



“The Vine...”

Young Adults and Redemptorists Connecting Through Christ”

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I Remember Why!



Ann and her dog, Casper

The Advent season is my favourite time of year. Everywhere you go there are signs of Christmas celebration: music playing over the speakers in most stores, people purchasing gifts for their loved ones, the sense of hope and anticipation for the coming of Jesus as our own flesh and Saviour. Now that Christmas is over and we are celebrating Jesus as a man every week in Ordinary time, I celebrate a new season: the season of exams!

As I write this reflection, there is exactly one more week until semester 1 exams begin. I am a high school teacher. Every day presents new and exciting challenges: meeting with a parent, tracking down missing assignments, investigating questionable absences, committee meetings, attending swim practice as a staff rep, setting up equipment for laboratory experiments, cleaning up after the lab, photocopying exam reviews, marking final projects, strategizing to help a struggling student succeed, unit planning for next semester, and the list goes on and on... Some days when I come home, all I want to do is fall asleep and wake up at the end of June. I ask myself, “Why did I decide to become a Catholic teacher?” Then I remember why – every student was created by God and has a mission on this planet which was assigned by God. It is my vocation to help that student realize his/her mission.

It was during SERVE that I realized teaching was my vocation. In the spring of 2002, I flew from Sudbury to Edmonton to live at Clement House for 6 weeks. My apostolate was Elves Child Development Centre, a school for children with severe needs. For those six weeks, I deepened my Catholic faith through prayer, community and service. It was during this same time when I had the incredible opportunity to hear Jean Vanier speak at a L’Arche event in Edmonton. He spoke of the brokenness that we all possess in some way, and how we are called to love everyone with *Agape*, unconditional love. I realized that I was called to live this message as a high school teacher.

(continued on page 4 “Remembering Why?”)

R.Y.V.M. INTERNATIONAL LOGO SEARCH

The General Secretariat for RYVM has been searching for submissions for a Logo for the RYVM International. Information packages outlining the specifications, samples plus the previous logo is available to you by emailing Fr. Santo Arrigo, C.Ss.R. at:

vocations@redemptorists.ca.

Deadline for submissions is February 15, 2007.





Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.

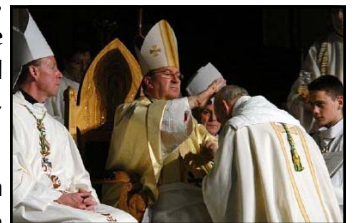
On January 25, 2007, Redemptorists and, the Church around the world rejoiced and celebrated the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of The Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R. as the Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan in northern Alberta.

Archbishop Gerry as born on September 6, 1950, as the 3rd of 4 children. At the age of 16, Gerry entered the minor seminary with the Redemptorists in Brockville, ON to test his call of a vocation to Redemptorist life and priesthood. Over the years, Gerry studied hard for his B.A., M.Div, and an eventually a MA in Spirituality and Counseling. Gerry was ordained on May 7, 1977 in Toronto.

In the years following his priestly ordination, Gerry has worked in Parish Ministry in St. John's, Toronto and Grande Prairie. Gerry has also served as Vocation Director, Novice Master, and been a part of the Redemptorist Youth Mission Team in St. John's and Saint John.

In Gerry's most recent ministry, he had been pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Grande Prairie, AB for seven years. During this time he has shepherd the people in building a new Church, which is soon to be opened.

The Episcopal Ordination on January 25th was held at the Crystal Gardens in Grande Prairie, since the new Church was not ready, and the current Church is unable to hold the 1400 people who were in attendance. 30 Redemptorists, and Priests serving in the Archdiocese, 15 Bishops, family, friends and over 1300 parishioners from St. Joseph's Church and parishes throughout the Archdiocese came to celebrate with their new Archbishop.



Gerry continues the tradition of Redemptorist leadership within the Church in the ministry of Bishop. Over the centuries, there have been many Redemptorist Bishops including our Founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. John Neumann, Bl. Vasily Velychkovsky, Canadian Bishop Gerald Murray, and countless Bishops who still serve the Church in leadership today.



