



Destination C.Ss.R.

Redemptorist Vocation Newsletter



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The Amazing Race? - Memoirs from the Airport



November 3 - Grande Prairie, Alberta (Liguori Circle, Vocation Work)
 November 5 - Toronto, Ontario (Vocation Office)
 November 13 - Tucson, Arizona (Meetings)
 November 17 - Toronto, Ontario (Laundry !!!)
 November 18 - Ellwangen, Germany (more meetings)
 November 27 - Mellieha, Malta (Family)
 December 1 - Toronto, Ontario (Sleep????)

Over the past several weeks, and I mean several, I have been on the go. It has mostly been for meetings, either for the North American Redemptorist Vocation and Formation Directors Gathering in Arizona, or to Germany where I represented North America at the General Secretariat for Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry (RYVM)... Of course, since I was in Europe, I thought I would see my sister and her new husband in Malta (we're not Maltese by the way). It was finally time to return home. Since of course the day this newsletter was to be printed was the day I was going to be on the plane.

I suspect that most of us find ourselves going a bit nuts at this time of year. Even right now, I'm sitting in the Airport in Frankfurt at the McDonald's! It was the only spot with an electrical outlet and a chair! Around me, I see a Christmas Tree, "McDonald's Merry Monopoly" signs in many different languages, people from all over the world getting a taste of McDonald's finest foods, and listening the cacophony of multilingual announcements about gate assignments and departures; that is, in between the endless list of country songs imported from America. It can be such a mental rush to travel. But that is what it is: A RUSH. Waiting for a plane in the midst of rushing. But what a feeling it is to find your seat on the plane and you breathe a sigh of relief, only to be greeted by the anticipation of landing at your destination that comes about 20 minutes later, and you look at your watch and see that you still have 8 hours to go. But I digress.

It becomes a blessing, and even a prayer that I write this reflection in the midst of it all. (But do know, that I'm watching the monitor to see when they will display my gate number!) All to remind us that we need to do what we can to be present to the moment, to be present to God in the midst of it all.

Advent begins now. It is the time of waiting for the coming of Jesus our Redeemer to be born again in each one of us this year. It is the beginning of a season that is marked for us by the coming of final exams, Christmas break, parties, visits, food,

traveling, being with family, and I'm sure you can add to the list! Thank goodness I don't travel again until January for Vocation retreats and vocation visits!

How will we, take the time to prepare, to wait in the midst of the "rush-rush world" that is called our life. Right now we have the good intentions, yet we notice by the 3rd week of Advent that we need to renew the promise for reflection, prayer, and preparation for next year. But we need to be present in the moment where we find ourselves, that is, in the here and now.

How conscious are we of Christ's presence in our busy-ness, in those that we meet over the next few weeks? How can we make the journey of the next 3 1/2 weeks (remember Advent is shorter this year) become an "Amazing Race" towards the goal of this Christmas celebration.

We are a people in need of peace, tolerance, respect, love, and living in the moment. We have an "amazing" opportunity before us. Take the time this Advent to renew our commitment to Christ. Renew our commitment and relationship to this tiny child who comes to us, and only wants us to love Him. That's all. Simple. However, if we don't watch out, we'll get distracted and arrive at Christmas only hoping for the best for next year. But that becomes the pattern of our life for the rest of year as well: never taking the time we need to pray, reflect, be present to Christ, and allow us, each one of us, to become Christ present and born again in the world.

The RYVM Office in Toronto is happy to announce the launching of the "Busy Person's Advent Online Retreat" at the www.redemptorists.ca website.

I hope that you can make use of it as you journey each day through the Advent Season, and make it part of your prayer time each day to assist you in reflecting on the coming of Christ once again. As for me, like many of you, it will be a challenge. But it is important to make it an amazing race towards to goal. Christmas will come. Will you get on board and bring others into the race so that Christ may be born in each one of us again this year. I would like to thank Kathy Perry for her hard work in preparing the reflections on the website for each day! Oooooooops, they're announcing my flight, gotta go!

Have a Blessed Advent,
and of course, a Merry Christmas!



Questions regarding the Discernment & Formation Process

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

What you have been saying about "Redemption"!

We have been receiving many thoughts and reflections about the concept of Redemption through the Online Survey. Here is a glimpse at what you and others have been saying!

- Even though we're sinners, we have eternal life through Jesus Christ
- Grace despite my human failings. Seeing who I really am in the eyes of God.
- *I believe God is always there to save us, knowing what is deep in our hearts and minds. If we are using our "free will" and are "ready" with our hearts and minds, that his saving grace will be there for us always.*
- **Jesus is my Redeemer, as he changed me into a servant of all. He redeemed my selfish life into a selfless one.**
- The Youth are the most spiritually starved in society today. Whereas one can say that the older generations have rebelled against a religion-centred life, the youth have never been given a real chance at learning about God.
- **Redemptorists are "people" people. Anyone can relate and easy to approach!**
- **Redemptorists need to make God real! Bring Him to the streets, to the video games, to the internet, to night clubs. They must view God as loving instead of contradicting their lifestyle.**



Have your say!

