

Into the Deep

Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry

A Ministry of the Redemptorists of the Edmonton-Toronto Province



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Easter is for 50 Days!

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If you are like me, then you are glad that Lent is now over! We spend 40 days of Lent reflecting, fasting, praying, and trying to be a better person. And we arrive at the celebration of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) with a renewed heart and spirit. Well, that time of celebration has passed! Or has it?

Easter is for 50 Days! Did you know that? Easter of course begins at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, and continues for 50 days until the celebration of Pentecost. It is interesting that we tend to focus so much of our daily energy and interest on the 40 days of Lent with what we have to give up and sacrifice, that we forget that we have 50 days to celebration the joy of resurrection, and not just Jesus' resurrection, but the joy and hope of our own resurrection and redemption! This is good news! Fantastic News!

Just as we journeyed through the Lenten readings, we journey through Easter as well.

The **first** week, we remember those first appearances: to Mary, the Apostles, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and of course, Thomas! The **second** week, the readings focus on birth, wind, and light. The **third** week, the focus changes to food and drink. Week **four**, we reflect on sheep, shepherds, and

sheepfolds. The **fifth** week, we reflect on vines, branches, peace, and friends. The **sixth** week invites us to prepare for Jesus' departure and the promise of the Spirit. The **seventh**, and final week of the Easter Season prepares us for the fulfillment of the promise of the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost. This celebration of Pentecost is what makes our Christian life real. The events of Jesus' day is real in our Christian past. But Pentecost and that outpouring of God's Spirit upon us is real concrete experience of the life of the Church today. God continues to give that life-giving, sweet Spirit to all of us, so that we can live as disciples now!

I have always found this Liturgical season of Easter, and the season of spring an important time for my discernment. Perhaps it's because of the freshness of spring, and an awareness of the joy and beauty of God's creation around me. It is filled with the breath of God, breathing forth creation and new life! It's like a time and season for new beginnings, a chance to journey with the Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus and discover anew: Christ in the midst of my life and life of the world.

May this season be one of life, new hope, and joy as you journey with the risen Christ!

Santo Arrigo, C.Ss.R.

Calling High School Students to Act With Justice

Reflection by Jenny Hood

The Redemptorist High School Retreat Ministry is in its third year. Between the months of February and April, this ministry will have lead eight full day retreats for four Catholic High Schools within the Greater Toronto Area. The theme this year is: “Christ Be Our Light: We are called to act with Justice!”

Our faith calls us to work for justice, to serve those in need, to pursue peace and defend the life, dignity and rights of all our sisters and brother. This is the call of Jesus, the challenge of the prophets and the living tradition of our Church. We are called to be a leaven, applying Christian values and virtues in every aspect of our lives. (NCCB)

Through this retreat we invite the young people to learn about the need for justice at the global level as well as at the local level. They will be introduced to how through their baptism, they are called to be a voice for justice for those in their life. It is our hope that they will come to understand the world in which they live and what they can do to make it a better place for all.

The retreat involves the young people in interactive games regarding poverty and the need for justice, input sessions, small group discussion, prayer opportunities and a Prayer Walk that helps them to connect with the poverty within God’s creation. One of the highlight of the day is the Poverty Lunch. Through the distribution of information regarding the poverty of specific regions in our world and meal money, the students are invited to consider the challenges of dealing with hunger and possible solutions to address some of the poverty issues.

Jenny Hood is one of our Young Adult Team Leaders who volunteers her time to team lead several of the retreats. We have a team of five young adults, two Redemptorists and myself as Coordinator. Read on to learn what this experience has been like for Jenny.

The greatest thing about the High School Retreats is that you never know what you are going to get. This is my third year on the RYVM High School Retreat Team and it still amazes me how God works.

I will never forget the quieter student who was just bubbling over with excitement on retreat day. It reminded me a lot of myself in high school. I got the sense that it was there, on retreat, that she was able to be open about her faith.



Team Training Day

Sometimes all a person needs is to be asked about their faith. I learned, Christ frees us from fear.

Another memorable moment was at a stop on our prayer walk at the Toronto Homeless Memorial, where many of the names are John Doe or Jane Doe. A student touched me when he observed those who died were given dignity by giving them a name. I learned, we are given dignity and purpose when God calls us by name.

