

Into the Deep

Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry

A Ministry of the Redemptorists of the Edmonton-Toronto Province



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S.E.R.V.E. Spirit in Action!

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Fr. Steve Morrissey

The S.E.R.V.E. program (Summer Endeavour in a Redemptorist Volunteer Experience) is a reality which has been a vibrant aspect in the life of young people and Redemptorists working as partners and sharing fellowship. S.E.R.V.E. has existed for over 20 years now and has touched so many lives. Once again the program has touched the life of the people who make St. Teresa's Parish home. A recent initiative (one which will continue to grow) speaks exactly about that truth.

The strong relationship of youth and Redemptorists “serving the poor and most abandoned” extends into so many aspects of life. This relationship has always been a vital part of the S.E.R.V.E. program.

The aspects of service and generosity have once again come to St. Teresa's as a result of the personal S.E.R.V.E. experience of one of the young adults of that parish. Katie Pike lived the S.E.R.V.E.

experience at Holy Redeemer in Sudbury, Ontario this spring. She is also going to be experiencing S.E.R.V.E.

once again in Sudbury, this spring, but as the Young Adult Team Member. Katie has recently brought another twist to the idea of service to the “poor and most abandoned”.

St. John's, Newfoundland is home to a facility known as “The Gathering Place”. The Gathering Place is a warm hospitable place where food, laughter, hope and smiles are shared by all who

are involved. It is run by a few very dedicated staff member and many different volunteers. Any interested person or group is always welcome to volunteer at “The Gathering Place”

Just before Christmas 2008, Katie, along with some of the young people at St. Teresa's and a few adults (their support team) made soup for 120 people at The Gathering Place. It was a wonderful experience for everyone! And another wonderful experience took place the following week at their annual Christmas Party. Santa and members of the local Rotary Club joined the regular attendants to enjoy the laughter, joy and free entertainment by none other than Allen Doyle and the members of the Great Big Sea. It was a meal and an afternoon never to be forgotten!



Katie Pike offering hospitality while on S.E.R.V.E. 2008.

This generous giving of time and fellowship by the young people of St. Teresa's Parish will once again lead them to The Gathering Place in late January, as they, along with the guidance and support of many others, will share the warmth of friendship and a good meal with all who come for lunch at this wonderful place.

**Fr. Steve Morrissey, C.Ss.R.,
Associate Pastor at St. Teresa's,
St. John's NL**

ATTENTION!!

S.E.R.V.E. 2009 takes place at Holy Redeemer Parish, Sudbury, ON from May 9 to June 13, 2009. This Catholic, faith-filled service program is open to all men and women across Canada, ages 19 to 30 years. There are 8 spots available. The application form and more information is available on our website at www.rvvm.ca.

Don't delay!

The deadline for applications is March 6, 2009.

“Young Adults in Action” Kick Off—An Evening of Sharing and Friendship!

We had our first evening for Young Adults in Action on December 11, 2009. It was exciting to meet the other young adults who are interested in social justice issues and share with them my views towards building a just world in today’s society.

In this evening, Sister Susan Morin, the founder of the Out of the Cold program share with us about the needs of the poor in our cities and some amazing developments of the Out of the Cold program. Beginning as a soup kitchen feeding the homeless, it has grown into the source of food and shelter for those wondering around the streets of Toronto each night.

The issue that impacted me most is that sometimes, we forget what the poor really needs. It is good to have food to eat and a place to stay but more important is to have a community which they can call home. A place where they can talk to their friends freely, meet new friends, and where they find the exchange of love and care.



Picture by: Kirsten Bole

After spending some time reflecting on different gospel passages, I realized that we all share this need, the need to be cared for and loved in community. In Luke 9:58, Jesus talked about not having a place to lay his head. It is scary to not have a place to lay one’s head, to call home, but where does this fear come from? I believe it comes from our need to be recognized, loved, and cared by another. Our need is not so much different from those who are homeless, is it? This reflection helps me to develop a stronger compassion towards the poor and hopefully, give me more strength to go out and build a meaningful relationship with them. :)

Now, I look forward to make this a reality in participating in the Out of the Cold program at St. Patrick’s Church in two weeks. :)

**Vivian Kwok, Young Adult Minister of the
Redemptorist Young Adult Ministry**

“Young Adults in Action” Part II—Hands-On Experience!

