



Destination C.Ss.R.

Redemptorist Vocation Newsletter

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It has been a busy few months in the Vocation Office here in Toronto. Amidst responding to Vocation Information Requests and planning for the upcoming Vocation Retreats, I have been involved with Pat Csinos in the High School Retreat Ministry Program. During the fall, a group of young adults began formation and preparations to animate high school retreats in the Toronto region. We will be conducting these retreats over the next few months. Plans for next year's program are already under way! If you're going to be in the Toronto area, and are interested in begin involved, let me know!



DIALOGUE 2006 is approaching quickly! This summer, 200 young adults from all over North America, will gather with Redemptorists to share faith, community, and

build a vision of ministry with young adults. The theme of this year's gathering is, "Plug into Christ". Following this gathering, the young adults of the Edmonton-Toronto Province will participate in "Gathering the Circle", a Summer Leadership Camp for the leaders of Liguori Circle across Canada. These two important gatherings will assist in the mission of the RYVM (Redemptorist Youth Vocation Ministry) Program for the province over the next few years!

There are several Vocation Retreats planning for across the country over the next couple of months. If you have already attended a Vocation Retreat, you are invited to participate in a "second-stage" retreat in Sudbury in March. Contact me for more details!

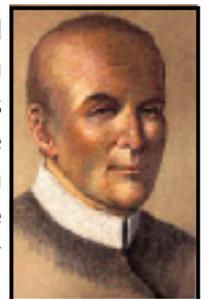
I hope this issue of the Newsletter is helpful to you and your discernment journey. Blessings and Peace,

St. Clement Hofbauer C.Ss.R.: Called to Preach the Gospel Anew!

Feast Day of St. Clement: March 15, 2006

A contemporary of St. Clement made this reflection on his preaching: "The marvelous attractive power of his sermons must be traced to no other source than his strong, living faith - a faith that had become, as it were, the very breath of his life and an essential part of his very being. To give one simple example: when preaching on the Incarnation, Clement would reverently clasp his hands as he said, 'Our very own flesh he has taken unto himself!' These simple words uttered with an apostle's conviction impressed all his hearers. Clement put

into practice in his life and preaching the words with which John begins one of his letters, 'That which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hearts have touched, we declare to you.'"



Taken from *In the Spirit of Saint Alphonsus* by Terrence J. Moran, C.Ss.R., p. 59

For More information about the life of St. Clement, go to: http://redemptorists.ca/our_saints/clement.htm

Journeying into the Desert..... Anticipating Lent!!!



As we move deeper into winter, we know that spring is on the horizon. With the coming of spring, we are reminded of the new life that has been given us through the power of the Resurrection of Christ Jesus. In less than one month, we will make that Lenten journey into the desert once again. It is a time of fasting, a time of almsgiving, and a time of prayer.

As we journey through each week of Lent, we are invited to reflect on the Sunday readings with all God's people to move closer to the giving of oneself of Holy Thursday, the cross of Good Friday, and light and broken tomb of the Easter Vigil. They are all significant moments for us Christians. They are all significant moments of our faith journey in our sharing of the power of the Resurrection.

We mark ourselves with ashes on Ash Wednesday to bring us into the desert of the journey of Lent. We prepare that day to be a people of prayer, alms, and fasting that day.

Each Sunday in Lent follows specific themes in this desert journey, especially through the Gospels that we hear.

- **First Sunday: TEMPTATION** - Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted (Mark 1:12-15)
- **Second Sunday: TRANSFIGURATION** - Jesus is transfigured before His final journey to Jerusalem (Mark 9:2-10)
- **Third Sunday: THE NEW TEMPLE** - Jesus predicts that after three days, the temple of His body will be raised up. (John 2:13-15)
- **Fourth Sunday: THE MISSION OF JESUS** - God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:14-21)

- **Fifth Sunday: DISCIPLESHIP** - Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. (John 12:20-33)
- **Palm Sunday: THE PASCAL MYSTERY** - Reading of the Lord's Passion according to Mark (Mark 14: 1-15:47)

How will you make the most of this Lenten journey into the Desert with Jesus? What are they ways that you might be challenged and called forth to bring new life to the world through the power of the Resurrection?

Practical Ideas to help you enter into this holy season:

1. Create a simple prayer space: purple cloth, candle, cross, sand, stones, nails.
2. Use a nail as a meditation piece during the season of Lent, then use it as part of your prayer on Good Friday.
3. Incorporate a reflection on the Way of the Cross into your prayer time. Perhaps attend a parish Way of the Cross service.
4. Save your extra pocket change during the season, and then donate it to Development and Peace, or Share Lent.
5. Spend time in prayer each day with the daily readings for Mass.
6. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
7. Attend all the celebrations of the Easter Triduum.

May God continue to bless you in this holy season of Lent. As we begin this journey into the desert, may we remember that Jesus enter the desert as well. May we be focused on His journey as a model for our own.

Remembering Valentine's Day: Take the Celibacy Quiz!

