FRANCISCANS CANADA

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

Volume 6, Issue 1 Easter 2005

PEOPLE WHO WORK!

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are!

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

New Postulant

Welcome to Diane Jones who lives in Vancouver, BC and became a postulant in the TSSF on 29 November 2004.

New Novice

Congratulations to Harlow Russell (Please call him "Russell") who became a novice in the TSSF this past summer.

New to Chapter

Congratulations to Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell for being elected for a three-year term to the Provincial Chapter of the TSSF.

New Fellowship Coordinator

Congratulations to Rolf Pedersen who became the new Convenor for the Little Sparrow Fellowship.

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(ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA)

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PEOPLE OF SPIRIT!

Simple Francis

Simplicity's a soul undistracted; all things it knows straight on, a well-coming. It feels the roughness of the leaf, the humming bee it hears; opens up if interacted

knows the smoothness of the water's flowing the touch of wolf: the fur, the ears and eyes; the call of birds, their lovely songs and cries. Smell, sight and taste, alert the act of knowing.

Through the senses Francis life encountered, received with joy that which the senses found and poverty removed what would confound. Intense his knowledge, no instant squandered.

With less, the Poverello learned the more And nature sprang into the human mind as it is. Itself! After it's own kind! Discovered in the form that God out-poured.

Look at the creatures of the earth today their beauty lost to a demonic creed; no priest to cherish them as God decreed their mystery, marvel, friendship in decay!

Francis come again! Recover what first you found

Free us from the bonds with which the earth is bound.

By Harold Macdonald TSSF, Used with Permission

PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE!

FRANCISCAN CANADIANS ARE NON-VIOLENT

Issue: Non-violent actions for justice and peace

Action: READ AND USE <u>FRANCISCAN NONVIOLENCE</u>: Stories, Reflections, Principles, Practices and Resources by Ken Butigen, Mary Litell OSF and Louie Vitale OFM. Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, Las Vegas, NV, USA. 2003

It's all here. I know this is a courageous claim, but it sure seems true. Many of us, as Franciscans, feel a call to become peacemakers. This book, "Franciscan Nonviolence," can serve very well to the give us the background and the tools to learn from Francis and Clare about how to promote nonviolent peacemaking as the best means of ending conflict.

This book begins by exploring the Franciscan roots of transformative nonviolence. The authors explain that violence is rooted in fear, hatred and greed. Our job as peacemakers is to resist the temptation "to place our faith in the power of violence rather than the force of the good." (P.13) This involves recognizing that our God is a loving Nonviolent God. Bonaventure describes Francis as God's minister of peace and both Clare and Francis turn the world upside-down and Franciscans have been continuing this role for the past eight centuries. Francis affirmed that God is all good, and that all good comes from God, that the gospel way is a way of active love, and that voluntary poverty serves and sustains true peace. It is made clear in this book that Nonviolence is about respect for the whole of creation, not just about cultivating the end to armed conflict.

This wonderful resource provides stories of Francis and Clare juxtaposed with stories of other peacemakers. Part two of this book provides several tools for becoming nonviolent peacemakers in our time and place. We have the "Decalogue for a Spirituality of Franciscan Nonviolence," "Martin Luther King's Principles of Nonviolence," "Putting Active Nonviolence into Practice: a Four-Step Process of Conflict Resolution," "A Sample Agenda for a Two-Hour Session on Violence and Transformative Nonviolence" and other wonderful resources. But to top it all off there are lists of Franciscan Nonviolence Publications, a list of organizations and internet resources, and a bibliography of nonviolence. This is a resource full of help and guidance and it's only 124 pages long.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Please send submissions for the next Feast of Francis issue, and/or comments, by 15 Septermber 2005 to:

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