
FRANCISCANS CANADA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS IN CANADA & THE THIRD ORDER OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS IN CANADA

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Feast of Francis 2002

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are!

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

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PEOPLE WHO WORK!

Inclusive and Ecumenical!

Hi, I'm Rob Shearer. I'm in formation with the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans. I attend Parkdale Neighbourhood Church (Baptist Convention) as well as being a member, attendee, and Minister of Christian Education and Youth Ministries at Bellefair United Church. I also live/work at Zacchaeus House, a house of hospitality for those in transition, which is part of the Toronto Catholic Worker Community.

I grew up Pentecostal, and still retain many of those worship and theological roots - what I'd call radically orthodox christology and ecclesiology and mystical/embodyed worship expression. I've been a Christian anarchist activist involved in direct action against oppression for about the last 6 or 7 years. I also lead praise and worship music for various Christian gatherings and have been a speaker on everything ranging from globalization to homophobia to prayer to food issues. I've also been a hearer for guided prayer retreats (mostly in Anglican parishes). I'm a vegetarian. I have a degree in Religious Studies and English literature from University of Toronto and worked with the Student Christian Movement of Canada for those years, and after as a Chaplain at York University.

My passions include making experimental electronic / techno / ambient music, hiking and biking (most substantial bike trip was from Winnipeg to Toronto), and being part of creating bridges between fragmented Christian communities (evangelicals, historic black churches, liberal Christians, radical activist Christian base communities, contemplatives, charismatics, ethnic churches, etc.). Dislikes include compulsory whiteness and economic middle-class-ness in so-called progressive Christian communities - which I see as an inability to live out the radically inclusive and embodied call of Jesus the Christ in the gospels. Hopes are to continue to work and pray towards a rooted Christian community with principles of radical hospitality, direct action, cultural relevance for youth, non-monoculture, eco-friendliness, and a deep communal prayer life rooted in Jesus Christ and guided by Ignatian and Franciscan principles - led by the Holy Spirit. Plans also include creating a pilgrimage to the Taize Community and the Greenbelt Festival (U.K.) for youth, launching 'SpiritfuXion' intergenerational worship experience and to continue to grow and struggle in and with the Catholic Worker community. I might do an Master of Divinity degree one of these days - possibly in South Africa.



PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE!

FRANCISCAN CANADIANS MAKE PEACE

ISSUE: WORLD PEACE

ACTION: JOIN THE "NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE"

The Nonviolent Peaceforce aims to save lives by preventing large outbreaks of violent conflict around the world. NP is a trained, international civilian nonviolent peace force. It works at the invitation of local groups to protect human rights and prevent death and destruction, thus creating the space for local groups to struggle nonviolently, enter into dialogue, and seek peaceful resolution. NP will deploy hundreds of peace workers at a time who will engage in [interpositioning](#), [accompaniment](#), [presence](#), and [witnessing](#).

The Goals of the Nonviolent Peaceforce are:

- 1) Create, maintain, & enlarge standing Nonviolent Peaceforce.
Goal: Beginning with 200 active members, 400 reserves, and 500 supporters in 2003, build NP to a level of 2,000 active members, 4,000 reserves, and 5,000 supporters over a six-year period. The membership will be multiethnic, international, intergenerational and inclusive of various orientations to faith and spiritual practices.
- 2) Deploy NP in conflict situations.
Goal: Deploy pilot project in 2003, subsequent projects thereafter.
- 3) Increase pool of people trained in nonviolent intervention.
Goal: Complex conflict situations require highly qualified competencies. Active members of NP will take part in a general training that focuses on history and theory of nonviolence, nonviolent peacemaking, cultural sensitivity, listening, mediation skills and conflict transformation. In addition, military training models that focus on preparation for entering conflict situations, and military organizations will be utilized. A more specific training of up to two months duration will follow focusing on the local area of deployment including language, culture, analysis of the conflict and discussion of appropriate means of peaceful engagement. All or part of this training phase will be done in the deployment area in conjunction with local peacemakers. Advance training will also be offered in various specialty methods including protective accompaniment, conflict transformation, and mediation. Continuing education will be required for all members.
- 4) Develop practice and theory of nonviolent intervention.
Goal: To develop the theory and practice of third party nonviolent intervention, in order to significantly increase that tool's effectiveness. This understanding starts with the experience of existing peace teams, human rights, international, and military organizations.

Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org>

Email: info@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT!

Unfortunately this little newsletter comes out a little late for using the Novena Resource mentioned below on the days following September 11th. Still, it is a good resource. I have included a portion of it below Sister Francesca's note.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am attaching online a booklet of prayers for 9-11, which my friend, Lynn Herne, graciously wrote for us. Please feel free to download it, copy it and/or send it to anyone whom you think might benefit from participating in this healing ministry. The booklet focuses on the 9 days between 9-11 and 9-21, the UN International Day of Peace. I have printed 1000 copies to share with folks. Please let me know if could use some. If you are part of Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi, Global Peace Services, Friends Service Committee, or any other group, I will be happy to send you some in bulk.

Blessings. Peace and love,
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Dear God, on September II, 2001, our experience of the world changed dramatically through inconceivable violence. In less than an hour, thousands were suddenly dead and millions affected. The brokenness of the world was exposed for all to see. We cry for the lost and those left behind, and ask your healing. We seek your wisdom in how to honor the memory of the lives shed by so many.

In response to this horror, we also responded with violence and this cycle continues. Grant our nation and its leaders your wisdom in its response, your protection of the innocent, and your truth of why this happened and how we can build a world where this will never happen again.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Please send submissions for the next Feast of Francis issue, and/or comments, by 6 SEP 2002 to:

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