to them while in the presence of Jesus himself in the Blessed Sacrament.

The third type of event was "The Encounter with Christ: Pick up your Mat and Walk". The event was designed to facilitate and provide an environment in which each participant could have an encounter with the Risen Lord and experience God's love (like that of the paralytic man from Mark 2). We desired to help each participant increase their awareness of Jesus present in the Eucharist; to facilitate an experience of God's personal love and care for each participant; and to ask the Lord for healing. We invited participants to forgive the persons they needed to forgive and to renounce the feelings, dispositions, and spirits which hinder human freedom and prevent us from growing closer to God. Using the authority and the name of Jesus, the King of kings, participants were led in taking authority over the things which they had renounced, and God the Father's blessing was invoked. Participants were encouraged to share this simple method of healing with others, to experience the power of God and to live in the freedom and fullness of life for which God has created us.

It is hard to measure the success of a mission. Here are a few facts about the one we conducted. We were able to present our events both in schools, in the context of a Confirmation class, and in churches. We made a good enough impression that some people followed us around and were able to come to a few of the events we presented around where they live. We made the Companions known in new places for people who had not heard about us. We raised awareness for vocations to priesthood and religious life, and in a broader manner, for the possibility of committing one's life to Jesus Christ. These were some of our successes, and



*Seminarians with Yarmouth, Nova Scotia youth.*

when I say successes, I humbly realize that our role was only to plant the seed the best we could. After that, it was up to the people we met to give permission to Jesus Christ to act in their life, and up to the Holy Spirit to transform them radically. In short, this is how our founder Father Bob Bedard describes evangelization.

But for now, we can already witness to the fruit that we were able to see. Here are a few of the Lord's success stories... We were told this story a few days after having been to a certain school. A teacher asked one of the bigger trouble makers in the class: "How did you like yesterday's retreat?" "Well, you know, before I wasn't sure if God existed, but now I'm sure!" answered the guy with a smile, to her great surprise... Having offered to pray with some of the kids, a girl shared about her suffering and when asked if she wanted us to pray for something more specific, she answered: "that my younger sib-

lings suffer less than what I have had to go through." ... I was also personally touched and inspired by some tough guys who were moved to tears during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and by a girl who shared that she felt a call to religious life. As you can see, these are only a few brief stories that we were able to gather. We believe that many more people were touched by the Lord and we hope that they will tell their story for the building up of the faith and for evangelization to continue through their testimonies.

What was great about ministering together was not only how the Lord blessed others, but how he blessed us as a team as well. This experience of ministry together taught us the primary importance of communication among the team members and with the people whom we were called to serve. It also developed in us some necessary skills of logistical planning that will

help us as priests. We certainly have grown in our appreciation of the essential logistical work that is often carried out by lay volunteers. We also experienced the benefits of complementary gifts that can be put together to take part in the building of the Kingdom.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the people who hosted us, or welcomed us into their homes and parishes, or who attended our events. We want to especially thank all our benefactors who support us with their prayers and who follow our formation as seminarians. Most of all, we want to thank Our Lord & Our Blessed Mother for the blessings we received in undertaking this "Signs of the Kingdom Tour" mission tour. May we never cease to pray "Thy Kingdom come!" ☪

.....  
*David Bergeron's hometown is Granby, Quebec.*



# Companions of the Cross

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**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTION(S) BELOW WHICH APPLY TO YOU:**

Enclosed is my cheque payable to the Companions of the Cross in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are \_\_\_\_\_ post-dated cheques, payable to the *Companions of the Cross*.

I prefer to charge my donation to my credit card (*check one*):  Mastercard  VISA

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make this a (*check one*):

one-time donation  monthly donation (can be cancelled at any time with one month's advance notice)

**Automatic Monthly Direct Payment:**

I hereby authorize the Companions of the Cross to deduct (*check one*):

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$200  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month

from my account indicated below. I understand that I may cancel this transfer at any time by notifying the Companions of the Cross at least one month in advance.

Name of Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Number      Transit Number      Account Number

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have enclosed the required personal cheque marked "void".

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

Please pray for the following special intention: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form, place in postage-paid envelope provided and mail to: Companions of the Cross, 199 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 2G5. Your support of our community is very much appreciated!



“Surely God is my help;  
the Lord is the one who sustains me” (Psalm 54:4)  
Want to be a CC Sustainer?



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## Use Our Pre-Authorized Giving Plan!

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### Advantages of the Plan:

- **Peace of mind...** Saves worry about your donation being lost, stolen or delayed in transit. Your credit card or bank account number will be kept confidential and secure.
- **More convenient...** Enables you to make your donations in small, easy-to-manage amounts.
- **Saves you money...** No need to buy postage and envelopes.
- **Saves you time...** No need to write cheques every few months. The work is done for you.
- **Flexible...** The amount you donate can be adjusted or terminated at any time.
- Sustains the growth & ministry of the Companions!

### How to Enroll:

Determine the amount you wish to donate to the Companions on a monthly basis, then fill out the form on the page opposite, and mail it in to us!

### Questions?

Contact Mr. Ken Gorman, CC Director of Resource Development, toll free at: 1-866-885-8824 or via email - [kgorman@companionscross.org](mailto:kgorman@companionscross.org).

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It's a blessing for the Companions and a blessing for you!

