

# Into the Deep

Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry

A Ministry of the Redemptorists of the Edmonton-Toronto Province



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## Advent: Awaiting the Birth of Our Hope!

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Once again, Advent has arrived. I'm reminded of the refrain from Charlie Brown's "Merry Christmas Charlie Brown" Episode, "Christmastime is here....."; not to mention being reminded of the often last minute quest for the perfect tree come upon us. Summer has gone. Autumn leaves, but ending up with the "Charlie Brown tree". Yet, it's all good! We need to take a deep breath, and do our best to fight the store lines, and do our best to make this year another "Merry Christmas!"



Over the last few months, we have seen tangible movements in the political landscape across North America. In Canada, we have re-elected our Prime Minister, while we see a shift and movement in the official opposition. This of course will bring about changes in the politics within our country. South of the boarder, we have seen a tremendous shift in the political landscape. A shift that we can only perceive at this point, at least until the new year comes, and President elect Obama takes the leadership stage. I must say, his speech on the night of the election hit to the heart of hope. He spoke of hope in such a way that harkened the image of a "voice crying out in the wilderness". Regardless of our political leanings, his message of hope invites us to pause and wonder: What might God be doing through this new leadership and new government? No one political party is perfect, but we have to sit with patient waiting, to understand how Good News might be brought to birth in any given situation.



Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time of reflecting upon the "state of the union" of our hearts, and of our world – a world that is marred by violence and war, of anger and shame, of darkness and death. Look around you and see, the darkness is present in each of our lives. So where do we find our hope?

Over the next few weeks we will listen and reflect in our liturgies about the hope that is to be proclaimed through the words of the prophets – calling us to bind up the broken hearted, to heal, to bring good news to the oppressed, to prepare the way of the Lord, and to not be afraid. This is our work during these days of waiting.



Jesus was born into our world, yet only once. Each year is an anniversary that renews our sense and acceptance of Jesus being born in our hearts. Jesus has come! We are sent out to be good news.... to be very good news.... to be hope.

Take the time you need in this Advent season to prepare your homes and hearts to receive the hope of our world. As members of Christ's body, when we live out this hope, Christ becomes more present in our world.

**Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R.**  
Coordinator of Redemptorist  
Vocation Ministry

## Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies (CCYMS)

### C.C.Y.M.S. Program: Something for Everyone!

The Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies (C.C.Y.M.S.) program is a wonderful way to develop skills, knowledge, practical tools and techniques to help you develop a creative and comprehensive ministry with youth in the parish or school setting. If you are a volunteer in your parish youth ministry setting or work in a Catholic high school, this program is specially designed for you! It develops the confidence, competence, and credibility of leaders for effective and successful ministry with youth.



#### IT ALSO DOES MORE!

For those of you not involved with youth ministry, you can benefit by this program as well! Many courses in this program provide you with personal and spiritual growth. Maybe you are looking for specific areas of growth such as developing some skills in Christian leadership. Or maybe you are looking to foster the faith growth of youth through Evangelization and Catechesis, Prayer and Worship, Justice and Service or Pastoral Care. If you are not looking to obtain the certificate itself but are interested in developing some specific personal skills and faith, then you might be interested in taking one or two of the courses only.

Check out the website to obtain a description on each of the eight courses. These courses are offered at various times of the year, at various locations throughout Canada.

It may be just the thing you are looking for right now!

[www.ccyms.ca](http://www.ccyms.ca)

## Reflection by Young Adult Minister

It has been two and a half months since I started working as a Young Adult Minister in the office of Youth and Vocations Ministry for the Redemptorists. It has been a true blessing in many areas.



Firstly, I am blessed to work side by side with three wonderful people: Fr. Santo Arrigo, Fr. Jon Hansen, and Pat Csinos. They have been very patient and supportive in allowing me to settle into my position, polishing my skills in the different computer programs used at RYVM, and putting my ideas of young adult ministry into action. Moreover, I have learned a great deal from their experience in ministry, developing me to become a better young adult minister.

Secondly, I am very happy to be able to apply my past ministry experience in organizing high school retreats, planning young adult open houses, and much more. It is wonderful to be able to do what I love as a job. I have been searching for my dream job for a long time and now I have finally found a good fit.\*

I am grateful for the opportunity to witness God's action towards youths and young adults through Redemptorist's youth and vocation ministries. I look forward to continue to learn and experience God's work in this area and I open myself to become God's instrument in whatever way that helps foster youths and young adults' faith in Christ and with one another at RYVM.