The gifts for ministry that Gerry has been given will truly be a gift to the Church, not only in northern Alberta, but the Church in Canada and around the world. Gerry is a man of compassion, prayer, faith, and love for those for whom he is called to minister. He has been, and continues to be a model of the Redemptorist Charism, brought to life through the work of the Holy Spirit and in his priesthood.

Archbishop Gerry, we continue to pray for you, and pray with you as you begin your new ministry in the Church. We also ask you to pray for us Redemptorists and for all the young men who are discerning their call to our way of life. We also look forward to continuing to serve with you in Grande Prairie and throughout the Church in Canada.

The only way to end here is to quote Gerry himself, who wrote at the end of his Ordination program by saying,

"Thanks, God. You're the greatest!"

Anthony Bidgood C.Ss.R. to be Ordained a Priest

On April 14, 2007,

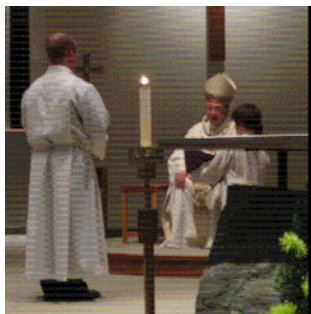
at St. Theresa's Church in St. John's, NL

Tony, we join you in prayer during this time of preparation for your Ordination, and we will continue to hold you in prayer as you begin your priestly ministry!

If you would like to share your prayers of support to Tony, you can contact him at our parish in Sudbury:

Anthony Bidgood C.Ss.R., Holy Redeemer Parish

1887 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury Ontario P3B 1S7



Tony's Ordination to Deaconate.



Tony presenting his parents with a cross.

What Do You See?

Fr. Ed Eherer, C.Ss.R.

From the time I was a child, I've always loved optical illusions. They have the ability to amaze us and perplex us at the same time. A classic example is the picture entitled, "The Young Woman and the Old Woman." Depending how you hold the image, you can see wither an elegant young female or alternatively, a frail, old woman. What is most amazing is that some people can see both images, while others can only see one or the other.



The Epiphany of our Lord is a similar kind of event. The three wise men see the appearance of the star and the revelation of God to the world as a wonderful, joyful event. But Herod sees it otherwise – he sees it as a threat to his lifestyle, to his power. And he wants to put an end to this challenge to his authority.

The appearance of Christ among us can be equally challenging. Most of us are content to live out our lives quietly, without disruption; we strive, above all, for predictability and normalcy.

But there's nothing normal or predictable about the Incarnation! It challenges us in a radical way to see the world differently. It calls us to embrace a program which is even revolutionary and earth-shattering. It means nothing less than seeing everything through the eyes of love.

Yes we have just recently celebrated and hopefully reflected on the Epiphany but perhaps we could benefit by some additional reflection at this time. What is the Epiphany for us truly? Has it come and gone or do we continue to welcome it, even embrace it joyfully? In the shadow of the Epiphany, what do you see?

Journeying through Lent Together!

ASH WEDNESDAY is FEBRUARY 21st!



Have you ever gone in the wrong direction, only to find that it seems like there's no way out? On our Lenten journey, we are allowed to make U-Turns; in fact we're encouraged to do so! We have the chance to turn back to God when we have done something wrong, or hurt someone, and seek forgiveness and reconciliation from God and others. Lent offers us the chance to start over.

At different times in our life we notice that we are in need of repair. We may need to change the way we view life, or how we act towards people we may not get along with. We may need to change certain things about us that may not be good for us. We are in need of repair. Lent is a time to look at ourselves to see things that we can change for the better, to become the person who God calls us to be; and we take the time to work on those things that need repair. It's okay to see in yourself things that need change, and it's great to have the courage to make those changes happen.



A merge sign is a reminder that at different points along the road, our paths should meet the paths of others. The traffic flows more smoothly if we all work together. We are a community, and during the Season of Lent, we are asked, "How do we work together to help those who are less fortunate? Do I see everyone around me as a brother and sister, all cared for and loved by God?"

You have come to the right place. You have been invited to gather at the Table of Christ with other hungry people to be fed on your journey. We fast during Lent to help us remember that it is God who sustains us on the journey, and gives us the food we need. The food we need and eat here at Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. It is around the table that we meet our brothers and sisters, and together, we become the presence of Christ in the world.