**He said to them,  
"You also go  
and work in  
my vineyard"  
(Mt 20:7b).**



**Do you feel the Lord  
might be calling you  
to the priesthood?**

The Companions of the Cross invite you to make a discernment retreat at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit CC Household in Ottawa (58 Primrose Ave.).

**Ready to  
Bring in the  
Harvest?**

**Serve  
God's People  
as a Priest!**

Come and live our community life, meet our priests and seminarians, and see if the Lord might indeed be calling you to the priesthood and our community.

**You are Welcome to  
'Come & See' Us at Any Time**

**Call us and we'll arrange  
for your visit**

**For more information  
call Fr. Mark Goring  
CC Director of Admissions  
(613) 231-4806**

**[vocations@companionscross.org](mailto:vocations@companionscross.org)  
[www.companionscross.org](http://www.companionscross.org)**



## Search and Rescue Conference

For teenagers ages 13-19 • Saturday, March 1st, 2008, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm • Tudor Hall, Ottawa

Cost: only \$10. The day will include talks, praise and worship, film festival & Mass. "Come and join teens from all over as they learn how to work with Jesus in seeking and saving the lost!" Any teens wishing to produce and submit a 2 minute mini-film related to the topic of "Search and Rescue" can contact Fr. Mark Goring: [vocations@companionscross.org](mailto:vocations@companionscross.org) for more information. There will be prizes for the best films.

# TESTIMONY

by Jim Lowe

May the grace and love of God be with each person who reads this article. What I have to share with you is something profound that I learned while in Africa this summer. I had the privilege of travelling to Tanzania on an 18 day mission with Renewal Ministries. Our team consisted of three priests (from Michigan, Ontario and Slovakia), two sisters (from Prayer Town, Texas), and eight lay missionaries (from California, Michigan, Florida, Slovakia, and Wisconsin).

The primary purpose of the mission was to reveal Jesus Christ and his gospel to as many people as possible. We did this by preaching to and praying with thousands each day. We preached on how much the Spirit wants to move powerfully in and through everyone in the world today!

As Companions of the Cross, one of our four pillars is openness to the charisms of the Holy Spirit. Rule 51.1 of our constitutions indicates: "We believe that 'the miracle of Pentecost should continue in history,' (Pope Paul VI, 17 October 1974) and, hence, we desire to be completely and fully empowered by the Father through the Holy Spirit, and to receive all the spiritual gifts, or 'charisms', that he may wish to bestow on us, including the Corinthian gifts." You may be asking, "What are the Corinthian gifts?" St Paul tells us, "To one is given through the Spirit the expression of *wisdom*; to another the expression of *knowledge* according to the same Spirit; to another *faith* by the same Spirit; to another *gifts of healing* by the one Spirit; to another *mighty deeds*; to another *prophecy*; to another *discernment of spirits*; to another *varieties of tongues*; to another *interpretation of tongues*. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, *distributing them individually to each person as he wishes*" (1 Cor 12:8-10). You may be thinking, "What does this have to do with Africa?"

In my lifetime, I have personally witnessed each of these charisms of the Holy Spirit



being manifested in and through others. However, I never really understood why only certain charisms seem to be given to certain people. While in Tanzania, I witnessed many people in the same place at the same time openly using most of these charisms. I saw priests and lay people preach with such incredible *knowledge* and *wisdom*. There is no doubt in my mind their words were inspired by the Holy Spirit. I saw thousands of people come forward each day with expectant *faith* with their hands reaching towards heaven as they all in one voice so beautifully sang praises to the Lord in Swahili. Often times the crowd simultaneously *spoke in tongues*. I heard many testimonies of powerful physical, spiritual, and emotional *healing* from people who had been attending the rallies and workshops each day. I witnessed the authority of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through priests and well-trained prayer ministers as many people manifested signs of being freed from spiritual bondage. As soon as a person in the crowd began to experience any kind of manifestations that seemed to indicate possible spiritual oppression or obsession, a team of people took the person to a nearby tent where individuals with the gifts of *discernment of spirits*, *healing*, and *intercessory prayer* were called upon to minister to each individual. In many cases, the people came out filled with the joy, peace, and love of God in their hearts.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "there are *special graces*, also called *charisms* [which means] 'favour,' 'gratuitous gift,' or 'benefit.' Whatever their character – sometimes

it is extraordinary, such as the gift of *miracles* or of *tongues* – charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the **common good of the Church**" (CCC #2003).

I believe there are two reasons why so many of these charisms were given to so many people in the same place at the same time. First, most people seemed to be very open and ready to receive such charisms. Second, as mentioned in the quote from 1 Corinthians above, the Holy Spirit is the source of all these [charisms], "*distributing them individually to each person as he wishes*." I believe God chose to distribute so many charisms to so many people to show us that he is real, that he loves us, and that he wants to use his gifts in and through each of us to build up the kingdom of heaven here on earth. I believe he wants us to witness and experience these amazing signs and wonders just like thousands did at the first Pentecost. This does not mean each one of us will receive all of these gifts. What it does mean, however, is that each one of us may want to consider praying regularly for both an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for an openness to receive whatever gifts God wants to give us. Who knows, if enough of us pray hard enough for this, maybe the "New Pentecost" Pope John Paul II spoke so often about will come sooner than we think. Come Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your faithful with the power of your love! Amen ☩

Jim Lowe is a fourth year seminarian with the Companions who comes from Troy, Michigan.