And the students never fit the stereotypes of teenagers. In fact, they remind me of the church just after Christ had risen. Some are like Mary Magdalene and the

other Mary, who go looking for Jesus at the tomb, then recognize Him on the road. Others like the disciples who meet the risen Christ, but do not recognize Him. Other’s are like the twelve, hiding in the upper room, afraid ...of what their friends will think, of being called a ‘Jesus Freak’. And, of course, a doubting Thomas. Each of them comes to the retreat with different needs and somehow God provides for each one of them.

Being a retreat leader is truly a gift from God! It feeds my inner teenager, who only wanted to be asked about her faith. It also nourishes the adult I am becoming by the simple reminders that we all love God and know God in our own ways.

Truth is, those fears and doubts don’t go away when you leave high school. If anything, they become more pronounced as you go

to work or school in our secular society. But, retreat is a special time and place, where we all can ask the questions we never get to ask, can be free from fear and come to know God more.

Jenny is twenty one years old and is

in her final year at the University of Toronto studying Aboriginal, Diaspora and Transnational Studies. She loves music, plays a great guitar and swing dance lessons!



The Homeless Memorial—Toronto



The Retreat Team for 2008
Jenny is the first on the left

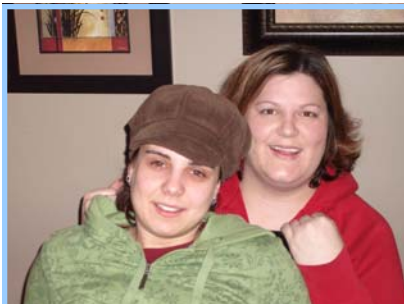
49th International Eucharistic Congress—Quebec City—June 2008



The R.Y.V.M. Team is organizing a Redemptorist/Young Adult Pilgrimage to the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City from June 15-22, 2008. This delegation will participate in all the activities organized by the Congress as well as host an International gathering of all

Redemptorists/Young Adult groups participating from other countries. We are also committed to creating and manning a Redemptorist Vocation Booth. Our young people will be leading one of the Hour of Adoration periods as well as lead a Catechesis on the Eucharist on Friday morning for those people arriving for the weekend. We are very pleased and excited to be able to share our love and joy of Christ's Plentiful Redemption with those attending the congress.

Niki De Souza and Adrienne Bourree, both of St. Joseph's Parish in Grande Prairie, Alberta, share their feelings of being a part of this delegation.



Nike and Adrienne

Adrienne and I, Niki, are very excited to be able to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City this June. We wish to celebrate the Presence of Christ as a community in Canada. This experience will have a profound deepening of our faith, as it will strengthen our journey with Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is very present in the Eucharist. We are hoping to meet many people who are much like us, looking to celebrate and enliven the Love of Christ in our hearts. This is a great opportunity to meet many young adults from regions of the world, in our age group, who are like minded and on fire for God! We are also excited

that we have the opportunity to share this experience with the Redemptorist Priests, as they have a wealth of spiritual knowledge and support. They have been instrumental in our lives as Catholic-Christians.

We both applied for this pilgrimage not only for the Eucharistic Congress, but also to be able to visit and appreciate the culture and spirituality of Quebec City. During our pilgrimage to Quebec, we will be making a stop to one of the Redemptorist Churches, "Ste. Anne de Beaufre." Ste. Anne de Beaufre is a church that represents Jesus' grandmother, much like our church St. Joseph commemorates Jesus' father. During this visit, the church will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary; what an awesome gift!



Ste. Anne de Beaufre

Upon our return to Grande Prairie we are hoping to be able radiate Christ's love in our families, communities, and workplaces. We want to be living witnesses of the Gospel and use this experience as a tool for the evangelization of the world around us. Sharing with our church groups, such as Liguori Circle here in Grande Prairie, will be another venue to extend this celebration to others.

Lastly, we are looking forward to many exciting evenings of wine tasting and socializing with other pilgrims!

