
FRANCISCANS CANADA

Volume 2, Issue 2

Feast of Clare 2001

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are in Canada

SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS (SSF)

(ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA)

A column for membership updates, events and activities of interest.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES & NEWS

❖ **NEW POSTULANT!**

We are filled with joy as we welcome to the TSSF the Rev. **Daniel Croft** from Lake Country, BC.

❖ **NEW WEST COAST FELLOWSHIP!**

Yea to **Dianne Varty**, the NEW convenor of the NEW **Dogwood Fellowship** in the Greater Vancouver Area, BC!

❖ **NEW CHAPTER ELECTION!**

Our support to **Diana Finch**, TSSF of Caledon East, Ontario for her election to the TSSF Provincial Chapter.

❖ **NEW PROFESSION!**

Many blessings to the Rev. **Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell** admitted to life profession in the TSSF on 27 May 2001.

Associates of the SSF

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SSF Website: <http://www.societystfrancis.org>

TSSF Library: Books/videos/tapes on loan. Contact, Rosie McFerran, 1518 Tulane Drive, Davis, CA, USA 95616, Phone: 530-756-3487 or go to tssf.org

ORDER OF ECUMENICAL

PEOPLE WHO WORK!

From the CO-OP to the Quebec Summit!

Work has grown in my life over the past three years of retirement, just when it's supposed to diminish in favour of, say, prayer and study. I am pumping gas at the CO-OP to which I bicycle (24 km), with the wind; Frances picks me up in the car, (against the wind). I am impressed with the experience of rubbing shoulders with people for whom physical work is their LIFE! We are paid the minimum wage. Some are retirees like me, some are high school kids, and some are women building up that second income in the marriage. We work for \$6.25 per hour. I am learning that dinner out at \$42 is seven hours of work! I am valuing money very differently now. As a priest I was receiving about 8 times the minimum wage. This experience shocks.

Many other working stiff's come into this station for gas - rusty older cars; broken windshields, rough sounding engines. A woman with three little children in the back asks for \$10 worth of gas. Some kids come by, jamming in someone's old car after school: \$5 bucks. An aboriginal family drives up; smashed windshield. They count out their money in the front seat. It's \$15. I am realizing that many people are just scraping by. I wash all their windows if I have time. The less gas, the more washing. Then there are the mechanics, construction workers and delivery people; the guys in diesel trucks, heading to some job or other. Or those who are tired, filling up on the way home. There's a camaraderie there: "Have a good one, buddy" someone said as he drove off.

The beginning of my discovery of Francis happened when I was a schoolboy, aged 16. Brother Douglas came from England in 1944 to stay at our school for a time, hoping to find a base for a Franciscan community somewhere on Vancouver Island. His simplicity and refinement touched my being. I have never been far away from Francis since then. In 1975 Frances and I went to Assisi; and saw the very places where much of Francis' life happened! We now live on the shore of Lake Winnipeg, overlooking 22 kilometres of water to the other side. Our yard is a sanctuary for birds and flowers in the summer. In the winter, there are birds, which tumble over our feeders, companions in the cold. Our winterized cottage is adorned with a sumptuous view of the lake through large windows, which enhances the simplicity of our home with an elegance not found in the richest residence in Winnipeg.

Poverty has been kind to us: by poverty I mean that we live mostly on the usual pensions for a retired priest. If we need to repair, or replace the car, (200,000 km) there's always the CO-OP! Our eight children (including in-laws) love the animals, gardens and birds. We think that the ecology belongs to all animals including human animals, and should be protected not just for us, but for them too. We need to create ecological global justice. I think the Franciscan non-violent witnesses at Seattle and Quebec were proclaiming the Good News for the future! The results of street protests were fruitful. Canadian officials seemed to become more

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PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT!

Listening for the Heartbeat of God.

A CELTIC SPIRITUALITY. J. Philip Newell. SPCK Press 1997, Paulist Press by arrangement with SPCK

If you have ever listened to a sermon or read a religious book and known that the preacher or author seemed to you to be coming from a very different understanding of Christianity than your own, even when you both are Anglican, this may be the book for you! The author gives a succinct and factual history of Christianity in the British Isles beginning before St Augustine of Canterbury came from Rome in 597 A.D. and the subsequent impact that had on the faith and practice of the resident Celtic Christians.

There were already in existence monastic communities comprised of both men and women, and one at least was headed by a woman by the mid 6th Century, Hilda of Whitby. This Celtic Christianity of St. Patrick, St. Columba, St. Cuthbert, St. Aidan, and King Oswald, to name but a few, gave priority to the teachings of St. John, whereas the Christian Doctrine brought by St. Augustine from Rome gave priority to the Epistles of St. Paul. At Whitby, a start had been made to translate Scripture into the native English of the time. However, the two styles of Christianity celebrated Easter on different dates. This led to a King in Northumbria celebrating Easter on a different date than did his wife the Queen because one began to follow the new way. A synod was convened at Whitby where Hilda was Abbess, attended by representatives of Celtic and Roman ways, where it was agreed to adhere to the date for Easter according to the Roman calendar. Historians say this event was a major step forward in bringing together the Celts and the Romans.

In the 4th century St. Augustine of Hippo had settled with Pelagius over the doctrines of the Fall, Original Sin and Predestination. Pelagius was deemed to be a heretic because he taught that creation was good, and that humankind was not necessarily damned without the saving grace of Christ. Celtic Christianity, like Pelagius, saw creation as good emphasizing that the earth, the stars, the seas and rocks all told of God's magnificence. Augustine of Canterbury was sent to Britain in the 6th century to combat "this new outbreak of the Pelagian heresy". As a result, the synod of Whitby, with representatives of both the Celtic and the Roman hierarchies agreed on one date for Easter, the Roman one, but that was all. Increasing pressure from Rome to convert everyone to their way of thinking almost brought about the demise of the Celtic church that continued to survive on the fringes of the islands, in Wales, Ireland, and the northern parts of England and Scotland. It is significant to note that there was much trade between Italy and Ireland, which passed through Assisi, and there is much speculation that St. Francis himself learned to love the creatures of the earth when he met Celtic traders and Celtic travelling monks who were passing through.

As I read this short book, only 112 pages including notes, much

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All government priorities should be made available for discussion prior to future conferences. I sensed a willingness of the "insiders" to change. I did not sense a similar willingness among the outsiders. With respect to Quebec, I am grateful to the non-violent protesters for their witness. They are a wholesome counterbalance to those others whose avowed purpose is to derail the discussions entirely. "Victory" is not measured by the degree of obstruction, but, instead, by the listening and change, which are demonstrated on both sides of the barricades. This earth is for all to share.

I have never been more fulfilled or enriched than now! Francis and Frances - such gifts, such companions, among followers of Jesus for me, in these busy years!

by Harold MacDonald, TSSF (Western Area Chaplain)

**Dogma and doctrine are like
trying to describe my lover by
her address or her job title.**

- David Walker, TSSF, the new Bishop of Dudley

PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE

CANADIANS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ISSUE: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

ACTION: The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative has come

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

**Please send submissions for the next Feast of
Francis issue, and/or comments, by 11 Sep 2001 to:**
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