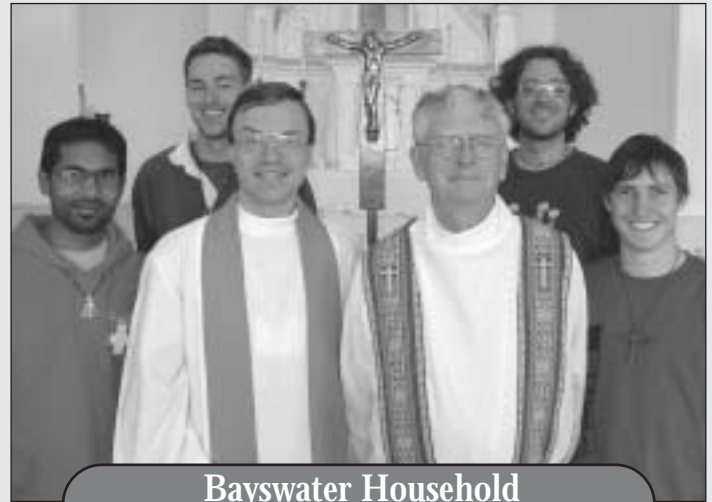


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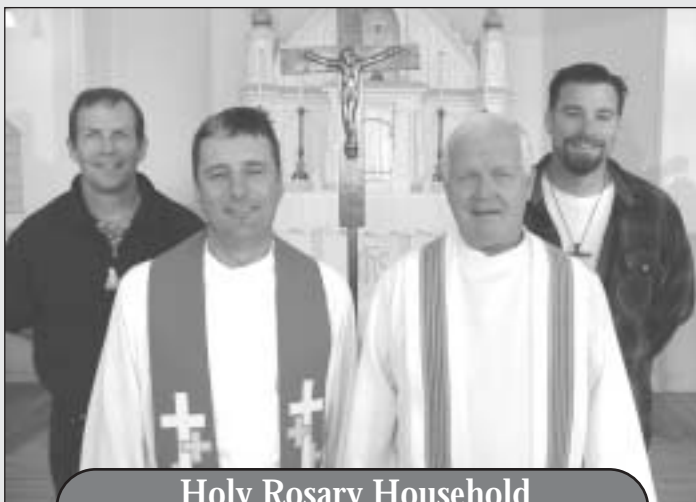
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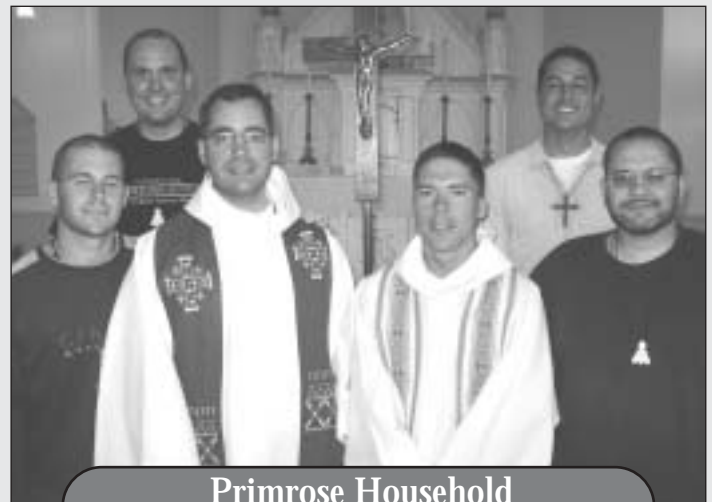
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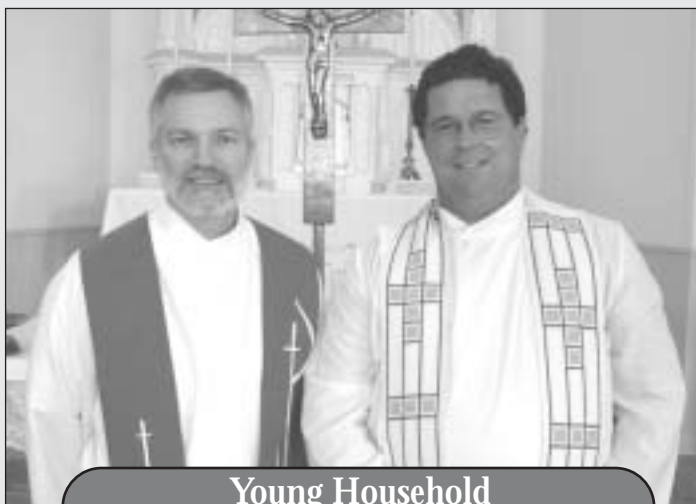
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**Primrose Household**  
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**Young Household**  
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**Pier Giorgio Frassati Household**  
Toronto