Peace and Blessings,
Niki De Souza and Adrienne Bourree

THE THEME FOR THE 49TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS—QUEBEC CITY—JUNE 2008

**THE EUCHARIST:
GOD'S GIFT FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD**

Youth Ministry: A Most Giving Challenge and A Great Blessing

By: Myron Rogal, Youth Ministry Coordinator, St. Mary's Parish in Saskatoon, SK.

I'll never forget that warm September night when my own experience of youth ministry was really put to the test. Having accepted this position in July, and entering into the ministry in mid September I was very much on the nervous side in the moments leading up to our first youth gathering with myself as coordinator. The event was well planned, snacks were in place, phone calls had been made, and invitations, as well as emails had been sent out. Yet my mind was anything but settled. Would anyone show up? Will we be able to relate to one another? The questions snowballed as the moments trickled down. With two minutes until start time I'm thought, it's not too late; maybe I should back out and run while I still could! Yet my heart affirmed me otherwise and that first night affirmed my mind as well that this is where I need to be, serving in youth ministry here at St. Mary's Parish in Saskatoon.

Following the Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry at St. Mary's our events have been vast and varied over the last seven months, with each event highlighting at least one of the components of comprehensive ministry. The heartbeat of ministry at St. Mary's has been a focus on the monthly youth ministered mass. Workshops are held every six weeks that empower the youth to serve in a many ministries within the Mass as they are able to, as well as frequent music practices. Afterwards there is always junk food frenzy, of fun and fellowship to follow! Other youth events which are always new and exciting have included interactive group discussions on topics of the faith, as well as the ever popular pizza and movie nights with themes that follow the liturgical year, our latest entitled "Pizza With The Passion". This year there has also been many diocesan events that have been a lot of fun such a city wide scavenger hunt, as well as attending a youth rally in a neighboring diocese, to mention a few. Part of Compre-

hensive ministry is meeting the youth where they are at, as they bring the church to the wider community, this means watching hockey games, band concerts, and seeing their art displays.

Serving as a senior youth coordinator, meaning those in grades nine to twelve, there have also been some wonderful opportunities at St. Mary's to plan, and partake in outreaches with children and youth of all ages. Some of



Dog Sledding Activity at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park

these have included attending a hockey game and a dinner theater, with children from inner city schools. Yet perhaps the most memorable was these was an out reach entitled "God in Nature", in which we boarded a bus on a Saturday morning all sporting freshly made "I love St. Mary's" clothing, and spent the day having fun and emerging in culture with interactive outdoor activities at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Seeing the pure joy in how these children celebrated the beauty of God's



Riding the buffalo at

creation with excitement and awe, while reaffirming one another, and forming friendships was without a doubt, for all the adult and youth volunteers a witness to Christ's kingdom being built here on Earth. Moments like this of true affirmation when us adults are transformed and reminded by the youth of who we really are as children of God, being formed as disciples of Christ, is the heart and Spirit of youth ministry.

Myron Rogal, Youth Coordinator,
St. Mary's Parish,
Saskatoon, SK.



Myron with a couple of youth working on their archery skills at Wanuskewin Heritage

The Where's and Who's of S.E.R.V.E. 2008

We are very pleased to report that S.E.R.V.E. 2008 (Summer Endeavour in a Redemptorist Volunteer Experience) is taking place from May 3 to June 7, 2008 in Sudbury, ON at the Holy Redeemer Redemptorist Community.



The team is made up of Pat Csinos, as Team Leader with Andres Gnecco (London ON) and Anja Laffrenier (Sudbury, ON). Both Andres and Anja were S.E.R.V.E. participants last year in Saskatoon at St. Mary's. We are very pleased to have these two faith-filled, creative and giving young people on board with this ministry this year.

We are excited to be at Holy Redeemer again and look forward to collaborating with the Redemptorist Priests in that community. Fr. Tony Bidgood, C.Ss.R., will be our lead support within that community. Together we will be challenged to be Christ's hands and feet to those whom we minister to within the City of Greater Sudbury as well as to each other.

Those participating in S.E.R.V.E. 2008 come from various parts of Canada. We are very pleased to have with us: Jessica Taylor of Ontario, Maria Rogal of Saskatchewan, Michael Smela of Saskatchewan, James Ingold of Saskatchewan, and Kate Pike of Newfoundland.

