

Summer 2009

Companions of the Cross



Inside
Ordinations
March for Life
Love



Companions of the Cross



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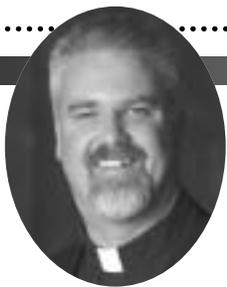
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The editorial team welcomes your comments and inquiries.

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Companions of the Cross



FEATURE

by Fr. Scott McCaig

FOUNDATION DAY 2009

(This is a homily that was given by Fr. Scott McCaig, Moderator of the Companions of the Cross, at the Foundation Day Mass May 1, 2009).

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your presence here tonight. Thank you for all your support and prayers, and especially for our Lay Associates who share our spirituality and mission, and for our religious sisters in Christ. It means more to us than we could hope to express.

Without question, this year's celebration of our Foundation Day is different than other years, and somewhat bittersweet. Certainly we are rejoicing for the gift of God's call, that he called us into being as a community and made us a family in him. And we rejoice that he chose us, weak and human as we are, to answer the call to a particular life and mission that began in his heart. For it is in the heart of Jesus that we ultimately find the genesis of the call that would become the Companions of the Cross. For this we rejoice with full hearts and we have come here to express our gratitude to the Lord.

But we are also saddened that our beloved Founder, Fr. Bob, is not here to celebrate with us. I could never have imagined when I drove him to the hospital on January 7th that he would still be there today. Nor could any of us have imagined the kind of journey and ordeal that has transpired over these past months. It has been an incredible roller coaster ride of emotions, hopes, and setbacks.



As long as I live, I will never forget February 11, 2009. The night before, we had a conference with the attending physicians and other hospital staff. They basically told us that Fr. Bob was dying and that we should expect to lose him within a very short time. We met as Executive Council and after praying and surrendering Fr. Bob to the Lord; we began making preparations for a funeral. So it was with very heavy hearts that Fr. Dennis and I met at the hospital early on the morning of the 11th. We anointed Fr. Bob for what we thought would be the last time and prayed for a miracle. As it was the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we blessed Fr. Bob with water from the miraculous spring at Lourdes, prayed over him yet again, and offered the rosary. We did what Fr. Bob has always taught us

to do – we gave the Lord permission to do whatever he wanted.

A short time later, his doctor came in and did what he had done countless times before without any effect, he said “Fr. Bob, open your eyes”. Only this time to everyone's complete astonishment, he did! I don't think I'll ever forget the look of surprise on the nurse's face. Fr. Dennis and I were so overjoyed, we actually “high-fived” each other right there in ICU! In my own heart I am certain that Our Lady of Lourdes directly intervened that day.

On another occasion, at another very low point when it appeared we were losing Fr. Bob, Fr. Dennis and I were celebrating Mass at his bedside. He appeared to be totally non-responsive, but at the words of consecration, he lifted his hand in a gesture of praise and kept it there until the consecration of the Body and Blood of the Lord was finished, and then lowered his hand. It really was amazing!

There were many moments like this that buoyed our hope, confirmed what a fighter Fr. Bob is, and showed us that Jesus was with him all the way and very much in charge. It has been consoling to see flashes of Fr. Bob's personality emerge slowly, complete with his signature rolling of his eyes, shoulder shrugs, and the use of those superhuman eyebrows.

Fr. Bob is still far from being out of the woods; his condition is tenuous and we are not sure how fully he might return to us. But we do know that he is still loving,
continued on page 2

Pre-Ordination Dinner of the Companions of the Cross

Archbishop Luigi Ventura, Papal Nuncio to Canada

May 29, 2009

Thank you, Fr. Scott, for your kind words and also for the invitation to be part of this celebration. Since I am unable to be present tomorrow, I am pleased to be here as part of the wider family of the Companions of the Cross.

My thoughts turn to your Founder, Fr. Bob Bedard, who is unable to be with us this evening due to illness. We keep him in prayer for his great love for the Church and the inspiration he has given.

I am pleased to be present at this significant moment in the life of the Companions of the Cross. Your community is a sign of the spiritual renewal of the Church. A young community with so many priestly ordinations is a sign of the work of the Spirit of God pouring out his gifts upon the Church.

In a special way, I greet the families of the ordinands. A priestly vocation is primarily the fruit of faith that is nurtured in the family. The parents are the givers of natural life but they also pass on the gift of the faith, which provides the environment in which the call of God can be heard.

As a representative of the Holy Father, I am honoured to assure his spiritual participation and affection for the community of the Companions of the Cross, for the three new priests, and for their families. I am pleased to convey on his behalf the Apostolic Blessing.

The ordination of Fathers Simon Lobo, Jamie Utronkie, and Carlos Martins could be seen as an anticipated first fruit of the Year of Priesthood announced by Pope Benedict XVI to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death of the saintly Curé of Ars, St. John Mary Vianney, which will be inaugurated by the Holy Father on June 19, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests.

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, Cláudio Cardinal Hummes, described The Year of Priesthood as a “celebration which will bring the people – the local Catholic community – to pray, to reflect, to celebrate, and justly to give honour to their priests. In the ecclesial community a celebration is a very cordial event which expresses and nourishes Christian joy, a joy which springs from the certainty that God loves us and celebrates with us.” This is exactly what we are doing now!

I would like to express my wishes for the soon-to-be-ordained young men in the words of the Holy Father: “Dear friends, this is... your mission: to bring the Gospel to everyone so that everyone may experience the joy of Christ and that there be joy in every city. What can be more beautiful than this? What can be greater, more exciting, than cooperating in spreading the Word of life in the world, than communicating the living water of the Holy Spirit? To proclaim and to witness joy: this is the central core of your mission, dear deacons who will soon become priests. The Apostle Paul called Gospel ministers ‘servants of joy’. He wrote in his Second Letter to the Christians of Corinth: *‘Domineering over your faith is not my purpose. I prefer to work with you toward your happiness. As regards faith, you are standing firm’* (2 Cor 1: 24). These are programmatic words for every priest. In order to be collaborators in the joy of others, in a world that is often sad and negative, the fire of the Gospel must burn within you and the joy of the Lord dwell in you. Only then will you be able to be messengers and multipliers of this joy, bringing it to all, especially to those who are sorrowful and disheartened.” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Homily of Ordination for the Priests of the Diocese of Rome*, April 27, 2008)

I would like to thank you for being, in the Church and in the world, ministers of the Gospel and servants of joy. ☩

2009 Ordinations

On Saturday May 30, 2009, the eve of Pentecost, Frs. Simon Lobo, Carlos Martins and Jamie Utronkie were ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, S.J. at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa. This joy-filled occasion was witnessed by a capacity congregation in the cathedral.

Archbishop Prendergast, in his homily, spoke about the unique calling of each individual to the priesthood. He mentioned that Fr. Carlos had been called from atheism to faith; Fr. Simon from becoming a doctor to healing souls and Fr. Jamie from life-threatening illness and materialism to serving the Lord.

He noted that they have each joined the community of the Companions of the Cross which has a way of life that is Eucharistic and unabashedly Marian. The pattern of life of the Companions is charismatic which allows the Holy Spirit to guide them to fit them to the work of the Church today. He said that these men would receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and would be made true priests of the New Testament.

Archbishop Prendergast reminded the men to, "Do your part with joy and love and attend to the concerns of Christ before your own. Always remember the example of the Good Shepherd who came not to be served but to serve and to seek out those who are lost."





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1. 2009 Ordinations at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa.

2. Beginning of Ordination Mass.

3. Fr. Scott McCaig, Fr. Pierre Ingram and Fr. Mike Scherrey at the "laying on of hands" on the candidates.

4. From left to right: Fr. Simon Lobo, Fr. Scott McCaig, Fr. Jamie Utronkie, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, Fr. Carlos Martins, Fr. Pierre Ingram.