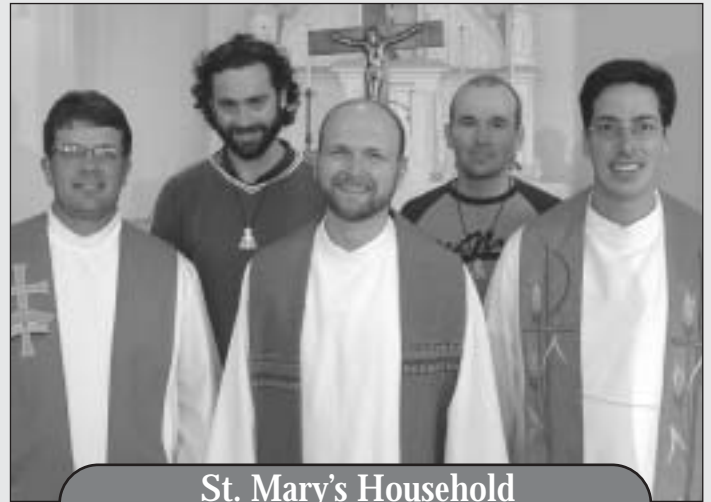


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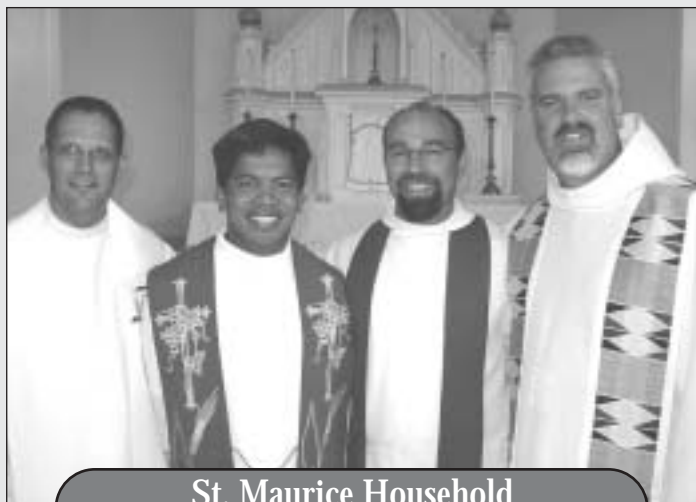
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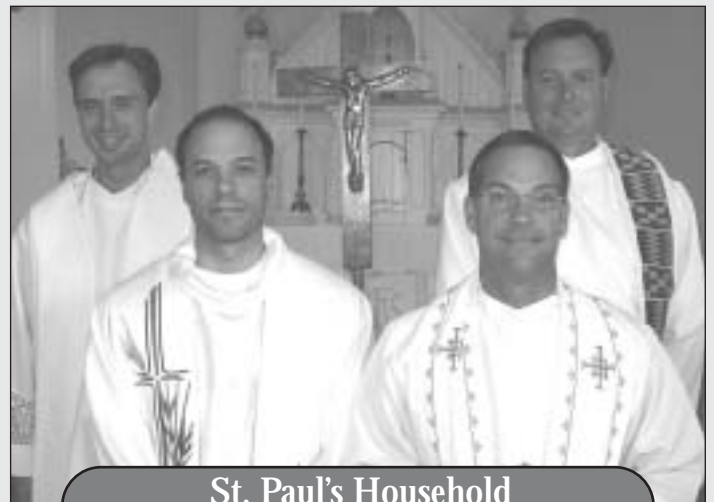
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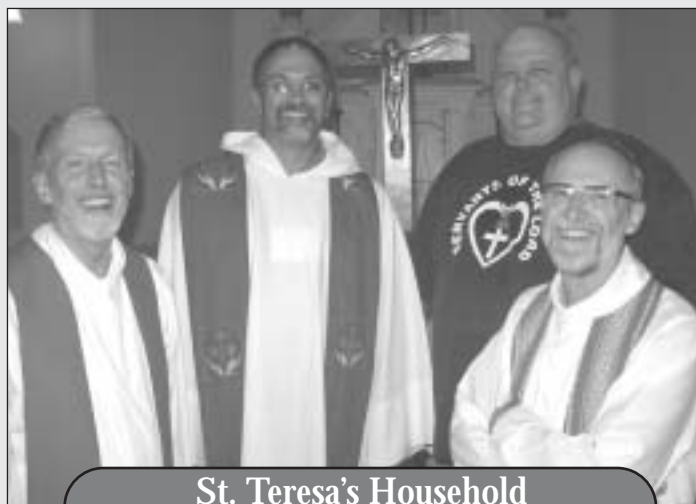
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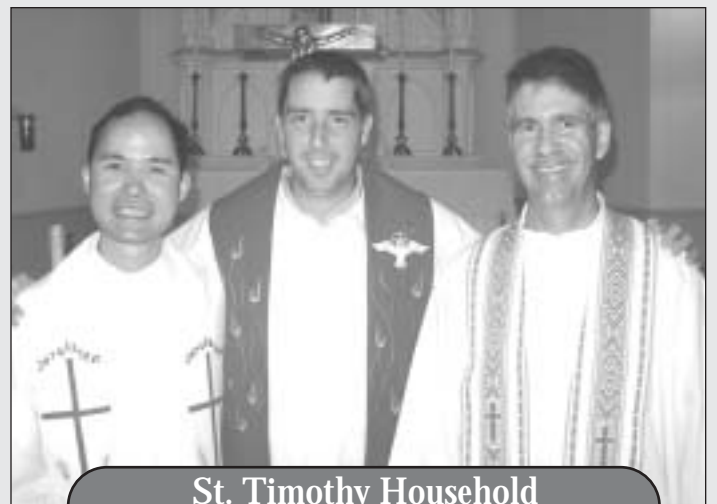
**St. Maurice Household**  
Ottawa