Please keep these young people and the team members in your prayers as they prepare for this five week experience formed around Community, Service and Prayer.

Summer Endeavour in a Redemptorist Volunteer Experience

S.E.R.V.E. is 20 years old in 2008!

In celebration of this milestone we have gathered all the S.E.R.V.E. banners that were crafted by the participants themselves (starting in 1993) and created a very attractive, eye-catching poster (11"X 17"). Yours for the asking! These posters are available through Liguori Circles, your local Redemptorist Priest or email us your mailing address at ryvm@redemptorists.ca.

S.E.R.V.E. Celebrating 20 Years: 1988-2008



The Redemptorists: Edmonton-Toronto Province



Redemptorist Priests and Brothers

Come and See
if God is calling you to join us in our
Mission of Evangelization

Attend a Come and See Weekend Retreat!



For Discernment and Retreat Opportunities, Contact:

Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R.
Coordinator of Redemptorist Vocation Ministry
151 McCaul Street
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1W3
Phone: (416) 593-6320 Fax: (416) 593-6801
vocations@redemptorists.ca

Locations and Dates of upcoming Retreats

Toronto
September 12-14, 2008

See our Website for further information,
as well as information about our Youth
and Young Adult Programs
across Canada!

www.rvvm.ca

Evangelizare Pauperibus et Pauperibus Evangelizari

Constitution Corner

Art. 2: Signs and Witnesses

Statute 51. Through this total dedication to the mission of Christ, the members share the self-renunciation of their crucified Lord, the virginal freedom of his heart and his whole-hearted offering of himself for the life of the world. They must, therefore, become signs and witnesses before people of the power of his resurrection, proclaiming the new and eternal life.

GOD IS AT THE CENTRE

Shortest chapter in the Bible
Psalms 117

Longest chapter in the Bible
Psalms 119

Centre chapter of the Bible
Psalms 118

There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add them up...
you get 1188

The center verse in the Bible is Psalms 118.8

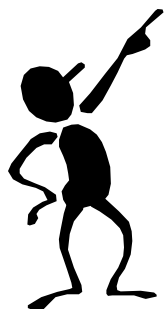
Psalms 118.8
"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Big Developments in Youth Ministry Coming Our Way!

The Redemptorists are currently in dialogue with the Centre for Ministry Development located in the United States, negotiating an agreement that will transfer the organization and coordination of the *Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Studies Program* from the American based office to the Edmonton-Toronto Province of the Redemptorists.



It is anticipated that this certificate program, that teaches the comprehensive approach to youth ministry, will be sponsored by the Redemptorists under the umbrella of the Redemptorists Youth/Vocation Ministry (R.Y.V.M.) as early as September 2008. This is exciting news for Redemptorists, Dioceses in Canada, the current sites offering these courses, parishes, and Youth Ministry Coordinators across Canada.

Anticipated press releases are expected in the next few weeks!
Keep tuned through the ryvm.ca website for further developments!

The Office of R.Y.V.M. is Growing!

Part-Time Young Adult Minister Wanted!

We are looking to hire a Catholic Graduate Level Theology Student to work an average of 16 hours/week with the R.Y.V.M. Team at Redeemer House, Toronto, ON

From September 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

Deadline for applications is Friday, April 18, 2008.

For more information, a complete job description and preferred qualification see our website www.ryvm.ca or contact Pat Csinos at 416-593-6520



CONTACT INFORMATION

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(416) 593-6520

www.ryvm.ca

There are several websites that pertain to the Church, Redemptorists, discernment, and different other "Catholic" things!

Check these websites out!

Busted Halo
Canadian Vocation Network
Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry
Catholic Information Center
Centre for Ministry Development
Earth Ministry
Newspaper on Religious Life
www.vidimusdominum.org
Redemptorists in North America

www.bustedhalo.com
www.vocations.ca
www.cccm.ca
www.catholic.net
www.cmdnet.org
www.earthministry.org



Our Year on a Page!



This is the last Newsletter until October!
 Keep up with our happenings through the website—ryvm.ca
 Have a Safe, Relaxing and Blessed Summer!