5. Fr. Carlos blesses Fr. Christian Riesbeck.

6. Prostrate during the Litany of the Saints.

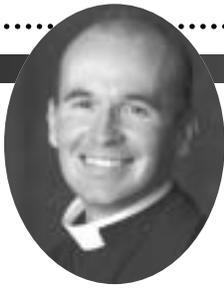
7. Archbishop Prendergast anoints Fr. Simon Lobo's hands.

8. The newly ordained celebrating with the Archbishop.

9. Fr. Scott McCaig and Fr. Jamie Utronkie at the "kiss of peace".

10. Fr. Simon blesses Fr. Mike Scherrey.

Photography by:
Anne Marie Gruden



TESTIMONY

by Fr. Jamie Utronkie

Faithful to Your Call



Fr. Jamie celebrating his first Mass at St. Casimir's in Round Lake.

After months of intense preparation, the big day had finally arrived! I had hardly slept the night before, but I didn't care... today was my Ordination day! I woke up early on Saturday May 30th and left my house at 8:10, determined to be at the Cathedral for 8:30 before the crowds arrived. I picked up David, another seminarian, on my way to the Cathedral for moral support. As we drove up to the church, a wave of panic and nausea overcame me. It was so surreal that this day had finally arrived. In my mind my Ordination day was like that dream you have when you are running towards something you want but it just never seems possible to reach the goal. The past seven years of seminary had been filled with many joys and hardships, but I wondered, had the wait been worth it?

After getting vested in the Cathedral sacristy we went downstairs to pray in the

Archbishop's chapel. In one of the corners, there was a quiet room containing a few chairs and prayer kneelers. In front of these, entombed in the wall, lay the interred bodies of the deceased previous Archbishops of Ottawa. How appropriate I thought... not only was I able to avoid the crowds so that I could try to be spiritually disposed for the upcoming ceremony, but I could also call on the intercession of these men who were successors of the apostles themselves, a brotherhood that I soon would become a part of.

After praying the breviary and a rosary, it was nearly time for the ceremony to begin. Taking a few deep breaths I went to join the rest of the clergy who were almost all ready to go upstairs for the opening procession. Rumour has it that there were 44 priests in attendance that morning. I glanced at my watch: 9:55. Only 5 minutes to go before the ceremony would begin. The liturgical emcee did

the best he could to gather everyone together even though there were still a few clergy unaccounted for.

Finally reunited with the other two ordinandi, Deacons Simon and Carlos, we began to process together through the downstairs hall so that we could go up the stairs and be at the back of the Cathedral for the opening procession. Just as we were about to head up the stairs, the three of us took a moment to affirm each other and express gratitude towards one another for being able to enjoy this day together. Despite our personalities being so different, the three of us were here today walking side-by-side for the same purpose: to lay down our lives to become priests of the Companions of the Cross.

I remember reaching the threshold of the stairwell and needing to take another deep breath. There were a few people at the back snapping pictures and telling me to "smile". The organist had begun the opening song *O God Beyond All Praise* by playing an extended instrumental intro. Once the choir began singing, the procession began. There were a multitude of camera flashes as the walls echoed the sound of the beautiful hymn. Emotions were at the surface as I breathed a huge sigh of relief. At that moment, I knew that I was exactly where I was meant to be.

There have been times in my life when I have wondered if I made the right decision. As I was processing up the aisle on this morning however, I was realizing that God had chosen me from all eternity to be one of his priests. He wanted me to bring Christ to the world through the sacraments and by the power of his Holy Spirit. Flashbacks of my childhood, adolescence and young adulthood merged together in such a way that they all seemed to point to this very moment. Despite this, there was still a feeling of unworthiness that crept

upon me but then I remembered who Jesus had chosen to be his 12 apostles. If the Lord had to choose among the most virtuous to spread the Good News of the Gospel, then Christianity would have died over 2,000 years ago. I am thankful to have been called to be a priest. I am even more thankful to have answered the call.

Briefly scanning the crowds, I saw my family in one of the front rows. I took my seat among them and waited for the rest of the procession. The choir continued to sing as the Archbishop incensed the altar. My maternal grandparents were sitting behind me and I was pleased about that because my grandfather had told me when I was five years old that I would be a good priest someday. I discounted the notion as a joke at the time but here I was 25 years later, becoming a priest!

Just as the opening song was finishing, my grandfather tapped my shoulder and whispered in my ear and told me a more obvious joke: "This is a small church, eh?" he said. I had known for a long time that I got my sense of humour from him and I was happy that he was here to share this day with me.

Unfortunately the rest of the ceremony went by too quickly but I do remember a few key moments. I remember laying flat on the marble floor as we called upon the saints for their intercession. I remember being vested by Fr. Jeff Shannon who had been my spiritual director for four years. I also remember my hands being anointed with sacred chrism and being presented with the chalice and paten. Before I knew it, we were being welcomed among the brotherhood of priests in the sanctuary!

After the ceremony the three of us newly ordained priests spent a few hours giving our first blessings in the Archbishop's chapel downstairs. Soon following this, I



From left to right: David Bergeron, Fr. Jamie Utronkie, Bryan Sabourin

drove down to Round Lake Centre to prepare for my first Mass and reception the next day at St. Casimir's Parish. Although I was very tired, the trip home went very well as a few friends were following me in a convoy.

Saturday night was another restless night as I scrambled to prepare a few last minute details for the next day. Waking up on Sunday morning was strange however as there was a kind of spiritual heaviness that I was feeling. I wasn't too sure what it was, but the weather outside seemed to mirror what was happening to me in my spirit. It was cold and cloudy, and, on the way to the church, it even began to snow! It was May 31st and here we were, getting snow flurries. At least this bizarre reality opened up room for me to make a joke of it when my first Mass began: I sarcastically said that I was disappointed that it stopped snowing because I was hoping that I could go outside with my guests after the Mass so that we could build a snowman!

Nevertheless, my first Mass also went well. About 300 people showed up as well as 16 members of the clergy. What a blessing to celebrate Mass in the same

church where I received many of my sacraments as well as spent many years around the altar as an altar server.

One of the highlights of my first Mass was that during the consecration prayers, the sun came shining brightly through the windows. By that point the snow had stopped and the clouds had already begun to lift but it was good to see the sun shining so radiantly. I knew at that moment that the Lord had also taken the heaviness that I had previously felt that morning and had united it to the Eucharistic sacrifice that I was offering for the first time as a priest.

Fr Jim McGillivray gave a fantastic homily that morning. His words of wisdom still echo in my mind: "Priesthood is a wonderful life." Having over 40 years of experience, he knows what he is talking about. My prayer though is that I can continually remind myself of how wonderful a life it really is and to remain always faithful to the call. ☺

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Fr. Jamie Utronkie is Associate Pastor of St. Michael's parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



FEATURE

by Vanessa Baker

U Got 2 Pray

Fr. Mark Goring couldn't wait to tell the students he works with about his experience preaching at a Mass being presided over by someone he described as "higher than the bishop, but a little lower than the pope." Before beginning his homily, Fr. Mark, Chaplain at York University in Toronto, took out his cell phone and shot a video of himself standing at the podium while Fr. Stan Fortuna sat just feet away.

Fortuna, nicknamed the "Rapping Priest," travelled from the South Bronx in New York, where he lives and serves the poor, to speak at St. Mary's Parish in Ottawa at The Current on May 24th.

Doug McColeman, organizer of the event, said 218 middle-school and high school students attended the conference, some coming from as far as Barrie, and Pickering, Ontario.

In the two talks he gave to the group, Fr. Stan stressed the importance of prayer in the daily lives of all Catholics.

"One of the best things I can say about prayer is, 'You got to pray,'" said Fortuna, quoting the title of one of the two books he's written, *U Got 2 Pray*. As he stood in front of the altar at St. Mary's with his white electric guitar strapped across his shoulder, Fortuna, 52, told the group of young Catholics that, just like they need to eat, they need to pray.

"You really can't live without it," he said.