**St. Paul's Household**  
Halifax



**St. Teresa's Household**  
Houston



**St. Timothy Household**  
Toronto

Catholics falling away... Youth questioning their faith...  
Newspaper headlines attacking core Christian beliefs... We need

# REASONS TO BELIEVE

- **The Existence of God**
- **The Identity of Jesus**
- **Reliability of Scripture**
- **Scandalous Events in Church History**
- **Catholic Morality**

Get equipped with reasons to believe so that you can present the truths of the Catholic faith in a charitable and convincing manner. Learn how to...

- Explain the reasons for belief in God and the value of religion, recently attacked in books like *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins
- Establish the identity of Jesus amid confusing alternative theories, highlighted by Pope Benedict XVI in his book *Jesus of Nazareth*
- Defend the reliability of the Scriptures and reconcile the Creation account in Genesis with the discoveries of modern science
- Understand the Church history of the Inquisition and the Crusades
- Uphold Catholic moral teachings that are rejected by modern culture

You will also receive resources for high school and university students that effectively respond to questions and doubts arising in class and on campus.

## COURSE PRESENTER



**Fr. Terry Donahue, CC** is the Director of Lay Formation and Chaplain to the Lay Associates for the Companions of the Cross. He has worked in youth evangelization and coordinated the Companions School of Evangelization. As a graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fr. Terry also has a strong background in science & technology.

## TIME & LOCATION

Mondays, October 29 to December 10  
7:15 - 9:15pm

St. Mary's Church, Bayswater & Young

Suggested Cost: \$70.00 for 7 weeks

(Financial assistance is available)

Pick up a registration brochure  
or contact Mary Lauzon at 613-728-3175



**Companions of the Cross**  
**LAY FORMATION PROGRAM**

# Pilgrimage to Malta & Sicily

April 18th-30th, 2008 (13 days)

A Journey of Faith During the Year of St. Paul  
with Fr. John Vandenakker of the Companions of the Cross

Highlights Include:

- St. Paul's 'Shipwreck Church' , Malta
- Marian Shrine of Ta' Pinu , Gozo
- Blue Grotto Boat Ride, Malta
- Tombs of St. Agatha & St. Lucy, Sicily
- Shrine of Our Lady of Tears, Syracuse
- Mt. Etna Volcano Tour, Taormina
- Valley of the Temples, Agrigento
- Duomo of Monreale, Palermo
- Isle of Ustica (extension)

For price and complete itinerary please visit [companionscross.org](http://companionscross.org) – upcoming events. For further information and to request a free brochure, please contact Gail Goshko at 613-744-1418.

Info Meeting: Sunday, February 3rd, 2008, 2:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall (100 Young St., Ottawa).



## Springtime Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

April 29 – May 9, 2008 (11 days)

with Fr. Allan MacDonald & Fr. Marc Syrenne  
of the Companions of the Cross

For price and itinerary details please visit [companionscross.org](http://companionscross.org) – upcoming events. To book, contact pilgrimage organizer Patricia Duggan at (613) 756-2655 or via email - [dugganpatricia@aol.com](mailto:dugganpatricia@aol.com)

*“...concerning pilgrimages to Medjugorje which take place in a private manner, this Congregation holds that they are permitted, on the condition that they not be considered a validation of events in progress and which still call for examination by the Church.”* (Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 26 May 1998)

*The Companions of the Cross submit to the authority of the Church on all purported private revelations.*





# COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

by Fr. John Vandenakker

## Ordination Anniversary Report

Our annual celebration was held for the second year in a row at St. Maurice parish in Ottawa this past August 27th. It was a great success as many people came out to support those priests of the Companions who were commemorating an anniversary of ordination (in multiples of five years). Our guests of honour were: Fr. Tim Devine (5); Fr. Mark Goring (5); Fr. Randy Hendriks (5); Fr. Fernando Suarez (5); Fr. Jeff Shannon (10); Fr. Marc Syrenne (10); and Fr. Ed Wade (35). Fr. Ed Wade was not able to travel up from Houston for this event because of health concerns. He is feeling fine, but still needs our prayers. Fr. Bob Bedard our founder spoke fondly of each of these men in paying tribute to them. A simple but elegant “champagne & dessert” reception was held afterwards in the new parish hall. Our thanks go out to all those who came, and to all who helped out, especially our dedicated CC special events coordinator – Mary Lauzon. God Bless you!



## Condolences

Francis (Frank) MacGillivray, the father of Fr. Jim MacGillivray, passed away on Tuesday September 4th. The funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday September 7th at St. Patrick's Church in Railton, Ontario (near Kingston). Although he was getting on in years and not in the best of health, Frank was able to remain quite active until the very end. In fact, he had been out fishing earlier the day he died. Fr. Jim wants to thank everyone for their prayers and the many kindnesses shown him, his mother, and sister during their time of

mourning. Frank was a man of faith; he is going to be with the Lord. So let us continue to remember him and the entire MacGillivray clan in our intercessions. *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him”* (1 Cor 2:9).