It is important in discerning a vocation to religious life and priesthood to reflect on our ability to be the most loving person we can be. Often we don't equate celibacy with our ability to love with our fullest capacity. But celibacy and celibate chastity is not just about not having sex. It's more than that. I hope that this quiz will give you a taste of what the commitment of celibacy means for vowed religious.

To test your ability to live successfully as a celibate, answer "YES" or "NO" to the following Statements.

1. _____ I have close friends who are my peers (around my own age, similar education and social circle)
2. _____ I have a life!
3. _____ I can enjoy time alone.
4. _____ I can set limits.
5. _____ I have a personal relationship with God and spend time in prayer.
6. _____ I can say "No".
7. _____ I am willing to love those no one else will love.
8. _____ I don't need to satisfy my own needs immediately
9. _____ I can delay gratification.
10. _____ My social circle is a mix of men and women.
11. _____ My prayer life supports my struggle to be chaste. (not chased!)
12. _____ I know how to be intimate without being active sexually.
13. _____ I have made and kept commitments in my life.
14. _____ I can be honest, down to earth, realistic, joyful, and warm (not all at the same time, no one is perfect!).
15. _____ Most of the time, I am comfortable with my own body and emotions.



Questions about Discernment and Formation

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)

THOSE WHOM THE MISSION ADDRESSES

Luke will probably be the Gospel preferred by the Redemptorists of the new millennium, the Gospel of the poor, of the little ones, of the weak, and of... Missionaries. The conscious dedication of the founding motto - "to evangelize the poor" - is the choice that justifies and qualifies the Congregation. We are talking about the central nucleus of our charism. To be in favor of the "poor and the abandoned" means to come to grips immediately with the world we want to evangelize, with its problems and with its hopes. It is our way of being modern.

Taken from "Missionary Charism for the Third Millennium" written by: Francesco Chiovaro C.Ss.R. from the Naples Province, written in *To Be A Redemptorist Today*

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 following 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 Issue: "Are you involved?", and "Charity begins at home."

Next Issue: "Where are you now?", and "Living and Loving"

IV. Where are you now?

1. What are you doing now? Working, Studying, both?
2. Are you happy in what you are doing? Do you find it fulfilling?
3. Because of your desire to become a

religious, do you think it is useful to have professional training?

4. What do you know of the life and conditions of people? Who are those abandoned today? Who is attending to them?

V. Living and loving.

1. How do you get along with members of the opposite sex? Have you been in a steady relationship?
2. Have you thought about marriage?
3. Since you have been thinking about religious life, has your attitude towards others changed in terms of attraction? How? Why?

Constitution Corner

Art. 6: Dialogue with the World

19. In order that missionary work may develop and be really successful, adequate knowledge and practical familiarity with conditions in the world are essential as well as co-operation within the Church. For this reason, the members of the Congregation confidently engage in missionary dialogue with the world.

In a spirit of brotherly concern they should try to understand people's anxious questionings and try to discover in these how God is truly revealing Himself and making His plan known.

Indeed they know that only the mystery of the Word Incarnate throws true light on the mystery of humanity and on the full reality of its calling. With this knowledge they reveal the all embracing nature of redemption, and give witness to the truth that whoever follows Christ, the perfect human being, becomes more human.

Give your 2 cents worth!

"Dear Alpha....." & "Room with a View" are opportunities to ask questions, engage discussion, grow in faith, and learn a bit from sharing, and expert Redemptorist advice.

Go online at www.redemptorists.ca and hit Quick Links: "Dear Alpha....." or "Room with a View" to have your say!

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Young Adult Ministries

Liguori Circle

If you're looking to connect with young adults to share faith, fellowship and fun, get involved in Liguori Circle! Cities hosting Liguori Circle include: Grande Prairie, Saskatoon, St. John's, and Toronto. See the Website for Details!

S.E.R.V.E.

S.E.R.V.E. is a 5 week opportunity for Young Adults (age 18-30) to live in Redemptorist Community, work in apostolic opportunities, and together grow in faith through prayer, reflection, and Eucharist. This year, S.E.R.V.E. will be taking place in Saskatoon and Sudbury from

May 13-June 17, 2006

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2006

Check out our website for details!

Weekend Vocation Retreat Opportunities

See our Website for upcoming dates for Weekend Vocation Retreats in 9 locations across Canada!

www.redemptorists.ca

You can even register ONLINE!

Upcoming Location and Dates:

Toronto	February 17-19, 2006
Saskatoon	March 3-5, 2006
Sudbury	March 24-26, 2006
St. John's	March 31-April 2, 2006
Vancouver	April 7-9, 2006

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
 Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry
 Catholic Social Teaching
 Centre for Ministry Development
 Daily Reflection on Scripture
 Redemptorist DIALOGUE 2006
 Redemptorists in North America
 Redemptorists in Rome (General Gvnm't)
 VISION Magazine Online
 Youth, Young Adult Ministry, Movies, etc

www.vocations.ca
www.cccm.ca
www.educationforjustice.org
www.cmdnet.org
www.marklink.org
www.dialogue2006.org
www.redemptorists.com
www.cssr.com
www.visionguide.org
www.holyspiritinteractive.net