He continued with the metaphor of prayer being like food for the soul. He said just hearing about someone eating or watching someone eat isn't good enough, and neither is just witnessing prayer. The key is to participate in it.



"There's stuff in life that pushes us and presses buttons," he said, using the example of road rage, a phenomenon with which his New York origins have made him particularly familiar. He said while many frustrated drivers resort to obscene hand gestures and yelling to relieve their anger, he blows kisses and blesses the disgruntled motorists he encounters in his travels.

Fortuna is one of the eight original members of the Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and he travels all over the world sharing his messages through his music.

Many of the young attendees agreed with Fortuna's message.

"In every area of everyday life and everything that you do, you need prayer to be a part of that," said Joanna Hamon, 13. She said she finds a lot of kids her age don't realize the importance of prayer, and it's important people like Fortuna go around spreading the word.

Hamon said the day was worth waking up at 5:30 in the morning to drive two hours from Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish in Combermere, Ont.

"[Father Stan] wasn't quite what I expected, but on the inside he was what I was hoping he would be, and I'm really happy that he was like that," she said.

"Some people who know a lot about prayer say, 'When you sing, you pray twice,'" said Fortuna. "Well, when you rap, you pray three times."

When he played for the group, he kept his eyes closed as his body rocked and his head bobbed along to the beat of his guitar and he seemed to get lost in the music. After several minutes of musical introduction, Fortuna showed the crowd why he's known around the world as the "Rapping Priest." While he raps, Fortuna keeps his eyes closed and holds the microphone in his left hand while his right hand moves around, making gestures in the style of rappers like Eminem and 50 Cent. His lyrics, however, carry a different message than the rhymes performed by the contemporary hip-hop giants.

He performed a piece about love, seamlessly switching between rapping, playing the guitar and preaching through spoken word. At times, his musical style was more like ska than hip-hop, as he used his voice to imitate notes being played on the guitar.

When he accidentally turned his microphone off midway through his song, he began to improvise, rapping lines like "come and turn the microphone on for me." The audience laughed as Fortuna continued to ask for help through his song, cheering when a volunteer ran to the front of the church to show Fortuna how to work the microphone.



He continued to make the audience laugh throughout his performance, cracking jokes and adopting comical voices to stress different points.

Fortuna kept the audience involved, having the crowd repeat the phrase, “All I really wanna do is worship thee,” as the chorus to one of his songs.

The youth got very into Fortuna’s songs and began to clap along until he told them to stop and put all their energy into singing.

In his talks, he stressed the importance of living for today. “If it ain’t gonna get better now, it ain’t necessarily gonna get better later. ‘Cause all we got is now,” he said. “I can honestly say that I’ve tried to live my life with the urgency of a dying man.

“We’re playing like it’s pre-season and it doesn’t matter. Pre-season matters because how you play in practise is how you’re going to play in the game.”

Hamon said she was very pleased to see so many of her peers gathered to grow in their faith.

“I’m so happy that they are able to take their Saturday and to use it in this way,” she said.

McColeman said he was extremely pleased with how the day turned out. “I’m happy that so many showed,” he said. “I’m happy that we were on schedule the entire day. “I was so excited to hear so many youth got something out of one of the speakers that were chosen to be there. It was eight months of planning and one day of awesomeness.”

“We live in a world where we don’t know what to pray for,” said Fortuna. “We don’t know who we are. We don’t even know who God is. God is love. Hate is a very strong word, it’s a very strong feeling. Love is stronger. Love is stronger than hate. Life is stronger than death.”

Elaine Guite and Ryan Larose also gave talks to the group. Both stressed the importance, not only of praying, but of willing to act and be the answer to your own prayers.

The day ended with Fortuna leading an hour of adoration. He capped off the conference by joining St. Mary’s band, Hypostatic Union, taking over their drum set for a few praise and worship songs.

McColeman said he would definitely do it again, and he hopes to hold one day-long Current each year. He said the date of the next Current is yet to be confirmed, but is tentatively set for September 12. ☺

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Vanessa Baker is a 19-year-old, going into her third year at Carleton University. She is doing a double major in journalism and human rights. She is originally from Windsor, Ontario and volunteers with the junior youth group at St. Mary’s parish in Ottawa.



FEATURE

by Bryan Sabourin



According to the Spirit of Our Founder

As Companions of the Cross we are called to “participate in the ongoing renewal of the Church through a dynamic evangelization according to the spirit of our founder” (Constitutions and Rules of the Companions of the Cross, C4). As preparation for a summer mission trip to Ghana, I and many of the other seminarians gathered together once a week to delve into the heart of the spirit of our founder. Fr. Bob has often impressed upon me that seeing a person come alive in the Lord is the greatest experience one can have. This is what Fr. Bob has dedicated his life to and what he has passed on to us, his spiritual sons, as his patrimony.

To share the Gospel message with others is not optional, but of utmost necessity. It is for us, as Companions, our fundamental priority. As such, we need not only to have a heart for evangelization, but be experts at it, so to speak. In order to grow in our knowledge of how and what to share with those we would be ministering to in Ghana, and elsewhere, we began to study and reflect on the talks and videos given at the School of Evangelization in 2003 and 2004.

In September I will begin my fifth year with the community. Despite that fact, the two schools that were given pre-date my time in the seminary. Although I had certainly heard various aspects of it over the years, I had never had the vision of the Companions for evangelization presented to me in such an all-encompassing and systematic way. What I captured the most was the spirit of our founder, his evangelistic heart. For all the useful ways to present the Gospel which I will doubtlessly employ and apologetic tools at my disposal, I learned that evangelization is as much about the person as anything else. Why? The message we present is simple, but the people we encounter are all unique. Everyone is at a different place in their spiritual journey or lack thereof. Far from this making things more difficult though, it actually makes things easier. Right from the beginning I knew that I would not have the answers for everyone. I am supposed to present a Person, not win an argument. As such, my disposition towards anyone whom God places in my path should be one of delight. I am to delight in them with all of my heart because they are beloved by God. This is the heart of Fr. Bob.

One of the talks that I listened to, given by Fr. Bob, was titled “The Lord’s Dynamic”. Perhaps it could have been alternatively titled, “Evangelization the

Lord’s Way.” For we hear that evangelization employs God’s own dynamic:

“A proclamation of the Good News of Christ proclaimed to the world and the Church, in such a way as to elicit, to draw forward an affirmative response from the hearer, so that the Holy Spirit can take over and transform the person who is hearing it to say ‘yes’ to Christ. It is something that you and I start and that God finishes. It is the power of God going to work and doing what God does best: capturing a human heart for himself, causing someone to fall in love with him, which is what he wants. That’s what evangelization is.”

The Lord’s Dynamic is a three-step process:

- 1) Proclamation of the Word
– what we do.
- 2) The response of the hearer
– what the hearer does.
- 3) The work of God
– which transforms and changes.

Fr. Bob was at pains to tell us that evangelization requires the spoken word, not just good example. Although it is true, “*that they will know you are my disciples by the love that you bear for one another,*” the fact remains that this love is almost always the precondition for the proclamation of the Word. It opens the field of questions such as, “Why do you have such great love?” and “Explain to me the hope and joy that I see in you.” Thus our good example builds the foundation for a sharing of the Word when asked. However, it does not replace evangelization. “There is no true evangeliza-

tion if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed” (Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi – On Evangelization in the Modern World*, 22).

I have heard many people offer me the great dictum of St. Francis of Assisi as their approach to evangelization. The saying goes, “Preach the Gospel, and use words when necessary.” With this they claim that it is our actions that are the most important. However, they fail to note that St. Francis used words quite often, more than most in fact. Even on his deathbed he ordered his fellow monks to take him into the streets of a nearby town so that he could preach the Gospel, lest an opportunity to witness should pass him by. We should always be ready to share the Good News.

