



Destination C.Ss.R.

Redemptorist Vocation Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- "Need advice! Must discern my vocation..."** 1
- Praying with Blessed Peter Donders C.Ss.R.** 1
- From the message of John Paul II to the XXIII General Chapter of the Redemptorists** 2
- A Pope's Prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual Help** 2
- Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help** 2
- What will become of this man? Reflections on a new Pope** 3
- Am I Called?** 3
- Constitution Corner** 4
- Have Your Say.... Online....** 4
- Weekend Vocation Retreat Opportunities** 4
- Check out the Web** 4

"Need advice! Must discern my vocation..."

Summer is almost officially here! For many of us, summertime is an opportunity to relax, take it easy, to put the school year behind us, or to take some time off work to relax with family and friends.

For many of us, summertime is a time of anticipation towards a new school year, finding a new place to live while at school, or working to make enough money to pay for school.



In Redemptorist circles, summertime means a number of things: Firstly, S.E.R.V.E. (Summer Endeavor in a Redemptorist Volunteer Experience) A 4 week program for 6 young adult men and women who lived and worked with Redemptorists in Sudbury in May, and who volunteered in local agencies.

Secondly, summertime is an opportune time for Redemptorists to receive new assignments for ministry. This particular year, Redemptorists have received their new assignments for the next "triennium" - 3 year cycle. So if you are in a Redemptorist Parish, or connected with a Redemptorist Community, you might already know that there may be changes coming with the local community there.

Thirdly, summer is an opportunity to plan for a new year. This coming year, there will be a number of Vocation Discernment Opportunities happening across the country. As the Coordinator of Redemptorist Vocation Ministry, I will be present across the country at our local Redemptorist Parishes, helping to facilitate and plan evening discernment

gatherings, and of course, Weekend Vocation Discernment Retreats. There will be more Retreat Weekends this year in more places! Brochures about upcoming retreats will be available later in the summer. You may also look online at www.redemptorists.ca to see when and where retreats will be held.



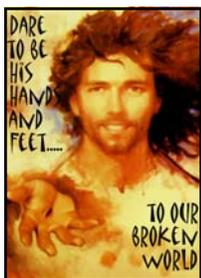
Redemptorist Provincial Council

Finally, summer is a good time to take a break from the busy-ness of life and reflect, pray, and discern. Take the time to explore the possibilities of your future, of your life in ministry, and especially your life as a Redemptorist. I pray that you will have the confidence to take a bold step this coming year in understanding more deeply God's call in your life.

I leave you with a song! Which of course is typical from a musician and singer, right!? My friends and I came up with it in university. Sing along: It is to the tune of Edelweiss.

"Need advice! Need advice! Must discernment my vocation. Sacrifice! What's the price? What a load of frustration! I go to Vespers, I go to Mass, seeking inspiration. I don't know where to go. Thank God, for summer vacation!"

P.S. Congratulations to Sheldon D'Cunha of Toronto for his winning submission of the title of this Newsletter! Enjoy the \$20.00 gift certificate from Tim Horton's!



Praying with Blessed Peter Donders C.Ss.R.



"O Jesus our Redeemer, you took flesh and walked among us in search of the abandoned. Our brother, Peter Donders, spent his life in preaching your saving word to lepers, to slaves, to the poor and neglected. By his merits and prayers, stir up in us the same apostolic zeal, that we might place ourselves completely at the service of your gospel. You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen."

This prayer was taken from "In the Spirit of St. Alphonsus" by Terry Moran C.Ss.R., p. 53.

To learn more about Blessed Peter log on to the following link:

http://redemptorists.ca/our_saints/donders.htm

Biographies of other Redemptorist Saints and Blesseds are listed on our website as well.

**From the Message of John Paul II
to the XXIII General Chapter of the Redemptorists**

“Dear Redemptorists,

Allow yourselves to be led by the Spirit of the Crucified and Risen Lord. I repeat to you here what I wrote to the entire People of God in the Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*: Let us go forward in hope! A new millennium is opening before the Church like a vast ocean upon which we shall venture, relying on the help of Christ. The Son of God who became incarnate two thousand years ago out of love for humanity is at work even today: we need discerning eyes to see this and, above all, a generous heart to become the instruments of his work” n. 58.