## New Household Assignments

CC Moderator Fr Scott McCaig has made the following new household assignments (effective August/September 2007):

Fr Terry Donahue is assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes formation household in Ottawa (199 Bayswater Ave.).

Fr Pierre Ingram is assigned to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit formation household in Ottawa (58 Primrose Ave.).

Fr Francis Donnelly is assigned to St Teresa's household in Houston (the former Carmelite priory near Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish).

## Welcome Aboard Del Andison



The Companions of the Cross are pleased to welcome aboard Delila (Del) Andison. Del is now a part of our CC Office staff, working with Ken Gorman, our Director of Resource Development. One of Del's main duties will be to liaise with our donors. So if you get a call from Del in the near future, you will now be able to put a face to her name! Del has held executive and management positions in government, in the private sector and in public service.

She says: "My path to the Companions of the Cross began at a 1990's **Lift Jesus Higher** rally in Toronto where the guest speaker was Fr. Bob Bedard. It was one of those experiences we lavish with words like **epiphany, indelible impact, transformation**. It was all of those things. Over the ensuing years, I followed the way of Fr. Bedard with great interest and celebrated the news of the formation of the Companions of the Cross. In 2007, after 15 years in California, I returned to

Canada to be near my family in Manotick. One of the first calls I made was to the office for details of the next Companions' Healing Mass. Ken Gorman extended a warm welcome, excellent directions, and asked that I let him know my response to Fr. Fernando's Mass at St. Maurice's. As if time collapsed, I was back at the 90's rally where my personal encounter with the Trinity was once again palpable. My exuberance in talking with Ken the following day was the first step toward our work together now. It is a blessing to be amongst you; I pray my service will assist you in the wonderful work you are about, specifically your mission of evangelization."

## Cross-Canada Bicycle Trip

— by Brian O'Neill

"Why would anyone want to bike across Canada?" This was the most frequent question we encountered as fellow CC seminarian Simon Lobo and I rode our bicycles from Edmonton to Ottawa this

past summer. Our response: "It's a sort of pilgrimage." In 2001 the Lord had called me to ride my bike from Montreal to Calgary to speak to young people about him. In February of 2006, an urge and desire grew in my heart to ride again. In prayer, Simon felt led to support me in this prompting. So, after attending a friend's wedding in Edmonton at the end of June, we began our ride back to Ottawa. The Lord had a lot to teach us in the 40 days that would follow.

The first 1000 kilometres across the Prairies involved a heat wave, constant head-winds, 2 tire blow-outs, and sickness (I got Beaver Fever, which caused me to lose weight and fight serious dehydration). "Something good must be coming!" I finally said, because it seemed as though God was slowing us down for a reason, and allowing us to suffer. By the time we got to Brandon, Manitoba, we had no choice but to take a few days off. This turned out to be the providence of God. A deacon and his wife, with whom we were staying, arranged for us to speak to a group that regularly gathers to pray for vocations. The night before we left,



we were even given the opportunity to share our testimonies with a group of young men from the parish who are open to priestly vocations. The day that we left I was able to connect with another young man whom I had met the last time I rode through. It was an edifying time, to say the least. From that point on, we were much more attentive to where the Lord might be leading us, and who He might want us to meet.

Some highlights included: staying at the Bank family farm in Saskatchewan with Fr. Scott McCaig and Fr. Galen Bank who were on a motorcycle trip of their own; hanging out with a seminarian at the cathedral rectory in Thunder Bay; praying with a man who was himself riding a moped across the country hoping to reconnect with God; and encountering many hospitable and inspiring families and priests across the country. One day, I was prompted to look up and my eyes fell upon a cloud distinctly shaped like a flying angel, holding something out. At the end of the day, we saw something in the road. As we got closer, we saw it was a garbage bag with 9 frozen loaves of Wonder Bread (literally). The next day, again, I felt prompted to look up, and there was a distinct cross in the clouds. I felt a clear sense that the Lord was saying that he was with us. This bread not only fed us for the next 3 days, but it resulted in a more balanced diet.

What did God teach us? No matter how fancy one's bike is, one's rear end will still get sore after eight hours of riding. Seriously though, He wanted us to become more attentive to His prompting, and also to be grateful for everything: for the food we eat, for strength to carry on, for health, even for the opportunity to endure little trials, knowing "that in all things God is at work for the good of those who love him and who have been called according to his purpose" (Rm 8:28).

## Mission to Ghana

– by Fr. Ben St. Croix

A highlight of this summer was the blessing that came my way when I was invited to join Renewal Ministries to help lead a priests' retreat in Ghana, Africa. The purpose of the mission was to speak about the *New Evangelization* in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to weave in foundational elements of a "Life in the Spirit" seminar. I ministered with an enthusiastic and dynamic lay evangelist, Brent Hiser, and together we were able to interact with the clergy, drawing out responses from them through the course of talks. It was also a great delight to discover that Cardinal Turkson had assigned as reading material Fr. Bob Bedard's book, *Evangelization: A Challenge for the Catholic Church*. Initially I wondered how the priests received this message, but by the third session the Cardinal opened up a discussion on Fr. Bob's book and as men were giving feedback, I had a good sense that the Lord was indeed working in their hearts and gracing them with insight

about the power of the Holy Spirit. It was also wonderful to simply have met Cardinal Turkson and to have been able to share meals with him throughout the week. He is a holy man with a peaceful, attentive, humble spirit and is truly passionate about the Holy Spirit. He is the first Cardinal that Ghana has had and was only appointed in October of 2003. It was nice to fellowship with the local clergy and to witness their love for the Lord and their desire to be effective in their mission and work. They are genuinely serving the Lord in difficult conditions of poverty. I was also surprised to learn that their monthly stipend is equivalent to about 16 Canadian dollars. It was a real "eye-opener" for me!