Along with the witness of the Gospel, we should be ready to share a personal testimony detailing how God turned our lives upside-down. For some of us this will

have been a radical transformation. For others, it may have been a more gradual process over a greater period of time. At any rate, most of us can identify a time or period of time where we began to “get it.” All of a sudden, the message of the Gospel made sense to me. Why is that? Probably at some point someone shared with us the truth about Jesus; who he is and what he’s done. We came to know that Jesus is very much alive and we wanted the living water he was offering to us. We have been made to identify with the disciples who said, “We have come to see Jesus”. And now we will be his witnesses to others. We share the basic Gospel message: that we have sinned and are separated from God, that God in his love has sent us his Son to redeem us from our sins and restored our broken relationship with the Father. We have but to accept this great gift of salvation freely by opening wide the doors of our hearts to Jesus. We couple this with our own experience of how God has worked in our lives for a 1-2 Evangelistic punch, as Fr. Terry Donahue would say.

The Church is asking us to evangelize. As we have come to experience the merciful love of God, so too must we desire this for all our brothers and sisters. “To be Christians means to be missionaries, to be apostles. It is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others!” (Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day, 1989). We must respond with generous hearts and with the love only Christ can give. We know that “the person who, having heard the Lord’s call to come close to him, responds decisively, will experience the Lord’s power and presence in an unmistakable way” (Fr. Bob Bedard, *Evangelization: A Challenge for the Catholic Church*). This is the greatest thing in the world. It is at the heart of what it means to be a Companion of the Cross. This is evangelization according to the spirit of our founder. ☩

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Bryan Sabourin is from Ottawa, Ontario and has been with the Companions of the Cross for four years.



Information Meeting:
 Sunday September 13th 2009,
 at 2:30pm in St. Mary's Church Hall,
 corner of Bayswater Ave. and
 Young St., Ottawa

**For information and
 reservations call:
 Gail Goshko 613-744-1418**

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

OCTOBER 19th to 29th, 2009 - (11 Days)
With Fr. Dennis Hayes of the Companions of the Cross

Tour Highlights: Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Mount Tabor, Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada, Dead Sea.

Tour Cost: October 19th to October 29th, 2009 (11 days)

\$2995.00 per person - double occupancy

\$380.00 departure taxes

\$725.00 single supplement

\$350.00 deposit due at time of booking

Tips: \$100.00 US to be collected on the day of departure to cover the cost of tips to the guides, bus drivers, and hotel restaurant staff for meals included.

Included:

Airfare Ottawa – Tel Aviv – return

Hotel accommodation with breakfast and dinner daily

Deluxe motor coach and guide

All admission fees to sites, hotel taxes and service charges

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Not Included:

Lunches

Optional cancellation insurance extra, can be purchased at time of deposit

Optional:

EXTENSION IN JORDAN:

October 28th to November 2nd (5 days) Includes daily Mass



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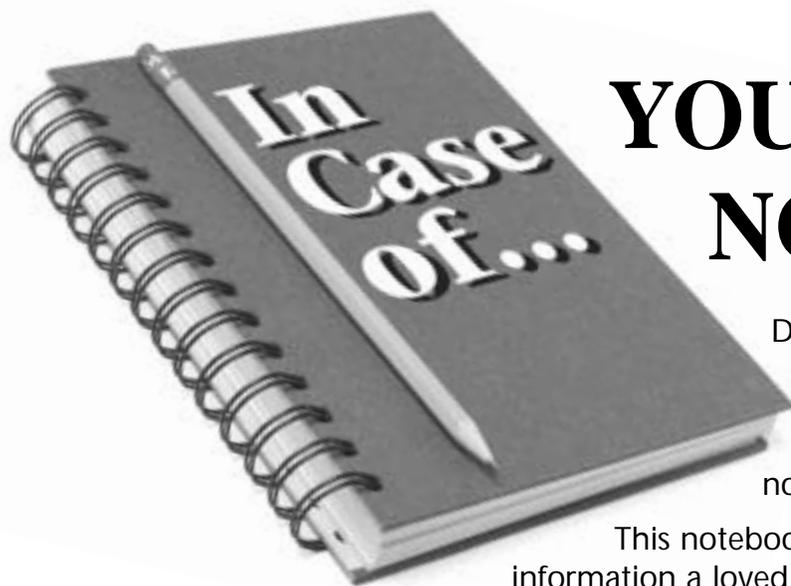
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Please complete this form, place in postage-paid envelope provided and mail to: Companions of the Cross, 199 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 2G5. In the U.S., please mail to: Companions of the Cross, 1949 Cullen Blvd., Houston, TX 77023-9986. Your support of our community is very much appreciated!



YOUR “*In Case Of...*” NOTEBOOK

Do you have an “In Case Of” notebook? Perhaps you do, but you call it by another name. Maybe it’s your “emergency file”. Perhaps you have not put aside the time to complete one yet. There is no time like the present.

This notebook is a three-hole binder containing all the information a loved one needs to know should you become seriously incapacitated or even die. When tragedy strikes, it is no time to go through drawers, filing cabinets and shoe boxes looking for pertinent information. Your up-to-date file can make all the difference.

After you have obtained a good-sized notebook and 12 dividers, label the front cover in big letters, “Emergency Notebook.” Then divide it into several sections, including:

1. **Action List.** Specify the immediate and secondary steps one should follow if something happens to you.
2. **Key Contacts.** Identify family members, friends, professional advisors and others who should be informed of your condition.
3. **Medical Notes.** List any medical problems and treatments. Identify types and locations of medicines. Name your doctors and provide contact information.
4. **Financial Accounts.** (Savings, checking, brokerage, credit, debit, etc.) Include account numbers, customer service phone numbers and copy of past statement for each account.
5. **Insurance.** Include life, accident, disability, auto and health policy information. Summarize your coverage and/or include a copy of the coverage page for each policy. Identify insurance agents (s) and phone numbers.
6. **Business Interests.** Include copies of contracts and outline action to take.
7. **Asset Inventory.** List your major possessions (auto, real estate, etc.)
8. **Funeral Instructions.** Identify your wishes concerning the funeral service and burial. You might also suggest The Companions of the Cross for those who wish to make a memorial gift in your honour.
9. **Estate Planning Documents.** Include copies of your will, power of attorney, living will, trusts and other items. Also, specify where the original of each document can be found.
10. **Charitable Commitments.** Summarize your charitable involvements, including your ties with the Companions of the Cross. This will help your family know what organizations you supported during life, and why.
11. **Personal Items.** Include biographical information that can be used in preparing your obituary. Summarize your values and purpose in life. You might also provide personal notes to each family member expressing your love and your hopes for them.
12. **Miscellaneous.** This section is reserved for anything that doesn’t fall into one of the other categories.

For the sake of your loved ones, we urge you to get started with your book right away. Keep working in it until you are satisfied it is complete. Then show it to your family and tell them where they can find it. All of this will produce peace of mind for you....and for them.



WITNESS TO LIFE

by Heidi Desrochers



Pierre and Heidi Desrochers with Archbishop Terrence Prendergast at the National March for Life.

Standing up for the Voiceless

A person is a person no matter how small” (Dr. Seuss). This message, along with a picture of an unborn child in the mother’s womb, was on the large banner that my husband, my mother, and I carried through the gusty winds and pouring rain at this year’s national March for Life. Despite the fact that I was over six months pregnant and at times I thought the wind was going to overtake our sign, I marched on with determination and conviction on behalf of my own unborn son, Daniel, and all voiceless, helpless, and innocent unborn children.

This year’s 12th March for Life, held on May 14th, was especially significant as it marked 40 years to the day that an Omnibus bill was passed in Canadian Parliament that legalized abortion. Today in Canada, the killing of an unborn child is permitted in all nine months of pregnancy and is funded by taxpayer dollars.

In the last 40 years, over three million babies in Canada have died by abortion and while our nation continues to destroy itself, our media and politicians claim that the abortion issue is settled and want to silence all debate. Interestingly enough, according to the latest Environics Poll commissioned by Life Canada in 2008, almost two-thirds of Canadians want legal protection for the unborn child at some point before birth. It is therefore our duty as Canadian citizens and Catholic Christians to speak up for our voiceless brothers and sisters and publicly witness to the mainstream media and policy-makers letting them know that the abortion issue is not settled, that it is the human rights issue of our day, and must be stopped.