Go forward in hope! Like your Founder, strive to keep your gaze fixed on the Redeemer and allow yourselves to be guided by Mary, his and our Mother. Only in this way can you be “co-workers, companions and ministers of Jesus Christ in the great work of redemption.” (Constitutions and Statutes of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, Rome 2001, n.2)”

September - October, 2003

**A Pope’s Prayer to
Our Mother of Perpetual Help**

O Mother of Perpetual Help,
Holy Mother of the Redeemer,
magnificent sign of our hope,
we entreat you,
come to the aid of your people
who long to rise again.

Give to all the joy
of approaching the third millennium
in conscious and active solidarity
with the poorest among us,
proclaiming in a new and valiant manner
the Gospel of your Son,
the foundation and the summit of all human co-existence,
in longing for a true, fair and lasting peace.

Like the infant Jesus,
whom we admire in this venerated icon,
we too wish to clasp your right hand.
You have the power and the goodness to help us
in every need and situation.
This is your hour!
Come to our aid
and be the refuge and the hope of us all. Amen.

- John Paul II, June 30, 1991

Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help



On Monday June 27, 2005, Christians around the world will celebrate the Feast Day of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Spreading devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help has been part of the Redemptorist Mission since the miraculous icon was given to the Redemptorists by Pope Pius IX in 1866. The original icon, which is now found at the Church of St.

Alphonsus in Rome, is believed to have been written by St. Luke, the Evangelist. Over the past number of centuries, this image of Mary as Perpetual Help has been, and continues to be a well known image of our Lady, and since the icon has been entrusted to the Redemptorists, devotion to Mary under this title has spread throughout the



St. Alphonsus Church
Rome

world. Many Shrines and places of pilgrimage are dedicated to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

In Canada, Redemptorists serve at the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help at St. Patrick’s Church in Toronto. Throughout Canada, Redemptorist Parishes as well as other Parishes celebrate devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Every Wednesday on Vision TV, you can see and participate in the weekly devotions produced by the Redemptorists.



Original Icon of Our Mother of
Perpetual Help St. Alphonsus
Church in Rome

For more information, or for literature about the Television Devotions on Vision TV, or to obtain a prayer card, please contact: perpetualhelp@redemptorists.ca

What will become of this man? Reflections on a new Pope



What makes a leader great? While I put that question to myself at the beginning of Joseph Ratzinger's office as Pope Benedict XVI, I realize immediately that I will only know if it applies to him when his term is over. It is only in hindsight that we can affix such an adjective. At the death of John Paul II, newspapers around

the world acclaimed him as "John Paul the Great". We couldn't have made such a claim in 1978. We must wait to see what Pope Benedict XVI will become. Whatever any of the 264 popes in Church history have accomplished, they have all been in a singular position to be great leaders, to leave their mark on the world. In following the media presentations about John Paul II following his death, I was struck by his impact not only on the Church, but also on the world.

Here was a man who could step onto the world stage, and had something to say. His commanding presence was both feared and respected by other secular leaders who shared the same stage; by the end of his life, one and all had only accolades to pronounce. John Paul II had, I suspect inadvertently, earned the title "Great". In these early days of Benedict XVI's pontificate, we are hearing of his conservative and strict stance in Church affairs. This man is in a position which of its nature is conservative and focused on orthodoxy, and in the eyes of many he has a personality that adds little to balance this. While I recognize the truth of this, I embrace him as our spiritual leader and am willing to will wait and see what he does. My father, always a source of wise one-liners, used to say, "A boy becomes a man when a man is needed." If Joseph Ratzinger has it in him to do

Good Leadership is exercised not only by speech and action. It is also the result of listening and receiving.

great things for the Catholic Church and for the world, then the position he now fills will draw that out of him. He will be accountable to no one so much as to God for what he has done with the talents entrusted to him. (Matt. 25:14-19) There are many titles attached to the office of pope – Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ, First Among Equals, Head of the Church ... One that I appreciate the most is "supreme pontiff". The world pontiff comes from two Latin words: pons (bridge) and facere (to make). He is a bridge builder, and he is to do that in a supreme way. My own experience tells me that bridges are built by listening, very carefully. Good leadership is exercised not only by speech and action. It is also the result of listening and receiving. An ancient image of the Church is the "barque of St. Peter". This has its root in the gospels. The fisherman Peter and other disciples are in his boat when a storm arises (Mark 4:35-41). Jesus is also in the boat, although asleep. When Christ is awakened, he not only calms the storm, but also upbraids the disciples for their fear. Two thousand years ago, the early Christian community was like a small boat, and the lake on which it rested something akin to Saskatoon Lake. Today, the scene has become more like an ocean liner on the briny Atlantic. In the anxiety that usually accompanies a change of guard, we might ask Pope Benedict XVI, "Do you know how to steer this thing?" His response, if in the style of Jesus Christ, and his predecessor John Paul II, might well be, "Be not afraid."

