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# FRANCISCANS CANADA

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Volume 2, Number 3

Feast of Francis 2001

## PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

*Who We Are in Canada*

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

### ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS (OEF)

#### NEW PROFESSION!

Many blessings to **Patrick Lublink**, a Salvation Army Pastor in Toronto, Ontario who was admitted to life profession in the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans on 30 June 2001.

### SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS (SSF) (ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA)

#### ❖ NEW ASSOCIATE!

We are filled with joy as we welcome **Bob Irvine** of Rexdale, Ontario to the Associates of the SSF.

#### ❖ NEW ASSOCIATE IN PREPARATION!

We offer our support to **Anne Naylor** of Lisle, Ontario, daughter of Galdys Sainsbury (also in same preparation), as she prepares to become an Associate of the SSF!

#### ❖ PRAYERS FOR HEALING!

Our prayers for Associate the Rev. **Cameron Tinkess** of Lindsey, Ontario and his wife Phyllis and their family. Cameron has recently suffered several small strokes.

#### ❖ ASSOCIATES GATHER!

Sr. Jean, Administrator of the Associates of the SSF, will be hosting Associates at Little Portion Friary in New York the weekend of September 28-30. Please see her contact info at the top of page 2.

## PEOPLE

## WHO

## PEOPLE WHO WORK!

*Flowering of the Dogwood!*

I am a mother, teacher, volunteer, and devote time to intercessory prayer. My daughter is 36, and works and lives in Switzerland. My son is 34, is married, and lives and works in Vancouver, where I live.

I am a Special Education teacher and have spent many years teaching children who have many different types of challenges. At the present, in BC, we have total integration of all disabilities, physically, emotionally, psychologically, and intellectually challenged. Therefore, my Gr. 3 class is comprised of a wide diversity of pupils. It is a very interesting, rewarding, and thoroughly enjoyable adventure. I have done a wide variety of volunteer work at my church. My most involved work is with the Sanctuary Guild and the Guild of St. Francis of Assisi, which is a group at St. James, New Westminster who wanted to study and learn about Francis, do charitable works, and share with others of like mind. None of the members wanted to be TSSF or Associates. The Rev. Loyd Wright, an Associate of SSF, is also a member. I have been a counter (of envelopes) and a reader at the Eucharist. I have also filled other positions as a Trustee, on the Stewardship Committee, and on the Finance Committee. This past year however, I have had to limit my activities due to illness, but look forward to a much more productive year.

I made my life profession in the TSSF on Oct. 3rd, 1999. My main ministry is intercessory prayer, which is my way of interceding for those people around me who are experiencing some difficulty in their lives, for TSSF, for the church, and God's world. I basically ask God to look down on them with grace, and to help them through their trials. Through meditation, specific prayers, and the rosary, I hold them up to God. If it is a death of someone, I pray for him or her for seven days, both the person who has passed away and the person who is close to me. For those people who are gravely ill or experiencing some travail in their lives I keep them in prayer until the situation has passed. This part of my Daily Office usually takes 20 to 30 minutes.

We here in the Vancouver area, have just received notice that we have been accepted as a fellowship. At present I am the convenor of the Dogwood Fellowship. The Dogwood is the Provincial flower of BC and is representative and inclusive of all our members. I am very pleased that we are able to move into this next area of the TSSF. Being a TSSF member, has been a wonderful, blessed, and soul inspiring journey, and I am thankful that this society is in my life.

Peace and Good, Dianne Varty TSSF

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# PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT!

At this time of grief and despair in North America we are empowered by God to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost their way.

Excerpts from "THE JOY OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI" by The Rev. Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell TSSF in the Practice of Ministry in Canada (PMC) Magazine, Volume 18, Number 3 (Fall 2001).

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In my search for divine joy, I am challenged by the teachings of Brother Francis of Assisi who emphasized two aspects of divine joy. For Francis there was, first, the joy of not owning anything, but knowing rather that we have been given all of creation in which to revel and work -- thanks be to God. The second aspect of divine joy that Francis emphasized was the deep permeation of God's love and compassion into all of our being so that even at the darkest times in our life we can feel the divine joy and be empowered to walk in the dark. As a Member of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis I have struggled with my relationship with God and creation in our unbalanced, exploitative society. Do I live a balanced life within creation? Am I at peace? Am I working to spread the love and harmony of God? Do I know the divine joy of God in every aspect of my life from the deepest darkest valleys to the tallest brightest peaks? Amidst the chaos of modern life, I am reminded that the Franciscan way of life is a simple one. The three notes of the TSSF are humility, love and joy. It is ironic, or perhaps providential, that I am writing this article on the Franciscan Spirituality of Joy, since this is the note with which I have the greatest difficulty. The Principles of the TSSF explain Joy as follows:

Members of the TSSF, rejoicing in God always, show in their lives the grace and beauty of divine joy. They remember that they follow Jesus the Christ, who came eating and drinking, who loved the birds and the flowers, who blessed the little children, who was a friend of tax collectors and sinners, and who sat at the tables of both the rich and the poor. Members of the TSSF delight in fun and laughter, rejoicing in God's world, its beauty and its living creatures, calling nothing uncommon or unclean. They mix freely with people, ready to bind up the broken-hearted, and to bring joy into the lives of others. They carry within them an inner peace and happiness which others may perceive, even if they do not know its source.

This joy is a divine gift, coming from union with God in Christ. It is still there even in times of darkness and difficulty, giving cheerful courage in the face of disappointment, and an inward serenity and confidence through sickness and suffering. Those who possess it can rejoice in weakness, insults, hardship, and persecutions for Christ's sake, for when they are weak, then they are strong. - *The Principles of the TSSF, Days 28 & 29*

God's divine joy can be a life force that enables us to thrive in the presence of a job well done or to survive through the despair

## Associates of the SSF

**First Inquiries:** Sr. Jean CSF, 3743 Cesar Chavez San Francisco, CA, USA 94110

## Fellowship Convenors:

**Dogwood Fellowship** (Greater Vancouver Area, BC)

**Dianne Varty**, TSSF, 105-110 7<sup>th</sup> St., New Westminster, BC V3M 5W5 E-mail: [dianneuv@telus.net](mailto:dianneuv@telus.net)

**Little Sparrow Fellowship** (Southern Ontario)

**Diana Finch**, TSSF, Box 384, Caledon East, ON L0N 1E0 Email: [finch@interlog.com](mailto:finch@interlog.com)

## ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS (OEF)

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TSSF Website: <http://www.tssf.org>

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](http://www.tssf.org)

# PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE

CANADIANS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ISSUE: PEACE

ACTION: HUMILITY, LOVE & JOY

# EDITORIAL INFORMATION

**Please send submissions for the next Christmas issue, and/or comments, by 20 NOV 2001 to:**

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