The March for Life began with a pro-life Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral and St. Patrick’s Basilica, celebrated by 11 bish-

ops. I attended the Mass at the cathedral that was packed beyond capacity and heard from various reports that St. Patrick’s Basilica was overflowing as well. The Mass was very moving and there was a real sense of solidarity as pro-lifers united together for the same cause. In his homily, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast urged us to take our social responsibility to heart, to witness, and speak up for the unborn in order for change to take place. He also encouraged us to get our strength from the Eucharist where Christ can then flow through us to touch the hearts of others. At the closing of the Mass, Cardinal Marc Ouellet from Quebec City and Archbishop Thomas Collins from Toronto also delivered uplifting messages encouraging all of us to unite in prayer and action in promoting justice for the unborn, defending the innocent, and upholding the dignity of the human person at every stage of life.



Despite the rain many turned out to support the March in Ottawa.



Marching through the streets of downtown Ottawa.

Members of Parliament, Cardinal Ouellet, and other dignitaries delivered empowering speeches on Parliament Hill from noon to 1:30pm. It was very encouraging to see that several politicians were in attendance. God bless them for their courage and powerful witness! The March through the streets of downtown Ottawa began at 1:30pm. The inclement weather did not deter the largest crowd yet of 12,000 people who were present to take a stand for life. At 3 pm, we gathered once again on Parliament Hill to listen to the testimonies of men and women representing the Silent No More Awareness Campaign who spoke about their own experiences with abortion.

Overall, I was impressed by the March's record turnout and the enthusiasm and joy that flowed through the crowd. Most of the demonstrators were young people who came not only from the Ottawa area, but from high schools, youth groups, and dioceses all over Ontario, Quebec, and

even other provinces. I found this very inspiring and was filled with hope, as our young people are the future of our nation and can greatly influence our laws. I had the opportunity to speak to various participants to ask them what motivated them to attend such an event. They answered that we need to stand up in public for the truth and let our politicians and the public know that there is a multitude of people who will not accept the killing of other human beings; that we can no longer remain silent; that we need to challenge the laws until they are changed and continue to raise awareness on the most important human rights issue of our day; that we need to defend the defenseless and the sanctity of all human life; that we must unite with other pro-lifers and also encourage other Canadians to support the pro-life cause; and that we need to support pregnant women in crisis and provide them with other alternatives.

Finally, I was excited by a comment I

received from a participant who has a friend who works in an office building downtown who sees all the protests. She mentioned that this was by far the best and most impressive one of the year and that the windows were almost rattling. It is my prayer and hope, as well as that of fellow pro-lifers that next year, even more people will join us to protest against the most heinous crime of our time. Although attendance has grown steadily each year, there are still many more that could be present. Let us therefore keep spreading the word in our parishes and community, courageously be witnesses to the sanctity of life all year round, and start gathering the troops so that at next year's March for Life, the windows of the Parliament Buildings will be rattling! ☺

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Heidi and her husband Pierre are parishioners at St. Monica's Parish in Nepean. She is a member of their Sanctity of Life Group.



WITNESS TO LIFE

by Fr. Jerry Gauvreau

Extra-Ordinary Things

Last May 24th we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord. In my homily that weekend I was encouraging everyone to evangelize – to preach the Good News! I have always liked the verse that is found in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” In other words, get back to work! The Holy Spirit is coming and you will receive power... you will be my witnesses.. to the ends of the earth.

The next day I was to fly to Ottawa for some holidays as well as to attend the ordinations. As I approached the boarding/waiting area I thought I recognized a Member of Parliament, Mr. Peter McKay. I kept going but was thinking he was probably travelling back to Ottawa as well. As I boarded the aircraft and was seated I noticed this gentleman, who I thought was Peter McKay, come down the aisle and take his seat beside me. I asked him if he was who I thought he was. Indeed it was him, so I introduced myself as Fr. Jerry Gauvreau and he said, “Hi Father.” I told him I wouldn’t give him a hard time but I asked how many were travelling with him. He responded that he was travelling alone.

During the flight I wanted to ask him about the whole abortion issue but I wasn’t sure how to do it. As refreshments were served I told him that I had read recently that he had been in Afghanistan. He said he had just returned the previous Friday. I asked him if there was a Catholic priest over there and I mentioned that I was praying for the troops – for their safety and especially at Masses after learning that one of them had been killed. He thanked me and said morale was high, he travels over there every three months and in fact has been there eight times.

The rest of the flight was pretty quiet as I gazed out the window into heaven thinking to myself, “Lord, how many priests have the

opportunity of sitting beside a current Member of Parliament and can ask any question they want.” I have always been a proud Canadian but we are all aware that our country’s faith and morals are fading away very quickly. I asked the Lord how I could ask Peter a question about abortion without getting into a big debate. My answer came shortly after, not in the form of a question but as something for him to think about.

As we began our descent, I could see that Ottawa was getting closer, so it was time to stop gazing toward heaven and trust in the Holy Spirit. I looked over at Peter and asked him if he would give a message to the Prime Minister for me. He paused for a second and then said, sure. I said Peter, first of all for you, keep up the good work. For the Prime Minister, first of all, keep up the good work. And, if he really wants a majority government, become a pro-life government and the people will come out of the woodwork to vote for you. There was quiet for a couple of seconds and then I said, “Think about it.” He reached out in front of me with his arm, thanked me and shook my hand.

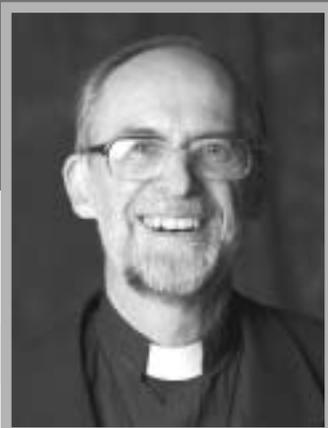
As we landed I told him I would pray for him. I share this story, not for any spotlight for myself, but because, in my homily the day before I had shared that the Lord uses ordinary people like you and me to do extra-ordinary things. Did what I say really do any good? Maybe, maybe not, but let’s stop staring up into the heavens – we have work to do! I would like to encourage all of us to keep the faith! Keep praying for an end to abortion and also for our Canadian and U.S. governments that they be men and women that seek after God’s heart. And Peter, have your people call my people. Perhaps I can visit the troops with you on your next visit. ☺

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Fr. Jerry Gauvreau is the Pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Ottawa.

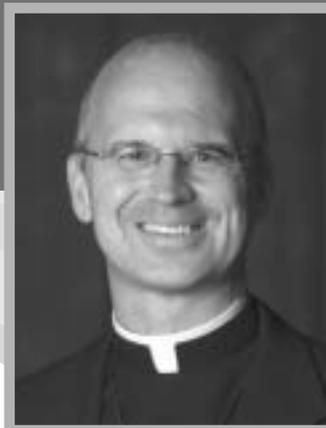


In Houston, Companions of the Cross priests with parishioners conducting their weekly one hour Lenten prayer vigil in front of the new headquarters of Planned Parenthood (under construction), this event was part of the 40 Days for Life Campaign.

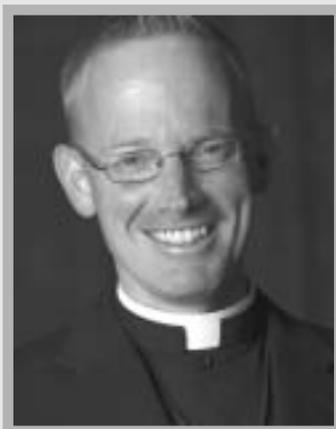
Come and Celebrate with us our Ordination Anniversaries



Fr. Francis Donnelly
30 years



Fr. Roger Vandenkaker
20 years



Fr. Allan MacDonald
15 years



Fr. Rob Arsenault
15 years

Mass at St. Mary's parish
August 30, 2009 11 a.m.
Followed by a BBQ and family fun day.

