
FRANCISCANS CANADA

Volume 2, Number 4

Christmas 2001

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are in Canada

A column for membership updates, events and activities of interest

This column is for information about changes in membership and to share who we are with those who may be inquiring about joining any part of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans or Society of Saint Francis. Also, let me know of any conferences or workshops you may be planning or to which you may be going so we will all know what is available.

Also, I continue to enclose a new list of all Franciscans in Canada when there are changes, so remember to let me know about changes in your personal info so we don't lose you.

ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS (OEF)

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OEF Website: www.franciscans.com

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

❖ NEW TSSF POSTULANT!

Blessings for the next step of the journey to **Ray Carter** who became a postulant in the TSSF on 27 July 2001.

Associates of the SSF

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

Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis

(TSSF) First Inquiries: Bob Teudesman TSSF, Little Portion Priory, Box 399, Mount Sinai, NY, USA 11766

Fellowship Convenors:

Dogwood Fellowship (Greater Vancouver Area, BC)
Dianne Varty TSSF, 105-110 7th St., New Westminster, BC
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Little Sparrow Fellowship (Southern Ontario)

The Reverend Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell TSSF
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PEOPLE WHO WORK!

As a means of encouraging you all to send in submissions I have decided to include the guidelines again. The basic purpose of this newsletter is to build community by sharing ourselves.

I will begin by re-introducing myself. My name is Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell. I am a newly professed member of the TSSF. I am a priest living in Guelph, Ontario, but, at present, my primary work is as a stay-at-home Dad. I have two children, Emma who is 6 and Thomas who is 8. My wife Chris is also a priest and she works as the assistant at St. George's Anglican Church here in town. I am beginning to engage in methods of Franciscan Spiritual Direction. This involves a 20-week retreat and the development of workshops to help people to experience the everyday God in the everyday activities of the everyday life by learning to recognize the Divine in the everyday.

There are several scattered Franciscans in Canada so I developed this little newsletter to help us to know a little more about each other; that which nurtures our spirit, our ministries, and our dreams and passions. As I have used the Anglican Franciscans Email List I have also noticed that our numerous American sisters and brothers are often discussing national political issues and action that can be taken. For these reasons, and with some encouragement, I started this newsletter.

Each column will focus on the aspects I list above. First,

"PEOPLE OF FRANCIS!" lists

key contact people in Canada. It will keep us up to date on changes in membership. Please remember to send me updates as your status changes. This section also includes information on how to begin the process of becoming a member of the Canadian Franciscan groups we represent. Please share with those who are interested in who we are.

Second, "PEOPLE WITH

SPIRIT!" is a column (200-500 words) for sharing the

particularly inspirational prayers, poems or stories that may help to nurture our spirit. Please let the spirit move you to send stuff for this column.

Thirdly, "PEOPLE WHO

WORK!" is a column for short articles (400-500

words) about the work we are doing as ministers of Christ following

PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT!

First

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks right to the top, rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them in to the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. The students laughed. He asked his students again if the jar was full? They agreed that yes, it was.

The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter, but on a smaller scale. The pebbles represent things like your job, your house, your car. If you put the sand or the pebbles into the jar first, there is no room for the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, material things, you will never have room for the things that are truly most important.

Pay attention to the things that are critical in your life. Play with your children. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal." Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just pebbles and sand.

"We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined to Jesus the Messiah by the Divine Spirit. We are brothers and sisters to him when we do the will of God who is in heaven. We are mothers, when we carry him in our heart and body through divine love and a pure and sincere conscience and when we give birth to him through a divine manner of working, which should shine before others as an example."

- Brother Francis, First Letter to the Faithful 1:8-10.

"Like a stone on the surface of a still river driving the ripples on forever, redemption rips through the surface of time in the cry of a tiny babe."

- "Cry of a Tiny Babe" by Bruce Cockburn

TSSF Website: www.tssf.org

SSF Website: 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 www.tssf.org

Anglican Franciscan List (email discussion group): for information, consult John Snyder at Email: jsnyder@pobox.com

PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE

FRANCISCAN CANADIANS MAKE PEACE

ISSUE: Eradication of prejudice

ACTION: Share a vision of peace and love

Principle #7 of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis calls for a pledge "to fight against the ignorance, pride and prejudice that breed injustice or partiality because of distinctions of race, gender, sexual orientation, colour, class, creed, status or education." At present we are being called in our world to embrace our Muslim brothers and sisters so they will not be indiscriminately attacked by the backlash of the attacks of September 11th.

Also, in our own country, we are being challenged to embrace our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters as people who have a right to have their committed relationships recognized by the state and the church

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Please send submissions for the next Easter issue, and/or comments, by 21 FEB 2002 to:

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