
FRANCISCANS CANADA

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

Volume 5, Issue 1

Easter 2004

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are!

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

Released from life vows

Blessings on their journey to John Hodgins and Sybil Yearwood who have both been released from their life vows as members of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis. May their news ministries and paths make the love of Christ known in whomever they meet.

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PEOPLE WHO WORK! *A walk to the Cathedral*

Six months ago life changed significantly when I began a new ministry as one of two priests at our Cathedral Parish in St. John's. Both the Anglican Cathedral and the Roman Catholic Basilica are called St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of our city. It is very humbling to preside and preach in this beautiful large neo-gothic stone church. Our Sunday regimen: Matins at 7:30 a.m., Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m., a sung B.A.S. Eucharist at 9:15 a.m., a sung Eucharist at 11:00 a.m., the main service of the day, and Choral Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., demands I set time aside to practice my singing. I am the newest student of our new organist who is from England. This very talented fellow has resurrected the choir to its former numbers and ability. The Cathedral celebrates a daily Eucharist on behalf of the diocese. So along with the Daily Offices, I get to spend much more time in a formal worship setting.

This has had a profound effect on my spiritual journey. Physically being in church for the Daily Offices and making my communion more often has enabled me to refocus my priorities. I have always believed and on occasion preached that the most important work for a parish priest is to pray. First and foremost priests are called to be people of prayer.

While I do not think I pray any better here at the Cathedral I do pray more regularly. Up to this point I would focus on Morning Prayer as my main time for prayer and personal reflection for the day. Now it is the Eucharist with the Daily Offices to compliment. This opportunity to serve the church in this capacity has enriched my spiritual life.

Now that we no longer live in clergy housing one challenge I face is coping with having an office/study at work that I was accustomed to having in a rectory. It demands I organize my time, reading material, etc., because I cannot work out of two places. Having our own home, our own private space, on the other hand is such a blessing after living in a fishbowl for the past fifteen years.

Working with another priest introduces me to issues involving team ministry where we discern our strengths and particular gifts unlike being the sole priest in a parish. I am blessed with how this relationship with my senior colleague is growing.

For many Anglicans in Canada 2004 may be bringing some feelings of uncertainty as we prayerfully consider various issues at the national Church level in preparation for General Synod. At this point I am very excited about the future of the Church and how we, in our part of the vineyard, will continue to be faithful in the proclamation of the gospel by word and sacrament. I am expecting that things will get better!! It is the best of times!!

Josiah W. Noel+, T.S.S.F., Dean and Rector

PEOPLE OF SPIRIT!

WAITING ON GOD

Better to look towards God and see Him naught
than view the world and see it all!
To expect a Love which limits not
than witness love that fails and falls!
The former stretches soul and mind
the latter, pallid, shrinks from hurts.
The one seeks peace, its Source to find;
with violence the other flirts.
Better, kneeling, plead for light
than picture phantoms in the dark.
Prayer's vacuum waits throughout the night,
not distracted, startled by a bark.
Unannounced God enters patient minds;
the vacuum overflows as He the seeker, finds.

Poems from the Eighth Decade
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EXTRAVAGANCE

The mind of God is not to count the cost,
but spend, exuberantly! Spend again!
Extravagance, God's way, all sense lost,
Is heaven's middle name.
Rather the table groan with food
and overflowing wine,
than parsimony, (a scrawny good)
with sister prudence, draw the line..
God rages that we come to own
His best
He cares not where the seed is sown
nor who, His guest.
He sets with golden fork and knife, the beggar first;
Unless God pours the torrent of His love, He'll burst.

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PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE!

FRANCISCAN CANADIANS ARE GREEN

Issue: ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

<http://www.oen.ca/dir/>

Action: Finally, Ontario has a convenient, searchable directory of environmental groups, organizations and websites! The Ontario Environment Network is proud to announce the launch of the Ontario Environmental Directory. Whatever your interest -- from clean air to toxic waste, from wildlands to urban transport, from green living to sustainable economies -- the directory will be of interest to you. Connect with this vibrant community of over 700 groups and organizations across Ontario:

- * find groups in your town or region that you never knew existed;
- * find out who's working on the issues that matter, in your community or across Ontario;
- * "mine" for great ideas and resources (but give credit where credit is due);
- * ask interesting groups about how you can join, participate, volunteer, find employment.

The Ontario Environmental Directory is the place to start -- for research, communication and action.

<http://www.oen.ca/dir/>

* Environmental Search Guide -- topical guide to major sources of environmental information, organizations and resources in Ontario and Canada, arranged by theme

<http://www.oen.ca/dir/searchguide.html>

* Portal of Portals - annotated directory of environmental portals, directories & networks in Canada and beyond

<http://www.oen.ca/dir/portals.html>

* Predefined Searches/Subsets -- the results of any search can be bookmarked or linked to. Create a link to the whole directory, or just the portion that interests you. For examples see: <http://www.oen.ca/dir/searchguide.html>

GET LISTED!

Any organization in Ontario doing work related to environmental issues is welcome to submit a listing

TSSF Library: Books/videos/tapes on loan.

Contact, Rosie McFerran,

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