Houston Celebration for Fr. Francis Donnelly
(as well as honoring newly ordained Fr. Carlos Martins)

Saturday, September 19, 2009 at the
Catholic Charismatic Center

Social starts at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing

Tickets: \$40.00

For more information contact Anna Lassig 832-605-7105



FEATURE

by Fr. Christian Riesbeck

Love

(This is a homily, given by Fr. Christian Riesbeck on May 17, 2009 at St. Mary's parish.)

St. Mary's Parish has been dear to my heart for many years now. I am celebrating a 20th anniversary... not of priesthood, but of my spiritual awakening! I am very grateful to the Lord for what he did through some of you. I fondly remember a weekend retreat in February, 1989, that changed my life. At the time I was in first year university. Up to this time I had grown up in a good Catholic home with parents who instilled the faith in me. I went to Mass every Sunday and said my prayers, but my relationship with God was somewhat of a long distance relationship. I knew in my mind that God loved me but I did not know that so much in my heart. I never really experienced God and his love in a personal way until I got on a bus with members of the parish youth group and went on that retreat. I think the Lord had his hand in all this; I wasn't actually a member of the youth group - my sister was. She was sick and somehow I got invited to go in her place. When I got there I thought I was in heaven; there were five guys and 20 girls. But notwithstanding that little distraction, the Lord somehow managed to do a number on me. I was touched by the zeal and joy that I saw in my peers. I found myself desiring that joy. So I asked the Lord to show me that he was real, that he loved me. I celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and really experienced the Father's mercy. I surrendered my life to him and things were never the same after that. I even came back with a sense that God wanted me to be a priest. It was not the



first time that I felt him tugging on my heart strings, but, honestly, I was not ready to say yes, because I was still like an "infant" in my relationship with the Lord. I was still getting to know him. I felt like what he was asking of me did not make much sense right away because I had not really understood the true meaning of love. He started the process of revealing himself to me in a more personal way. He inspired me to pray more, read Scripture, and praise him out loud - even at the bus stop. I began desiring to go to Mass, really participating in the Eucharist, wanting to serve him, and not only just as an altar server.

Two months later, I joined the Challenge movement (the Jr. movement of Cursillo). The retreat was more subdued, but what I remember most was being drawn to the chapel, wanting to spend time with the Lord in Adoration. I desired to be with him, listen to him. I started attending First Friday Adoration at my parish with my dad. The Holy Hour was actually offered

up for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

While continuing to be involved in the Church, in the Challenge movement, sharing my faith with others, I was getting to know the Lord and his love. I began understanding what he did for me, what he did for us ... he created us in his own image and likeness. From the moment our ancestors committed that original sin in the garden, he promised us a Saviour. He held true to that promise. He sent his own Son, in the Incarnation. What an awesome mystery that is - that God himself would come down from Heaven in his Son, Jesus, who took on our human flesh, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us, so as to reveal the Father's love to us. We couldn't find our way back to the Father; He showed us the way back to the Father, through him! Jesus was the solution to the problem of sin that separated us from God. So that we could be saved from our sins, so that we could be reconciled to the Father, He showed the depth

of his love by dying on the cross for us, thereby bridging the gap. The greatest proof of his love was that he died for us so that we could have life, eternal life with him, now and forever in Heaven. He did all of this even “while we were yet sinners,” as St. Paul says in Romans 5. St. John in the 2nd reading today gives a good summary of the basic Gospel message: *“In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.”*

It is in coming to grips with this unconditional love that God has for me that motivated me to say yes to the call I sensed he was placing in my heart to serve him as his priest. It was in my third year of university, during a time of prayer with the Lord, that I opened up the Bible and read *“The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few”*. That night I said yes to the Lord. I relinquished any aspirations - to become an international lawyer, have a family, etc., so that I could serve the Lord as a priest. I would not have been able to say yes, had I not experienced his love for me; had I not journeyed with him for a time, getting to know him, spending quality time with him in prayer, falling in love with him. I was ordained a priest in 1996 with the Companions of the Cross. I have never looked back; I would do it again in a heartbeat!

If we really know God, we will know love because God is love. We will be able to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus’ commandment to *“love one another as I love you”*. Jesus had been preparing his apostles throughout his three years of public ministry through word and example to continue his salvific mission, and in today’s Gospel, the context of which is the Last Supper, he tells them very clear-

ly that their ministry will bear fruit to the degree that they remain in his love by keeping his commandments, just as Jesus had kept his Father’s commandments, doing his will and remaining in his love. He gave them a concrete and powerful example of the kind of sacrificial love that was expected of them and all of Christ’s disciples by washing their feet, a very humble gesture reserved for the servants or slaves of households. He wanted his disciples to love each other in the same way Jesus loved them so that others would come to know God’s love through this powerful witness of their love for each other.

**“In this is love:
not that we have
loved God, but that
he loved us and
sent his Son as
expiation for
our sins.”**

In Baptism we have said yes to the Lord, to his offer of salvation, and God has adopted us as his own sons and daughters. As children of God, we are called to love God; but the real proof of our love of God is our love for our neighbour. These are the two greatest commandments and they are intertwined; one flows from the other. We cannot say we love God and then not love our neighbour, for as St. John says: *“Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.”* It is true, that loving our neighbour in the way that Jesus

loves us, is not easy. It is not easy to forgive those who have offended us. It is not easy to bless our persecutors. It is not easy to follow the commandments.

What is it that motivates us to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus’ commandment to love one another? It is that he loved us first; and so much so that he laid down his life for us. *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”* It is God’s love for us that impels us to love him back and to manifest that love for him by our love for the people we come in contact with, and loving them not because we feel obligated to do so, or because we feel forced to do so as if we were slaves of God, but doing it freely out of love for God, as his friends. Love is a decision, a decision that God blesses!

How do we do it? How does one manage to love especially those we have difficulty loving? How do we manage to follow the commandments when it is increasingly difficult to do so in the kind of world that we live in? We live in a culture based on individualism and self-sufficiency, and, therefore, there is the temptation or the danger to think that we can do it all by ourselves. We think that the right technique and the right effort will propel ourselves into holiness; but that is not the case. The fuel for our Christian life does not come from us, it comes from God. We can only love God as he should be loved and manifest that love through our love for our neighbour if we first experience his love for us. Again as St. John says: *“In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.”* We come to experience and know his love for us when we put our lives in direct contact with him. It is like incense; everyone loves the sweet smell of the burning

incense (unless you're allergic to it); the burning incense as it rises upwards is a symbol of our prayers as we lift them up to God during Mass or other solemn ceremonies. But the little grains of incense cannot turn themselves into sweet-smelling smoke. They are just hard granules of resin, like little pebbles. Only when they are placed on top of a red-hot, burning coal is their sweetness released; only then do they reach their full potential and fulfill their mission. We are like that. Only when our lives are put in direct contact with God's burning love for us do we really discover the meaning of our existence; only then can we reach our full potential. The fire fuels the incense; God's love fuels the meaning of our lives and impels us to share that love with others.