On December 21, 2009, we experienced part II of “Young Adults in Action” with some hands-on experience with the Out of the Cold program at St. Patrick’s Church. In the first part, I felt very blessed to have an opportunity to deepen my knowledge and compassion towards the homeless through listening to Sister Susan and also sharing thoughts with other young adults. In part two, I am able to put what I have learned from these fruitful conversations into action.



Through involving with the Out of the Cold program, I have gained a wider perception towards helping the poor in our cities. Taking down names and giving out meal and overnight tickets at the door has given me a chance to interact with those who are homeless in Toronto, allowing me to create a more personal and direct relationship with them. Moreover, through these meaningful conversations, I have learned that we all share the same need, the need to be in community and to be loved. Sometimes, we just want to find someone to talk to and know that we are cared for, homeless or not.

This evening was special because it is Christmas! We are lucky to be Santa’s alfs. Wishing everyone Merry Christmas, singing Christmas carols, and giving out Christmas gifts to those who live on the streets are very meaningful, not to mention the amazingly fun time we had! :) I deeply felt that we are helping the homeless by giving them daily necessities for Christmas. Having a pair of new shoes or a warm scarf for the snowy and very cold winter really helps in achieving a better life on the streets. Moreover, singing Christmas carols together helps us to develop a very warm sense of community with everyone there, homeless or not. Of course, the next course of action is finding out why they end up on the streets in the first place and act to avoid that from happening continuously. I believe only this can completely heal the issue of homelessness.

Having a hands on experience with the Out of the Cold program in the second part of “Young Adults in Action” has proven to be very fruitful to me. It does not only deepen my knowledge towards those who live on the streets, it also helps me to become more compassionate and understanding towards them; leading me to find possible actions to heal the challenge of poverty before people ending up living on the streets.

Christmas Reflections from Northern Alberta!

Archbishop Gerry Pettipas is a Redemptorist who is the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, a rather large diocese in northern Alberta. Father Mark Miller, the Vicar Provincial for the Redemptorists; Father Jon Hansen, the Director of Formation and Associate Pastor for St. Patrick's Parish in Toronto; and Carmeloo Gonzalez, an postulant at Redeemer House in Toronto in formation to become a Redemptorist Brother, spent their Christmas in service to the people of some of the remote parishes in Archbishop Gerry's diocese. The following are some brief reflections of those experiences.

Christmas in the North!



Fr. Mark Miller

Christmas was a unique experience for me in 2008. In conversation with Archbishop Gerry Pettipas, I volunteered to help in his archdiocese, if needed, for Christmas. He asked me to go to Cadotte Lake and Little Buffalo, about 80 km east of Peace River. I had never been to that part of the Peace River area before and was delighted to go.

Cadotte Lake is a reserve for the Woodland Cree. Little Buffalo is a Cree community, known as the Lubicon Band, a group that for years has been fighting the Alberta government for recognition. I had a Christmas Eve Mass in each community (4 pm & 6 pm) and was to expect some baptisms as well.

Deacon Reg Bouchard has worked at Cadotte Lake for several years and so I met him in Donnelly and we traveled together (on a paved road-it is amazing what oil exploration does for the local infrastructure) to the lovely log church by the frozen lake. It was only -25C (it had been -39 two days before) and the church was warm and eventually filled with about 50 people. Deacon Reg stayed after Mass to baptism five children. I went on with Sr. Mary Jeanne, an SSND from Peace River, and a Polish sister learning English, Sr. Rita, to Little Buffalo where the wood fire had gone out in the Long House (their church had burned down three years before) and we only have 45 minutes before Mass. The fire needed more time than that so I began Mass with my alb over my coat and my breath before my face. About 20 people joined us and I baptized four children during the Mass (and a fifth who arrived late from Martin Lake right at the end of Mass).

The people do not have Mass on any regular basis there. Even most funerals are lead by Deacon Reg. So the responses were limited. But the people were attentive and both Deacon Reg and Sr. Mary Jeanne were thrilled with the participation and just the fact that they could have Mass.

I was glad to be able to assist, although I felt (as always)

that I would have loved to have had more time to get to know the people. A third Mass on Christmas Day for Trout Lake was cancelled because the community was not able to get things ready-that saved me another 100 miles into the bush and Archbishop Gerry was somewhat disappointed. However, it allowed me to get back to Edmonton in time for Christmas dinner with my own family. A unique, but most enjoyable Christmas!