The following weekend we attended a huge Charismatic Conference in the capital city of Accra. In attendance were about 7-8,000 people from over 20 countries. The presentations were provided in both English and French. Also about 2,000 Charismatic leaders from across Ghana gathered prior to the Conference for about 4-5 days in Accra in order to be equipped



for more effective ministry in their local areas. I met many leaders; one in particular was Fr. Ernest Sievers, who really was the “grandfather” of the Charismatic Renewal in Ghana and Uganda.

It was exciting to see all that has happened in his life and how the Holy Spirit moved powerfully over the last 30+ years in these countries. I received a true sense of HOPE for Africa. The Archbishop of Accra gave a talk on hope and blessings for the African nations. I came away from the presentation with a real sense of how much the African people have to give to the world, despite all their past sufferings, such as slavery, deportation, poverty and tribal warfare. They are a deeply spiritual people with a great love for God. They express this love through their ability to celebrate, in particular, through dancing. It was wonderful to witness this joy of dancing through the liturgy of the Mass and in particular throughout the Offertory. I had never witnessed something so celebratory. It was truly a sight to behold! Certainly God is moving powerfully in Africa and He is rising up a generation of Catholic Charismatics who are “sold out” for Jesus and ready to evangelize by sharing their faith and their spirit-filled lives with others. Let us pray for the new evangelization within Africa and give thanks to God. (To view more photos visit <http://www.PictureTrail.com/gid17324083&pathID=1816301>).

## Food For Life Update

by Fr. Bob Bedard

Fr. Bob Bedard writes in a September 2007 memo to the Food For Life Family: “Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! We hope you enjoyed a blessed summer. Thank you for your letters and notes during the summer. Your steadfast support means so much! As I told you in our July letter, there are some upcoming changes for *Food For Life* this fall and we would like to remind you of those

changes. Due to programming changes at CH-TV, *Food For Life* was last aired on that station on Aug. 26, 2007. CH-TV’s entire format has changed and is now entertainment based, which excludes any kind of religious programming. As I mentioned to you in my last letter, *Food For Life* had no control over this decision. *Food For Life* will continue to be aired every Sunday on CTV North (MCTV) at 8:30 a.m., CTS at 12:30 p.m., and VISION TV at 2:30 p.m. (EST). On Mondays the telecast began airing August 6, 2007 on the Christian Channel at 9:30 p.m. (EST). *Food For Life* is also on the Miracle Channel from Alberta and Salt and Light TV (check your local listings for times in your area). Back in June *Food For Life* also began airing on CHRI Family Radio, Ottawa, every Sunday at 9:00am. We hope you will continue to be blessed and ministered to through the weekly telecast! Thank you again for your support and God bless you!”

## Catholic Teaching Resources

In a recent survey of our CC newsletter readers, several responders suggested that one topic they would like to hear more about is Catholic Teaching (i.e. Apologetics, Cultural Challenges, Morality, etc.). This is certainly a laudable suggestion. I briefly explained that our chief focus to date has been on chronicling the life and activities of the Companions of the Cross, along with explaining key aspects of our Vision and Spirituality. I also mentioned that we feel a call to stay faithful to our “roots” at the present time. But we do hope to publish some more explicit “teaching” articles from time to time. In the meantime, please be aware that there are some excellent Catholic web sites that focus on this type of teaching apostolate, all of them free. Here’s a list a few of them:

*Catholic Answers* - [www.catholic.com/](http://www.catholic.com/) - Features answers to questions on creation, scripture, salvation, morals, and more.

*Catholic Charismatic Center* (not our CC site in Houston) – [www.ccc.garg.com/](http://www.ccc.garg.com/) - A resource for the CCR, also has testimonies and articles about the Holy Spirit.

*Catholic Net* - [www.catholic.net/](http://www.catholic.net/) - Has a host of different “channels” that treat topics ranging from Apologetics & Evangelization to Belief & Business and more.

*Catholic Online* - [www.catholic.org/](http://www.catholic.org/) - News and an online version of The Catholic Encyclopedia.

*EWTN*: [www.ewtn.org/](http://www.ewtn.org/) - Has a “faith” section that explains Catholic Teaching on a broad range of issues, and posts answers to questions from readers.

*Lifesite*: [www.lifesite.net/](http://www.lifesite.net/) - International Pro-life News.

*Spirit Daily* - [www.spiritdaily.com/](http://www.spiritdaily.com/) - News, culture, and a great links page.

*Studio O’Brien*: [www.studiobrien.com/](http://www.studiobrien.com/) - Thoughtful essays on a wide range of topics, including cultural challenges in being Catholic in today’s world.