Join us this Lent for Prayer and Reflection

Online Busy Person's Lenten Retreat

www.redemptorists.ca

Remembering Why cont'd...

It never ceases to amaze me just how much students today have to deal with. I begin each of my classes with a prayer. I invite them to share any intentions they have with the class, and every day themes of bullying, broken relationships, illness and death are presented. At these moments throughout the day, I know that this is my vocation. I love being able to give my students a compassionate space and enable them to feel comfortable and supported as we listen to and pray for their needs. Offering my own intentions as well shows my students that I am human also, feeling what they are feeling and encouraging them to develop their own sense of prayer and their own sense of who Jesus is to them. They see that to me, Jesus is my friend: the one I turn to when I am overjoyed with the birth of my friend's baby, or when I am saddened by the death of a family member.

Most of the courses I am teaching this year are grade 9 courses. In September, the students hesitantly walk in with their brand new uniforms and the coolest binder they could convince their parents to buy for them. Some of them look so small, compared to the giants in grade 12. Grade 9 is scary! Only a few months ago, these students ruled their elementary schools. Now they are back at the bottom, trying to fit in so that they can climb the popularity ladder as fast as they can. Catholic schools are not just about curriculum with the extra Religion course. It's so much more than that. It's about reaching out to those frightened "minor niners" and showing them that it's really not so scary. It's about helping them develop a sense of pride for themselves, the person God is calling them to be, as well as pride for their community. I see my students at Mass each week, at the grocery store, even at the coffee shops. They're everywhere! Sometimes I want to hide from them, because I don't want to be "on" as a teacher in public, but we live in the same community. We are all God's community. It makes my day when they approach me to say hi. Even though I may be wearing my grubby clothes on a Saturday afternoon in Wal-Mart, it's worth it because I know I'm making a difference for the good in their lives.

As a Science teacher, I am familiar with various laws and theories of physics. I understand how our bodies function. I can explain a chemical reaction. I can not explain, however, how it's possible for students to lose so many pencils! It seems that every day I lend out about a million pencils only to end up with none at the end of the day. As a Catholic teacher, it is my vocation to encourage my students to be persons of service. Attending to those in need requires one to be respectful, compassionate and a steward of God's Earth. There is no text book or web site where they can learn how to do this. The only way my students will learn this is by observing others who already practice it. So I don't mind spending many dollars at Staples loading up on pencils all the time, because it's just one of the many ways I show them how to be of service to others.

A teacher is successful if his/her students understand the material presented to them. A Catholic teacher is successful if his/her students realize the amazing gift of knowledge that they have been given by God, and use it to the best of their ability. As the end of semester one is fast approaching, I thank God for bringing these students into my life. The season of exams will be over soon, and with it comes the season of semester two!

Ann Csinos is a Catholic teacher at St. Mary's High School in Woodstock, Ontario where she teaches math and science. She has been involved with the Redemptorists for some time with SERVE (participant and team member), Dialogues (participant and young adult team member) as well as attending Holy Redeemer Parish in Sudbury, Ontario until 2005 when she moved to continue her education and begin her teaching career.

SERVE 2007

Summer Endeavour in a Redemptorist
Volunteer Experience

Come Discover Christ in Yourself and in Others!

Join us for five weeks of reflection, friendship,
and service.

May 12—June 16

Twelve young men and women, 18-30 years of age
are invited to live in community with Redemptorist
Priests and Brothers and to grow together in
prayer, Eucharist, and service.

Two Locations!

Holy Redeemer Parish, Sudbury, ON
St. Mary's Parish, Saskatoon, SK

Applications available ONLINE

www.redemptorists.ca

Deadline for application: March 10, 2007

Diedre's Detour!



Life is full of surprises and you never know what the Lord has in store for you. Has anyone ever said this to you? I'm sure they have, but have you really ever stopped to think about the detours that the Lord has guided you on over the years? Well, I would like to tell you about one of mine. It all began in May 2000 when I travelled to Québec to be part of the Youth Pastoral Team at the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. I can still remember arriving at night and seeing the two red lights placed atop the steeples shining from a distance. These lights may be insignificant to most people who drive by, but seeing them actually calmed my nerves. It was as if Good Saint Anne had left the porch lights on and was waiting up for me.