Fr. Mark Miller, C.Ss.R.

Christmas in Fox Lake!

By: Fr. Jon Hansen, C.Ss.R.

Privileged to once again be helping our brother Archbishop Gerry Pettipas in the diocese of Grouard-McLennan, Carmelo and I found ourselves lost on a winter logging road in minus 30 degree weather, with the sun quickly setting behind frost coated trees. Neither one of us was worried however as we took in the beauty that surrounded us in this unspoiled wilderness. Have you ever witnessed a purple sunset? It's not something that I will soon forget.

Eventually we reached our destination and were welcomed warmly by the residents of Fox Lake, the largest community of the Little Red River Cree Band. Together we prayed the rosary, celebrated midnight mass and another mass on Christmas day. We finished with baptisms on Boxing Day when 26 infants and toddlers were welcomed into the faith community.



I am grateful for the company of Carmelo on the journey as well as for Fr. Mick and Fr. Santo who kept the home fires burning so that we could be away.

Christmas Reflections from Northern Alberta! (cont'd) Christmas in Fox Lake!



Carmelo Gonzalez

How good has been our God with us! As I was reflecting on the gift of the birth of Jesus as I do each year at this time, I was invited by Fr. Jon Hansen, C.Ss.R. to go and stay for some days at Fox Lake, AB where we were to help with the Christmas services.

Fox Lake is a wonderful place inhabited by the native people of Canada. At the beginning I said how good God

is because here was an opportunity to admire God's marvelous creation in nature. It was like being inside of Picasso's painting, but in real life; Snow everywhere, trees and rivers frozen, wonderfully colored sky at sunset. I was so amazed at such an experience that all I could say was, "How wonderful are you Lord".



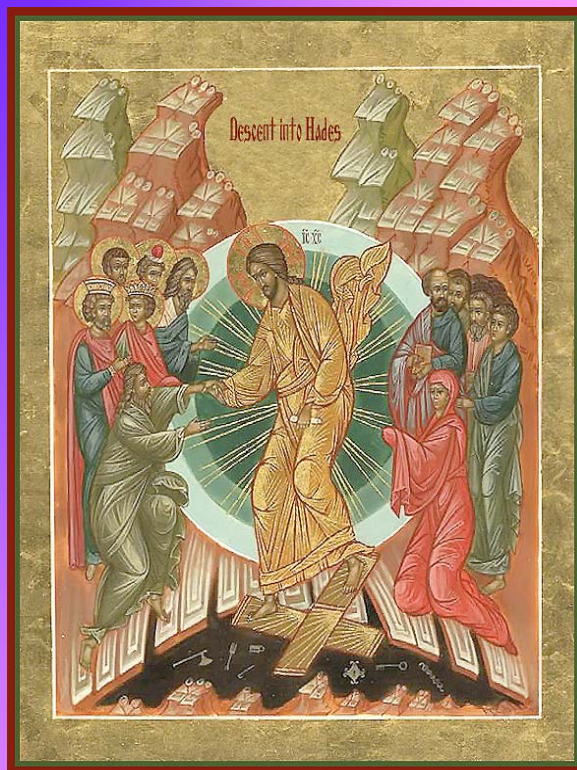
Even though I come from a country where the average temperature is between 25-30 degrees Celsius it was not a sacrifice to stay in Fox Lake where it was minus 25-30 degrees. It was another of God's gifts to me. In fact it was God who made the greatest sacrifice to us as he gave us his only son who was born to us in such humble circumstances. Such were the circumstances we



as we celebrated mass with the people who waited for the coming of the Lord Jesus on the Holy night of Christmas.

Carmelo Gonzalez, Redemptorist Postulant

Online Lenten Retreat



Jesus said, "I came that [you] may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Take a break from the business of life to reflect on your relationship with God and with others,

develop an awareness of the presence of God in your life and grow closer to Christ by participating in our weekly Online Lenten Retreat:

www.ryvm.ca

Prayer Discovery Corner !

Dialoguing with Scripture

When you listen to the readings in mass, have you ever thought of responding to them? When you start responding, questioning, and even debating with the Scriptures, it comes alive and you will be surprised what you can learn from them!

How is this done?