Fr. Gerry Pettipas C.Ss.R. is currently the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Grande Prairie AB. This article was written for the Grande Prairie Herald Tribune, and was also a submission on the www.redemptorist.ca website, "Room with a View" Section



Am I Called?

Discernment is NOT easy. Now that we got that out of the way, let's move on with our task!

Often when we try to reflect on our call from God, we get all caught up with questions, fears, expectations, and wondering what we'll have to give up to follow God with any vocation we are invited into, be it religious life, priesthood, marriage, or single life. Perhaps we have to think about what we have in us as internal assets that will contribute and lead to our discernment, instead of focusing on the fears of letting go of what we need to give up. The fol-

lowing are a series of questions to help you focus on your journey of discernment. Every couple of months, another set of questions will be listed in this newsletter to assist you in your reflection. These questions are adapted from the work of another Vocation Director, Sister Gloria Urrabazo, MCDP, and reprinted in Horizon Magazine. Used with permission.

This month: How did it all begin?

Next Month: Your interests Are others important to you?

I. How did it all begin?

1. **When did you first think of becoming a religious?**
2. **Has this desire of yours been constant?**
3. **Have you thought of entering another profession? Undertaking another occupation? Has this affected your wish to be a religious?**
4. **Do you think the origins of your desire to become a religious could be found:**
 - A. Through any particular people?
 - B. Through any situations?
 - C. Through any special events?
5. **How did your desire to be a religious become clear or grow in your life?**

Constitution Corner

The Mission of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in the Church

Constitution I

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, founded by Saint Alphonsus, is a clerical missionary religious Institute of pontifical right, enjoying the privilege of exemption, and having members belonging to various rites. Its purpose is to “follow the example of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, by preaching the word of God to the poor, as he declared of himself: ‘He sent me to preach the Good News to the poor’.”

In this way the Congregation shares the mandate given to the Church, which, since it is the universal sacrament of salvation, is missionary of its very nature.

It does so by responding with missionary thrust to the pressing pastoral needs of the most abandoned, especially the poor, and by devoting itself entirely to evangelization. The Redemptorist Congregation truly follows the example of Christ in the apostolic life, which comprises at one and the same time a life specially dedicated to God and a life of missionary work.

To read more of our Constitutions and Statues, go to our General Government Website at www.cssr.com.

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Have your say..... Online....

Are you looking for a place to ask your questions about faith, God, Church, and living a Christian Life?

Are you looking for a place to learn what others like yourself have to say about certain issues relating to your life of faith?

Well, look no further!!!!

Go to www.redemptorists.ca, look for the following sections, and have your say!

“Dear Alphie” is a page on the Redemptorist Website that provides you with an opportunity to have your questions answered by a Redemptorist. You can remain anonymous if you’d like. The answers are then posted on the site for others to benefit from your question.

“Room with a View” is a page on the Redemptorist Website that provides you with an opportunity to give feedback from others’ comments and questions along with a question that Pat Csinos and Fr. Santo will post every couple of weeks.

So check it out, and let’s begin to utilize a great service to young adults across the country.

Weekend Vocation Retreat Opportunities

Over the next few months, dates and locations will be set for upcoming Retreats for the Fall and Winter. Brochures will be available with the next Vocation Newsletter in October.

Watch for updates at www.redemptorists.ca

Check out the Web!!

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

Check these ones out!



Canadian Vocation Network
 Catholic Information Centre
 Contemplative Outreach
 Catholic Greetings
 Faith Guide
 Movie Reviews
 Redemptorists in North America
 Redemptorists in Edmonton-Toronto Prov
 Redemptorists in Rome (General Gvnm’t)
 Vatican
 Vidimus Dominum (Newspaper about Religious Life)

www.vocations.ca
www.catholic.net
www.centeringprayer.com
www.catholicgreetings.com
www.bustedhalo.com
www.usccb.org/movies
www.redemptorists.com
www.redemptorists.ca
www.cssr.com
www.vatican.va
www.vidimusdominum.org