Deidre Pike The following morning, I finally had the opportunity to meet the other members of the team. I felt excited but at the same time a little anxious. I was the only person on the team whose native tongue wasn't French. What would I do if I couldn't have a normal conversation with them? Luckily, everyone was very open and supportive, and as I dusted off my high-school French, they in turn dusted off their high-school English. We got to know each other and within a few days, a team spirit and sense of fraternity began to emerge. I'm sure we had our share of ups and downs during the summer, but all I can remember today are the good times: chatting around the dinner table, playing floor hockey, participating in impromptu jam sessions, going for midnight McFlurry runs, or hopping on the bus to visit nearby Québec City. At the beginning of the summer, these people were complete strangers to me, but by the end of August, they had become good friends.



One thing that reinforced our friendship was the work we did at the Shrine. We were all invited to put our faith into practice and to use the different gifts God gave us to serve others. We did this by leading various pastoral activities, such as the Holy Hour, Stations of the Cross, and Rosary, and through participating at Masses, candlelight processions, and concerts. Personally, I had never led a Holy Hour or Rosary before. And during the summer I was even asked to sing during a Way of the Cross (I had never sung in public before either!). But I knew the Lord wouldn't leave me hanging. He granted me all the graces I needed to fulfill His will and I very much enjoyed being involved in the Shrine's ministry. However, what touched me the most by the end of the summer was not what I had given of myself. It was rather all that I had received from others. This was due in large part to the pilgrims I met along the way. Through their magnificent and life-changing stories of faith and devotion, my own faith was strengthened and I finally understood why Saint Anne held such a special place in their hearts. Up to this day, I consider it a blessing that the Lord lead me off the beaten path so I could meet these wonderful people who in turn helped lead me to Saint Anne.



At the end of the summer, I returned to Newfoundland to continue my studies, but the detour wasn't over yet. I returned as member of the Youth Team in 2001. I stayed in Québec after that to finish my studies. In 2005, I got married to a man I had worked with on the Youth Team in 2000. And finally, in 2006, after studying and working in another field for several years, Good Saint Anne called me back to the Shrine. I am now a pastoral worker here and in charge of the Youth Team. I guess the Lord's not finished with me yet. I think it's safe to say that I'm living prove that life is full of surprises and you NEVER know what the Lord has in store for you.

Bonne Sainte Anne, priez pour nous! (Good Saint Anne, pray for us!)

This summer, be part of the Youth Pastoral Team at the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré!

We are presently looking for young adults who will enrich the team with their personality, talents and creativity. Theological studies are not mandatory. Bilingualism, musical ability and theatre experience will be considered, but again are not mandatory for all. We ask that you be available from May 22 to August 26, 2007. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2007.

For more information about the Youth Pastoral Team, or to send in your resume, contact:

Deidre Pike (418) 827-3781 ext. 2153 dpike@ssadb.qc.ca.

Basilica's website: www.ssadb.qc.ca.



Check Out The Following Programs for Young Adults
More Information On line at: www.redemptorists.ca

Redemptorist—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 contact Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R. at: vocations@redemptorists.ca by February 28, 2007.

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

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: Grand Prairie, Saskatoon, St. John's, Toronto, and Sudbury.

*Toronto: Feb. 15, March 22
Contact: Fr. Jon: 416-598-3269*

*Saskatoon: Feb. 11 @ 5:30 pm
March 4 @ 7:00 pm
April 1 @ 7:00 pm
Contact Fr. Remi 306-244-2986*

*See Website
for complete details*

S.E.R.V.E. 2007—Application Deadline—March 10, 2007

Join us for five weeks of friendship, prayer and service.

See promotional ad on page 4!



Happy Valentine's Day!

**Come and See Discernment
Retreat Weekends!**

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

You can even register ONLINE!

Toronto: February 9 - 11, 2007

Sudbury: March 2 - 4, 2007

St. John's: March 30 - April 1, 2007

*Redemptorist Youth/ Vocation Ministry
Contacts:*

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Email: ryvm@redemptorists.ca

E-mail: vocations@redemptorists.ca

www.redemptorists.ca



Join us Feb 21 to April 8

On-line Lenten Retreat for the Busy Young Adult

www.redemptorists.ca