1. Choose a Scripture passage.
2. Read it slowly. Read it more than once if necessary.
3. Pick a character in the scriptural story whom you want to talk to. (It could be someone you agree with or someone you want to question.)
4. Hold an imaginary conversation with that character and write it down. Write from your heart, no one but yourself is going to read what you write.
5. When the conversation is finished, read it out loud.
6. Reflect on the conversation: What is it like talking to this character? Did anything in the conversation surprise or move you? Is there anything bothering you during the conversation? What did you learn about yourself from the dialogue?
7. End the reflection thanking God for things that you are grateful for during the prayer period.

Blythe, Theresa A. *50 Ways to Pray*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

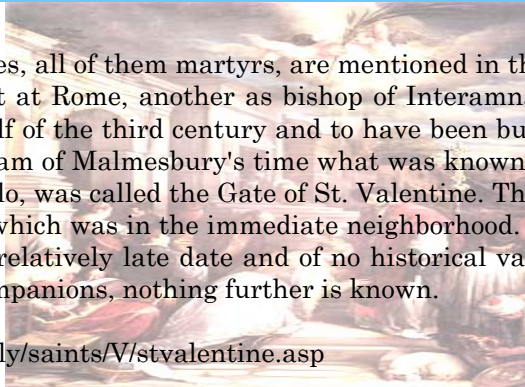
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St. Valentine

(MARTYR) Feast Day: February 14

At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under date of 14 February. One is described as a priest at Rome, another as bishop of Interamna (modern Terni), and these two seem both to have suffered in the second half of the third century and to have been buried on the Flaminian Way, but at different distances from the city. In William of Malmesbury's time what was known to the ancients as the Flaminian Gate of Rome and is now the Porta del Popolo, was called the Gate of St. Valentine. The name seems to have been taken from a small church dedicated to the saint which was in the immediate neighborhood. Of both these St. Valentines some sort of Acta are preserved but they are of relatively late date and of no historical value. Of the third Saint Valentine, who suffered in Africa with a number of companions, nothing further is known.

Source: <http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/saints/V/stvalentine.asp>



Summer Youth Pastoral Team Opportunity at the Basilica of St. Anne de Beaufré, Québec



Basilica of St. Anne de Beaufré

The Youth Pastoral Team offers young adults, between the ages of 18 and 30, an opportunity to develop and deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through an experience of service and ministry at the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaufré. They are responsible for different pastoral activities during the pilgrimage season, such as the Way of the Cross, Holy Hour, and Rosary, as well as guided tours and other presentations. The service that the Youth Team offers is, in itself, a sign of God's presence to all pilgrims who come to the Shrine.



For more information or to apply, please contact Deidre Pike by telephone at 418-827-3782, ext. 2153, or by e-mail at dpike@ssadb.qc.ca.

Deadline for application: April 1, 2009.

St. Joseph Catholic Parish Grande Prairie, Alberta

is seeking the services of a full-time **Coordinator of Youth Ministry**

Our parish is a lively community of over 2000 families, served by a team of priests and pastoral workers. The successful candidate will be part of this team. This person will co-ordinate, and continue to develop programs for junior and senior high school youth in the parish and within the local Catholic schools. We are seeking a person who is a practicing Catholic, enthusiastic, and possessing effective communication and organizational skills; one who has a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies and experience in the Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry; or a comparable combination of training and experience. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. A complete job description is available on request.

Starting date for this position is 1 June 2009.

Submit resumé, with references, including a reference from your present parish priest, to:

Father David Purcell, C.Ss.R.
St. Joseph's Parish
10404 – 102 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta, T8V 2W3
Fax 780 538-2286
Email purcelld@gpcsd28.ab.ca

Questions Regarding the Discernment and Formation Process for the Redemptorists

What are the steps that I have to take in my discernment?

A: All Vocation Contacts are sent material when they first contact the vocation office, or when they sign up for a Vocation Retreat. Then after a few visits and conversations, the Contact and the Vocation Director look at what the next logical step might be in their discernment. If they choose to take a 'next step' at the time, then they advance to the stage of Inquirer. The Inquirer stage is for at least 1 year. During that year, more serious questions of discernment need to be looked at; both through conversations with the Vocation Director, and with a Spiritual Director. The Inquirer is connected or associated with a local Redemptorist Community, and is in contact with a mentor from that community. Within that year, it may be discerned that the Inquirer might make a formal step to live with the Community and begin a process of "formation". If that is the case, the Inquirer would begin to make application in the January prior to entry. Not everyone who is a Contact or an Inquirer journeys at the same pace. Depending upon education, age, maturity, readiness, and financial constraints, the stages of discernment will be different depending upon the person.