*USCCB* - [www.usccb.org/](http://www.usccb.org/) - web site of the US Bishop’s Conference, has many sections, including those that treat Family & Laity, Social Justice, and Life issues.

*Vatican* - [www.vatican.va/](http://www.vatican.va/) - official web site of the Holy See.

*Zenit*: [www.zenit.org/](http://www.zenit.org/) - Catholic News from Rome, including recent addresses by the Holy Father and other Vatican documents.

## Peru Earthquake Report

Back in April I led a pilgrimage to Peru. One of the places we visited was Chinchá, where Canadian Oblates Fr. Joe Devlin and Br. Blaise MacQuarrie have been busy ministering to the poor for many years. We met some wonderful local people, whose hearts were on fire for the Lord. That is why the news of a major 8.0 magnitude earthquake striking that region in mid-August came as such a shock to many of us who had just been there. News of this natural disaster may have faded from the headlines. But the task of rebuilding remains immense (some 85% of the buildings suffered damage).

Fr. Joe Devlin wrote in an email: "I was on the bus leaving Lima for Chinchá when the earthquake struck. The bus driver pulled over to the side of the highway and stopped, but the bus kept moving from side to side. I got to Chinchá at about 10 p.m., and was lucky to find a taxi to bring me to our house. Burning tires were used to give some light. We didn't have any electricity for 6 days, but the phone worked. About 70 percent of the homes in Chinchá are not fit to live in, so most of the people are living in the streets. Fortunately, our residence survived fairly well. There are some cracks in one of the walls, and several things fell off the shelves, but we are still living indoors. Groups of armed thieves terrorized Chinchá for a few days, until a curfew was imposed. Someone I know said 40 hooded men with a machine gun and pistols broke into the place where she was staying and took everything of value. There were several smaller quakes and tremors since the big one and another one even when I began to write this note. Help is arriving from different groups and places, but not enough to satisfy everybody. The first priority was to bury the dead and give medical care to the wounded. Then get the water and electricity back and provide food and water. The reconstruction will come later. The weather is colder than usual, and people



are asking for blankets and sheets of plastic to cover their shacks. One woman, living in a recently built wooden hut on the outskirts of Lima, ran out of her house with her children but left a candle lit inside, and everything was burnt. She could not find help anywhere in Lima, so she came all the way to Chinchá for help. She said two children and an elderly man were killed by the rocks falling down the hill where they lived. About 500 people in our diocese were killed by falling buildings. The roofs on the 13 chapels in our parish collapsed, but no one was in them at the time (our parish encompasses 70,000 people in the district). In the main church, three panels fell from the roof. We cannot risk having crowds in the church for Mass until the roof is repaired, so we have been celebrating Mass outdoors in the city square. Tomorrow we get back to the regular Mass schedule, but we will use the parish hall which was not damaged. The church is being used to receive all the truckloads of goods that are coming our way. Every day we distribute the food through the coordinators of the 14 sectors of the parish. On the positive side, it's a good time to meet people, because they are living on the streets, and they want to talk. Hopefully, many will be motivated to come back to the practice of the faith. Thank you for your prayers, and the money you already gave me before I left Canada. If you still have some funds available, we could certainly use them. When things settle down, I will send you a full report. Yours in Jesus and Mary - Fr. Joe Devlin OMI"

If you would like to donate, we recommend going through: 1) The Oblates of Mary Immaculate – Peru Earthquake Relief, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7M 0C9, Canada; or 2) Development and Peace – "Earthquake Peru", 1425 René-Lévesque W, 3rd Floor, Montréal, QC H3G 1T7, Canada (you can also donate to Development & Peace via telephone at 1-888-664-3387 or online at [www.sos.devpo.org](http://www.sos.devpo.org)). They work closely with Caritas Peru to ensure the aid gets to where it is needed most.

*"May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times over, and bless you as he promised!" (Dt 1:11).*

## Spring Lay Formation Course

Fr. Terry Donahue and Claire Johnson will present a CC Lay Formation Course entitled: *An Introduction to Ignatian Discernment* (Monday evenings, March 31-May 12, 2008) in St. Mary's parish hall in Ottawa. Complete details are available online at [www.companionscross.org](http://www.companionscross.org). (Upcoming Events) as well as in the upcoming winter issue of our CC newsletter. ☺

*Fr. John Vandenakker teaches theology and serves as Academic Director for the Companions of the Cross.*

# Signs of Hope in Times of Persecution



**“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses,  
in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.  
For when I am weak, then I am strong.”  
(2 Cor 12:10)**

Today’s Crisis of Faith  
Persecution of the Church around the World  
Leading Family & Friends back to Christ

**Friday, February 1, 7:00pm – 9:30pm  
Saturday, February 2, 8:30am – 5:00pm  
Tudor Hall, 3750 Bowesville Rd., Ottawa  
Only \$35.00 per person (includes catered lunch, coffee breaks)**

To register please send your name, address, and phone number, along with a cheque payable to *Companions of the Cross* for the number of tickets you require. Mail to: Companions of the Cross, 199 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, ON K1Y 2G5

For further info please call Mary Lauzon at 613-297-0899  
or Linda O’Donnell at 613-728-3175.



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***“For the Son of Man  
came not to be served  
but to serve, and to give his life  
as a ransom for many”  
(Mark 10:45).***