We need to be in regular contact with the Lord. We need to spend time with him. The most powerful experience of intimacy with the Lord occurs in Eucharistic Communion, when we receive Jesus' own Body and Blood at Mass. The closest that we can be to Jesus in this world is in the Eucharist; God becomes our strength and our nourishment and we are given the grace we need to respond to his commandment of love. The Eucharist is actually referred to as the sacrament of love. In the Mass we re-present the one and only sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. It is like being right there at Calvary and experiencing his love for us first-hand. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who offers himself to the Father; but in the Mass, we also unite ourselves to Jesus in that sacrifice to the Father, offering our very lives to him. The Father, who is pleased with this Sacrifice, blesses us in turn. We know what happens; the bread and wine that are offered are changed - transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Jesus knows that we cannot fulfill our mission without his help. He said it very clearly - "*apart from me you can do nothing; remain in my love*". So as to facilitate this, Jesus gives himself to us as the Bread of Life, and so we commune with the lover who alone can show us, transform us, empower us, to love as he loves. That is why we can

respond with confidence, joy, and with great eagerness when we're sent out at the end of Mass to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

Jesus says "*Remain in my love*". We can remain in his love throughout the week, until the next Communion, by spending time with him. In the Catholic Church, in many parishes like this one, we have the great privilege of being able to spend time before the Lord exposed in Adoration. I don't know if you fully realize what an awesome gift that is. That is the fuel that keeps this parish moving in the Spirit. How can the Lord not bless this parish, its ministries, and our very lives if we spend time doing the one thing that we were created to do above all - that is, adoring him? We need to get ready - we will be doing that full time in heaven!

I spent nine years as Pastor of Queen of Peace Church, a predominantly Hispanic parish in Houston. The first year and a half was spent getting to know the people I was called to serve. We evangelized, and then trained some of our leaders to evangelize. I preached on the power of the Eucharist every chance I got, and on giving the Lord permission. I tried to remain faithful to Fr. Bob's vision for parish renewal. After a year and a half, the Lord impressed upon us the desire to have perpetual Adoration. In March, 2001, we opened up our 24 hour perpetual Adoration chapel and that is when the blessings really started pouring down on the parish. In six years the parish doubled in size - there are now close to 2000 families. We had to add two Masses - there are now seven Masses on the weekend. There was an explosion of ministries and people getting involved. We became more unified as a community, and it even had an effect on the inner-city neighbourhood. There was less crime; lives have been changed, marriages have mended, families have been unified. People spend hours in the middle of the night praying - after work, before work. As a result, some parishioners were even motivated to start a Bible study in their workplaces. While

it is hard to keep all the hours filled, those who do commit and maintain their hour are truly blessed and the parish is blessed as a result.

I know that it has been a struggle, even for you here. If you have already made a commitment to pray one hour a week at least before the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration chapel, I encourage you to keep that commitment; for those of you who have not made a commitment I really encourage you to try it and give the Lord a chance to blow you away. Spend at least one hour a week before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel; I guarantee you will be blessed.

Jesus remarks in the Gospel that he has told us these things, inviting us to remain in his love, keeping his commandments "*so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete*". I am sure we all yearn to experience true joy. I am sure that most of us are convinced that the joy that our hearts yearn for cannot be found apart from friendship with Jesus Christ. We become friends by spending time together. When we spend time with Jesus, we come to know God and we usually end up falling in love with him, and then that usually spills over into relationships with others. It is the fact that God has loved us first that motivates us to love him back, to serve him and to love him in others. And it is Jesus, our God, especially in the Eucharist, that becomes our nourishment and our strength to be able to love as he loves us. Let us be thankful for his gift of love especially in the Eucharist and show our gratitude by responding wholeheartedly today to remain in his love by following his commandments, especially the commandment to love one another, with his grace and help. ☩

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Fr. Christian Riesbeck served as pastor of Queen of Peace parish in Houston, Texas for nine years. He has been studying Canon Law at St. Paul University in Ottawa since the Fall of 2008, in addition to serving on the CC Formation team.



COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

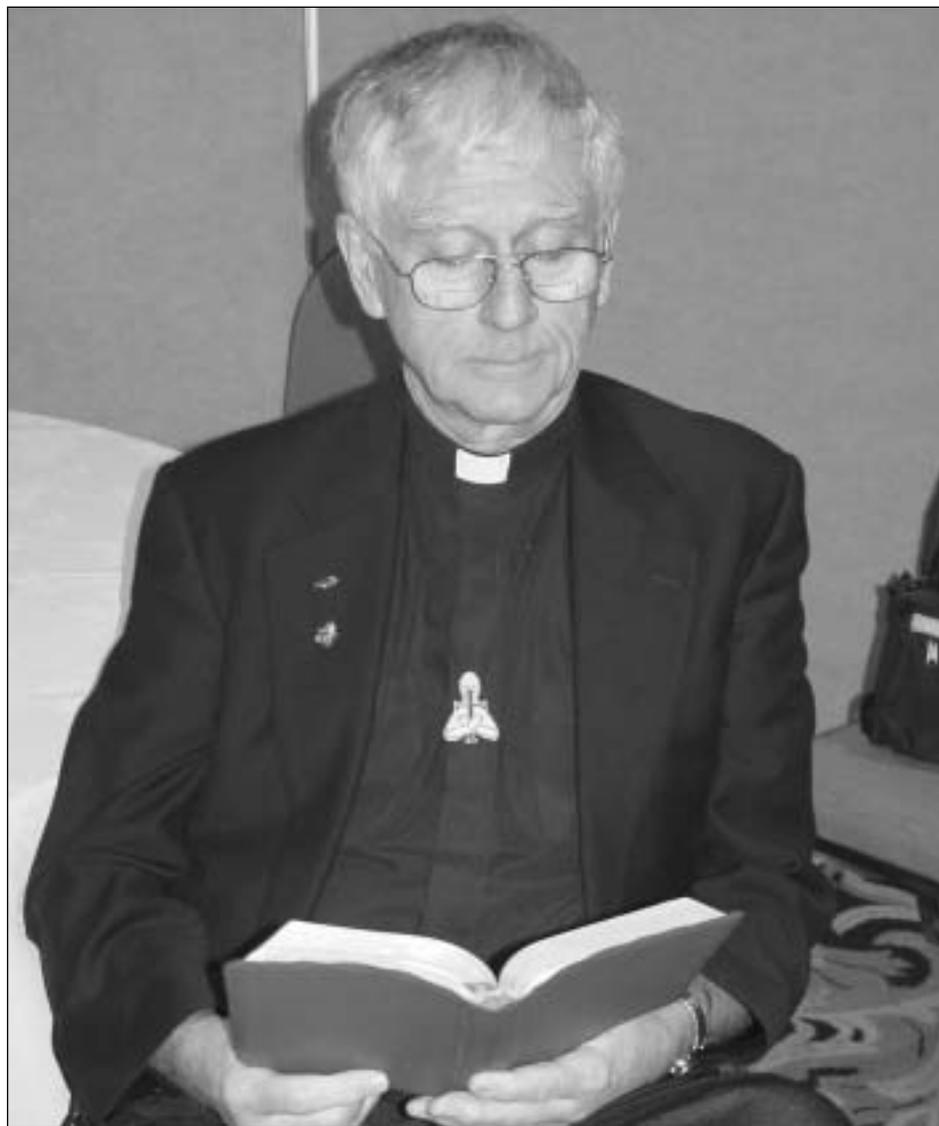
by Fr. Rick Jaworski

On Monday, June 15, 2009, our Moderator, Fr. Scott McCaig wrote:

*Dear Friends,
Once again I would like to thank all of you for your generous prayers and support. Last week Fr. Bob received an assessment and it was determined that he is need of a very high level of ongoing care. He has short periods where he is very lucid and communicative, but he is still very confused and "foggy" the majority of the time. This past Friday he was moved to a long term care facility in town. After over six months in the hospital this comes as a relief to all of us. He is in a far more comfortable setting and is receiving very good and thorough care. We give thanks to God for this blessing.*

We are giving him some time to adjust to his new surroundings before we discuss how available we should make him for visits from his many friends. We will obviously be relying heavily on the advice of his health care providers to make this decision. We will keep you posted. In the meantime we appreciate your continued prayers!

*United in prayer,
Fr Scott McCaig, CC*



It's that time and place for another CC tour around our various foundations...

When the dust settled, these were the results of much prayer and consultation regarding moves, effective July 1st for this year:

Fr. Simon Lobo is appointed Associate Pastor of St. Maurice Parish (Ottawa). Fr.

