
FRANCISCANS CANADA

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

Volume 4, Issue 2

Feast of Clare 2003

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are!

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

NEW JOURNEYS AND STAGES TO CELEBRATE

Blessings in your new journeys and ministries!

New TSSF Postulant: **Marilynn Mincey** of Langley, BC

New TSSF Novice: **Carol Diana Salmela** of
Vancouver, BC

New TSSF Professed: The Rev. **Gordon Shields** of
Winnipeg, MB

New TSSF Fellowship Convenor: **The Rev. Richard
Roberts** of the Dogwood Fellowship in
the Vancouver, BC Area

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PEOPLE WHO WORK!

⊗ *PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT!*

MIRACLE STORIES FOR TODAY!

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Here is a story of our passage through the Triduum, (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), of Holy Week in the life of Jesus Christ this year. With a sense of unusual proximity to his passion ours, too, is filled with death and especially resurrection.

On Maundy Thursday evening, while cleaning strawberries at the sink, I suffered an acute heart attack, fell to the floor sniffing nitro and giving orders to dear Frances. By happenstance my daughter, Mary, and grandson Amory arrived as did son-in-law David and eventually the ambulance. Thence to the emergency room in the Gimli hospital for initial treatment. But as the night progressed pain and danger persisted and the next morning at "the eighth hour" my own doctor rounded up a heart surgeon in Winnipeg and I went in, again by ambulance, for an angiogram and angioplasty; opening up my sole remaining, workable, artery. The procedure, in a space-age facility at S. Boniface Hospital, was 75 minutes; me fully conscious. Relief was almost immediate. Since then I was recovering in hospital on various meds, and returned home the Thursday after Easter, one week after the attack. Good Friday I had been sinking into death and Holy Saturday I was rising into life. Frances said "Happy resurrection!" I said, "I AM the resurrection!" Robin Mather and the local rector each came, the one with communion the other with anointing.

On Friday after Easter, the diocesan bishop, Donald Phillips, came to our home on Lake Winnipeg, for the Holy Eucharist, homily and anointing. Mary, joined Frances and me. So there were four of us. The bishop spoke about the inclusivity of the apostolic community dealing with the doubts of Thomas, (he avoided the word inclusivity) and how we react very differently to crises but still keep one another in the same bond of love and community. I know he was referring to the long periods of sometimes bitter alienation we, as a family, have experience in the Church and, to me he was saying, in both word and deed, "That is over". The experience was quietly powerful for all three of us; maybe all four, I can't say.

But wait! There's more! Nancy, our youngest daughter, has been bed-bound in S. Boniface Hospital awaiting the birth, by c-section, of her first child. She had a dangerous set of circumstances as she approached the termination of her pregnancy; she is placenta previa and there is a fibroid obstruction. On the other hand, she is a big strong person, physically and spiritually. On the Saturday after Easter, her ultrasound examination revealed that everything which was wrong with the pregnancy, the placenta previa, the fibroid obstruction, had now reversed itself in a relatively massive rearrangement within the womb, the placenta having been moved from below the baby to

(Miracle Stories continued)

above it, the baby having moved head down to the cervix, the fibroid mass having moved upwards towards the belly and out of the way with the result that Nancy will now have a normal birth, no c-section, she will go to full term which is another 5 weeks, and has been discharged from the hospital. As of yesterday, Saturday after Easter, she is now living here. Stephen arrives in a week and they will have all that time together before birth time. They will probably move into Winnipeg into Mary and David's little house there. Or they may choose to live here, where there is a house available. The obstetrician, Carol, overcoming her surprise, said she thought it was a miracle, that she had never seen anything like it in her career and spoke excitedly to the nursing staff about what had happened.

We put this down to the miracle of healing our little group has experienced through the week of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and with the bishop's sacramental ministry here. Now that's an Easter to remember! We hope you, too, received strength as you passed through the journey of the passion and resurrection this year. I am recuperating on a short leash, at home.

Peace and All Good, Harold Macdonald TSSF

Clare on Being in Love with God

From
her Fourth Letter to Blessed Agnes of
Prague

Draw me after You!
We will run in the fragrance of your
perfumes, O heavenly Spouse!
I will run and not tire,
until You bring me into the wine-cellar,
until Your left hand is under my head
and Your right hand will embrace me
happily
and You will kiss me with the happiest
kiss of Your mouth.



PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE!

FRANCISCAN CANADIANS MAKE PEACE

ISSUE: CARE OF CREATION, THE POOR AND PEACEMAKING

Franciscans International is the whole Franciscan movement's presence at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. It was constituted about ten years ago by the Ministers of the Major Roman Catholic Franciscan Communities.

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