If you haven't responded to our Online Survey, "What does Redemption Mean to YOU?" then go to

www.redemptorists.ca

and click on the rubber wristband to find information about Redemption and have access to the Survey.

Log on today!

"Blessed is she who has believed!"

Mary is "Full of grace": The angel greets Mary with the words: "Rejoice, O highly favoured daughter! The Lord is with you." As she is frightened at the sound of this greeting, he reassures her: "Do not fear, Mary. You have found favour with God." And to the question: "How can this be since I do not know man?" the angel answers: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:28, 30, 34, 35).



Image of Mary painted by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Mary stands before us as the highly favoured one. God turns to her. He calls her by name and the Spirit of God overshadows her. It is through God's great favour that Mary has become what she is. She gives expression to this in the Magnificat: "He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness..... God who is might has done great things for me, holy is his name" (Luke 1:48, 49).

Mary has a singular position in salvation history. At the same time, her life shows the primary importance of God's grace and favour in the lives of all human beings. God brings them into existence, bestows his favour on them, calls them by name, showers his love upon them and empowers them through the Holy Spirit.

Taken from "In the Spiritual School of Mary" written by: Alois Kraxner C.Ss.R. from the Province of Vienna, written in To Be A Redemptorist Today



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 purpose.



Come and See Retreat - Stage 2

Friday March 2, 2007 - Sunday March 4, 2007
Holy Redeemer Church, Sudbury, ON

This Retreat is for Vocation Contacts and Inquirers who have been on a Retreat across the country with Fr. Santo. Participants are welcome from all across Canada.

The weekend is hosted and facilitated by the Redemptorist Formation Team: *Fr. David Louch C.Ss.R., and Fr. Tom O'Rourke C.Ss.R.*

We will continue the discernment journey together by looking at specific issues in discernment, religious life, giving your life for service, prayer and reflection.

To Register, please contact
Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R. by January 15, 2007.
Mark it in your calendar now, and register!

Those who will be flying to the retreat can fly into Toronto, and we will travel from Toronto to Sudbury together. Plan to fly to Toronto by Thursday Night, and depart from Toronto on Monday Morning.

Redemptorist R.S.V.P.

(Response, Service, Vocation, Prayer)

Tuesday July 3, 2007 - Sunday July 8, 2007
Perpetual Help Residence, Toronto, ON

This gathering is for all current Vocation Contacts, and Inquirers from across Canada. It is an opportunity to come together as one group, to meet one another, grow in fellowship, pray, learn more about the discernment journey, specific issues of religious life and ministry, while finding time to relax, reflect, and have some fun!

This week will be hosted and facilitated by Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R. and other Redemptorists from across Canada.

To Register, please contact
Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R. by May 1st, 2007.
Mark it in your Calendars now, and register!

When making your plans, arrive by Tuesday July 3rd by about 5:00 PM, and depart Sunday July 8 after lunch.

Young Adult Ministries



Redemptorists & Young Adults Habitat for Humanity Trip!

The Redemptorists from the Baltimore Province are inviting Young Adults from other parts of North America to participate in a weeklong journey to Portland, Maine, to pray, share fellowship, and build a house!

This is a program that Redemptorists, youth, and young adults have done in the Eastern United States over the past several years.

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please let Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R. know by January 5, 2007.

The tentative dates for this will be the week of June 24th, 2007. More information to follow sometime soon.

S.E.R.V.E. 2007

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 & Sudbury from

May 12-June 16, 2007

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 10, 2007**

Check out our website for details!

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, Sudbury, and Toronto.
See the Website for Details!

ANNOUNCING: Busy Person's Online Advent Retreat

Go to our website each day during Advent for your daily dose of prayer and reflecting the midst of our "Rush-Rush" world!

Reflections for each day are available from December 3 - December 25

www.redemptorists.ca

Come and See Retreat Weekends!

Check out the website for information about the Come and See Retreat Weekends.

www.redemptorists.ca

You can even register ONLINE!

Winnipeg: January 19-21, 2007

Saskatoon: January 26-28, 2007

Toronto: February 9-11, 2007

Quebec City: February 16-18, 2007

Retreat dates are advertised on the website as well for Vancouver, St. John's, Sudbury, and Toronto.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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
Newspaper on Religious Life
Redemptorists in North America
Redemptorists in Rome (General Gvnm't)
Story of my Life - Vocation Test at.....
VISION Magazine Online

www.bustedhalo.com
www.vocations.ca
www.cccm.ca
www.catholic.net
www.cmdnet.org
www.vidimusdominum.org
www.redemptorists.com
www.cssr.com
www.vocations.com
www.visionguide.org