\*hopefully agreed by my supervisors also.

**Vivian Kwok**  
**Young Adult Minister**  
**For Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry**

## Making Your Advent Wreath

Make a round form from styro-foam, wood or wire. Cover with fresh evergreen. Insert four candles - three purple and one pink. On Christmas Day, place a white candle in the centre of the wreath and light all the candles.



### First Sunday of Advent

(November 30)

(light the first purple candle)

**Lord, we see in this circle a symbol of your everlasting love. Help us to spread your love to all those we meet. Amen.**

### Second Sunday of Advent (December 7)

(light the first and second purple candle)

**Lord, the green of these branches reminds us that you continually give and renew life. Help us to bring new life through the kindness we show to others this week.**

**Amen.**

### Third Sunday of Advent (December 14)

(Light the 2 purple candles, and the pink candle)

**Lord, as we light these purple and pink candles we realize that we are waiting joyfully for the renewal of your coming among us. Let us spread this joy with all we meet. Amen.**

### Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 21)

(Light all four candles - Purple and pink)

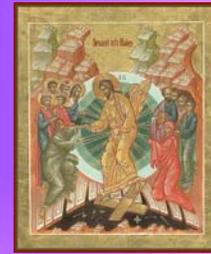
**Lord, the light of these candles reminds us that you are the light of the world. May that light open our hearts, so that we may bring light to those who live in darkness. Amen.**

### Christmas Day:

(Light all five candles)

**Lord, today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Help us to bring His love, life and joy to all those we meet. Amen.**

## Online Advent Retreat



**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Mark 13:31)**

Take a break from the business of life to deepen your relationship with God and with others, develop an awareness of the presence of God in your life by participating in our weekly Online Advent Retreat:

[www.ryvm.ca](http://www.ryvm.ca)

## 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) 593-6520 Fax: (416) 593-6801  
vocations@redemptorists.ca

### Locations and Dates of upcoming Retreats

**Vancouver** January 16-18, 2009  
**Toronto** February 6-8, 2009  
**Halifax** May 1-3, 2009  
**Toronto** June 19-21, 2009

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

[www.ryvm.ca](http://www.ryvm.ca)

**Evangelizare Pauperibus et Pauperibus Evangelizari**



# Newsletter Feedback !



## Times are Changing – We want to hear from you!

Over the past several years, we have appreciated the feedback and input of our newsletter, and of the Website: [www.ryvm.ca](http://www.ryvm.ca)

At this time we invite your input, feedback, and also an indication of the best way to communicate with you.

We ask for your feedback through one of two ways:

1. Visit [www.ryvm.ca](http://www.ryvm.ca) and fill out the “Newsletter and Website Feedback” Form.
2. Complete the accompanying form and send it back to us by FAX or SNAIL MAIL.

Our Hope.....

- Reduce the amount of paper used to produce the Newsletter
- To meet your needs by providing you with an effect method of communication of information, news, and program updates from Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry.

### Young Adults in Action

As a new initiative at Redeemer House:

A group of young men and women (age 18-30) and Redemptorists priests and brothers come together and offer their talents, time and service to the poor and marginalized citizens of Toronto.

#### First Gathering

Date: Thursday, December 11th

Time: 7 PM to 9 PM

Location: Redeemer House - 151 McCaul Street, Toronto (north of St. Patrick's Church, one traffic light west of University Avenue, north of Dundas St. West)

For more information, contact Fr. Jon Hansen (416) 593-6520, or [jon.hansen@redemptorists.ca](mailto:jon.hansen@redemptorists.ca)



Visit our website often and keep up with what's happening at:

[www.ryvm.ca](http://www.ryvm.ca)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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 (416) 593-6520 [www.ryvm.ca](http://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** [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com)
- Canadian Vocation Network** [www.yvocations.ca](http://www.yvocations.ca)
- Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry** [www.cccm.ca](http://www.cccm.ca)
- Catholic Information Center** [www.catholic.net](http://www.catholic.net)
- Centre for Ministry Development** [www.cmdnet.org](http://www.cmdnet.org)
- Earth Ministry** [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)
- Newspaper on Religious Life** [www.vidimusdominum.org](http://www.vidimusdominum.org)
- Redemptorists in North America** [www.redemptorists.com](http://www.redemptorists.com)
- Redemptorists in Rome (General Gvnm't)** [www.cssr.com](http://www.cssr.com)