The important thing, is that discernment is a 3 way street..... The Contact/Inquirer, God, and the Community (represented by the Vocation Director), and that discernment is personal and very subjective. God makes the Vocation..... we are called to recognize it, and nurture it's growth.

How long will it take me to become a Redemptorist brother, or a priest?

A: That all depends on the person; what education they have when they enter; the length by which it takes to get your Masters of Divinity, plus other factors. BUT! Normally, a process of formation MAY take shape in the following way:

Ordination Candidates (7-9 years total)

Contact and Inquiry:	at least 1 year
Formal Live-in (Postulancy)	in Sudbury: at least 1 year
Novitiate (in Chicago):	1 year
First Vows after Novitiate	
Theological Studies (M.Div):	3-4 years
Pastoral Internship:	1 year
Final Vows	(after min. 3 years)
Deaconate:	1 year
Ordination to Priesthood after year of Deaconate	

Brother Candidates (7 years total)

Contact and Inquiry:	at least 1 year
Formal Live-in (Postulancy):	at least 1 year
Novitiate (in Chicago):	1 year
First Vows after Novitiate	
Theological Studies (M.Div) and/or Training for Ministry:	3-4 years
Final Vows	(after min. 3 years)

For complete explanation and outline of Discernment and Formation Process, refer to the Brochure, "So..... how long does it take to become one of you guys?"

Am I ready to apply?

A: Possibly!
Readiness to apply to the formal Formation Program for the Redemptorists is something that takes time to discern. Although the first year in the Formation Program (Postulancy) is a year of further discernment, it is entered into with the understanding that you are discerning taking the next step. Sometimes it may feel like you're only discerning if you should continue the next week! But it is meant to assist the Candidate in discovering the call further towards making a commitment to the Congregation. While, all at the same time, it is still only the Postulancy Year.

So when might someone be ready?

Again, good question. Through prayer and discernment, the Vocation Director, Applicant, and the Formation Team discern the readiness of the Applicant to enter the Formation Program.

If someone is serious in looking into Redemptorist life, I say, *discern about giving it a try*. You will never know if you don't give it a try and let God reveal to you through the experience if this is where you are being called.

If you fit in the following requirements, maybe it's time to think about giving Religious Life a try:

- Practice of the Catholic Faith
- Reception of all Sacraments of Initiation
- Involvement in parish ministry or service
- Relationship with God, a prayer life.
- Period of intentional celibacy
- Free of Debt
- Stable work history or education history
- Good physical and emotional health
- Good Social Skills and a history of age appropriate relationships.
- Evidence of responsibility, generosity, balance and humour
- Have been in contact with the Redemptorist Vocation Director for at least 1 year

Constitution Corner

Statute # 21:

Promoting Justice and Human Progress

The Church is sent to bring freedom and salvation to the whole human person and to form all people and the whole world in Christ, something which must always be borne in mind in the work of evangelization. Therefore the members should try to establish works which have for their aim human and social progress, and this above all in regions which are still in the state of development. They should do this in ways that are in keeping with the varying needs of evangelization. They should cooperate closely with organizations and institutions already set up for this

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!



Locations and Dates of upcoming Retreats

Halifax

May 1-3, 2009

Toronto

June 19-21, 2009

Register ONLINE at

www.ryvm.ca

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

Evangelizare Pauperibus et Pauperibus Evangelizari

S.E.R.V.E. 2009!
Deadline to Apply:
March 6, 2009

Further details: www.ryvm.ca

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

www.ryvm.ca

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 www.bustedhalo.com
- Canadian Vocation Network www.yvocations.ca
- Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry www.cccm.ca
- Catholic Information Center www.catholic.net
- Centre for Ministry Development www.cmdnet.org
- Earth Ministry www.earthministry.org
- Newspaper on Religious Life www.vidimusdominum.org
- Redemptorists in North America www.redemptorists.com
- Redemptorists in Rome (General Gvnm't) www.cssr.com
- Story of my Life - Vocation Test at..... www.vocations.com