Jerry Gauvreau is appointed Pastor of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish (Ottawa). Fr. Marc Syrenne is appointed as Director of Assumption Farm, House of Formation (Combermere). Fr. Yves Marchildon is appointed Assistant Director of Assumption Farm. David Bergeron is assigned to St. Maurice Parish for his diaconate year.



Fr. Charles Orchard is appointed Pastor of St. Timothy's Parish (Toronto). Fr. John Likozar is appointed Associate Pastor of St. Timothy's. Fr. Francis Ching is on medical leave until his eyes have adequately healed. Jim Lowe will do his pastoral internship at St. Timothy's.

Fr. Jamie Utronkie is appointed Associate Pastor of Sts. Michael, Peter, and Paul Parishes (Halifax) – where Fr. Rob Arsenault is the Pastor. Fr. Allan MacDonald is appointed Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish (Halifax). Fr. Randy Hendriks is appointed Chaplain at Dalhousie University (Halifax). In January, Anthony Cafik will begin his internship at St. Michael's.

Fr. Carlos Martins is appointed Associate Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center (Houston). Fr. Ben St. Croix is appointed Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (Houston).

Fr. John Fletcher is going to Rome for studies in Mariology.

We thank our men for their openness to move and serve wherever they were needed, and for all those to whom we minister. Saying goodbye to those we've come to know, and hello to new people can be difficult, and we are grateful to all as we try and follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

We said a fond farewell to seminarians Leandro Chavarria, Daniel Lehew, Bob Lowry, and Brian O'Neill as they continue to discern God's call for their life.

Fr. Scott went on a mission trip to Vietnam with Renewal Ministries. He spoke to priests, religious sisters, and seminarians. Fr. Scott was edified by their faith. They would take a bullet for the Pope, he said. They love our Lady and sing hymns to her all the time. They were in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament everyday. But they had never heard of the Charismatic Renewal.

So, Fr. Scott started with Scripture, then the Church Fathers, St. Thomas Aquinas, and statements of recent Popes, and then

asked for questions. The first question, at which everyone was nodding, was "Can you pray for us now to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?" After prayer, people were resting in the Spirit all over and a young nun seemed to have a vision of Mary speaking with her. "How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask him!"

Not to be outdone, Fr. Francis Donnelly headed off to Africa with seminarians Jean-Paul De Fleuriot, Paul De Kroon, Lawrence Hyginus, Jim Lowe, and Bryan Sabourin on a five-week evangelization mission throughout Ghana. Jim wrote that they'd be giving missions every day in the morning and evening for the entire five weeks. They visited parishes and schools, leading many into an intimate encounter with Christ. At the Charismatic Center in Kumasi, they assisted in a national conference for priests, religious, and seminarians, the theme of which was "The Life of St. Paul and the effective exercise of the charisms for renewal and evangelization".



A forest fire raged through the Spryfield area of our Halifax parishes in late April. It was large enough to be seen from far away and received national attention. Fr. Jerry Gauvreau heard the fire trucks from the rectory and saw the smoke and fire get closer and closer (less than half a kilometre away)... until the police came and asked our men to evacuate—along with many of their parishioners—“Get out; it’s moving quick.” Fr. Jerry recalled that “The Lord was there; I think he gave me that peace, that grace to trust in him. I was concerned, but I trusted in him that he would look after us.” Fr. Jerry checked on parishioners at a community center and phoned a number of people. Though sad that one parishioner’s house burned down and expressing our condolences, we give thanks to God that there were no deaths or major injuries and the parish and parishioners were mostly saved from any property loss.

As Father Jerry expressed in subsequent homilies, “Everything we have can be gone in an instant. Moreover, the good Lord could call us home or his Second

Coming could also happen at any time. We need to be prepared because we know not the day or the hour. We need to be concerned about our true homeland which is heaven, and to know that as much as we are concerned about people who lose their earthly homes, so much more is the Lord concerned for us.”

With that in mind, we say goodbye, until, hopefully, we all meet again in heaven, to a saintly woman of God. A good friend of Fr. Bob Bedard, Fr. Dennis Hayes, and the community - Joan Green - died of kidney, lung, and heart failure at Toronto Western Hospital on April 16, just shy of her 65th birthday. Severely handicapped with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis since she was a child, Joan nonetheless ministered to many with indefatigable zeal and joy. She was active in spiritual direction, counselling, teaching, and preaching, parish missions, days of renewal, and conferences—all from her stretcher/bed. She said, “We are the only hands and feet that Jesus has on earth now. We are here to complete his work to bring all things into one with Christ Jesus.” We thank her

long-time collaborator, Fr. Bill Comerford, for this information.

Fr. Charles has been keeping us well informed as to goings-on in the Philippines. During Lent, Fr. Fernando celebrated a weekly 10 a.m. Mass at Montemaria and led special devotions during Holy Week; while Fr. Charles and David Bergeron kept their strong connection with Trinity Parish. After Lent, the Sunday 10 a.m. Masses at the Shrine continued, and a Saturday Mass for Our Lady was added. Fr. Fernando presided and preached at many of the Lenten and Easter season Saturday and Sunday Masses, and offered prayers for healing after each. Anywhere from 500 to 3,000 people attended each Mass, and there were many miracles and healings.

About a hundred youth attended a youth camp they put on from April 30 – May 2. Ten doctors, thirty dentists, and numerous support staff were on hand for a medical mission at the Shrine on Saturday, May 9. Approximately 500 people received free care. Pieces of the Shrine are being built bit by bit. The first chapel, Santo Ninyo, completed this summer, for instance.

In all these areas that have been mentioned, the quality, giftedness, and mature spirituality of those stepping forward to serve has been impressive. Many professionals, successful business people, and Church renewal leaders getting involved has provided a very strong leadership base. A whole series of ministry and work teams have been put together. The peoples’ dedication is inspiring and a sure sign that the Lord is blessing this great work.

May the same Lord bless you until the next News & Notes column (and beyond, of course)! ☺

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Fr. Rick Jaworski has a licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He was ordained in 1990.

Photos on Philippines on page 24.



Clockwise from top:

Fr. Charles and seminarian David Bergeron with Montemaria ministry team.

Fr. Charles at Palm Sunday procession Trinity parish.

Fr. Charles during Mass at Montemaria on Laetare Sunday.

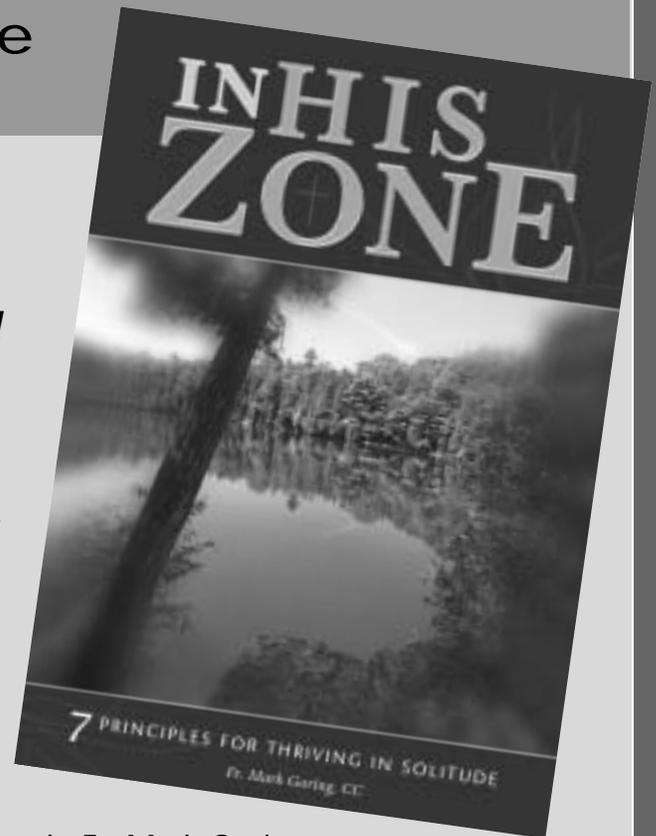
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