

Into the Deep

Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry

A Ministry of the Redemptorists of the Edmonton-Toronto Province



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Seeing Into the December Woods

Ah, December. By now (no matter where you are in Canada!) the leaves are off the trees and scattered about wherever you go. Have you taken a walk lately, since the leaves have left their trees? Familiar places look different.

This time of the year brings to mind the woods behind the house that I grew up in. My mother was nuts about trees! To celebrate the Centennial Year of Canada, my father bought her 100 trees and we had a great time planting them! As I grew up, so did the trees. In no time at all we had a wonderful little woods hugging our family home.

It was great fun in the summers; trails, and tree houses, rabbits, squirrels and lots of birds. But in the late fall, particularly December, just before the snow came, it became a whole new place! You could see the snake holes and the nests of the birds. The evergreens were taking front stage. You could see right through to the corn field out back!

I was thinking of this just recently as I was walking my dog through the wooded areas down the street from my house in Toronto. Although I had spent a great deal of time this summer and fall walking the dog in this area, now it was like walking through a new place. With all the leaves off the trees, you could see so much deeper into the woods. What was hidden before was now open to the eye! You see the familiar, but differently. Now that you can see beyond the leaves, the greenness and the brush, you see actual branches, trunks and lots of squirrel nests! But you can also see the brokenness within the woods. Different areas that are in need of attention such as broken branches, weeds and even discarded garbage. Through the deepness of the woods you can see what gives the woods its foundation, its grounding. The woods in a way become transparent. The light shines into it now. The shadows are all new. You can see the depth of what the woods have to offer. Perhaps it's the quietness, the leafy ground covering, or the enticing smell of a December woods that lures me into wondering about depth.

to look deeper into the woods of our neighbourhoods but also an opportunity for a deeper look into the woods of our hearts. With December comes the Season of Advent. This season is a time to take notice of those areas in our lives that can be easily overlooked because of those things that continually distract us or demand our time and attention. Although the 'leaves in our lives' are beautiful, could some of them be creating barriers between us and God? Is it hard to notice Christ in your life because of the denseness of the woods such as the frantic schedule of exams, Christmas shopping, decorating and parties?

"Let's look deeper into the woods of our hearts and see what might need to be cleared out to let Christ's light shine in our lives."

Joyful times, yes, yet stressful times too!

Maybe it's time for us to see December differently? Christ came into this world to bring light to God's people. Through this wonderful gift from God, Christ has been born in each of us, as our loving Savior. Through the wonderful gift from the Church, we have another Advent Season to consider how we live this gift in our lives.

Can people see this light of Christ shining in our hearts or have we hidden Christ's light so deep in our hearts that for most of the time, we hardly notice it ourselves? Regardless, Christ is there and the Advent season is upon us again. Let's embrace this opportunity! Let's look deeper into the woods of our hearts and see what might need to be cleared out to let Christ's light shine in our lives. One way of doing this is by joining us in our On-line Busy Person Advent Retreat. It involves connecting with our website each day for a five minute scripture reflection. You will also find there a couple of pertinent questions that you can carry with you in reflection throughout your day. The information is on the back page of this newsletter.

Knowing that Jesus is forever in the woods of our lives, let's let that light shine brightly!

Pat Csinos

Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry

With December comes a new opportunity

Hospitality and the Eucharist: Session by Fr. Leo English, C.Ss.R.

By **Andrea Ledding** SASKATOON (from the Prairie Messenger) -- Hospitality and the Eucharist means "a place at the table with everyone's name written on the placemat" explained Rev. Leo English, CSsR, during a morning session at the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Saskatoon Oct. 27.

During the special interest session on Parish Hospitality and Community Building, English gave participants an opportunity to reflect on their own experiences with hospitality in the church and on the Christian imperative to extend hospitality at all times.

"Hospitality is how we open the door to God – we sometimes equate it with good manners but it's much more than that – it's a gospel mandate," said English, adding that we reveal the presence of God when we show hospitality. "We need to ask: 'can those who see us see the One who sent us?' Jesus is the host, we are the guests, and we share our gifts as stewards."

English also emphasized the importance of inclusion, and the need to reach out to all: the single, divorced, separated, men, women, youth, the elderly, and the marginalized.



"Is there programming reflecting consciousness and awareness of everyone wanting a place at the table? Who is included and who is not?" asked English.

The session addressed instances of hospitality throughout the gospel, in individual places of worship as well as among individuals themselves. English presented a portrait of The Last Supper in which women and children are also gathered around the table with Jesus and the apostles, as well as a picture of Jesus lined up with others for a homeless shelter

or soup kitchen as a reflection of the gospel read at the beginning of the session: "whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do unto me."

"Our place of welcome must appeal to all the senses," added English, noting that as well as places of quiet there should be places for visiting, and all sensory aspects needed to be included. "We must be able to taste, see, hear, smell, feel, in order to experience Jesus because we are all drawn to Jesus in unique ways."

He also noted the variety of ways in which Christ is present all take place in the present moment, and to extend hospitality, which is the responsibility of every Christian, we must also "live in the sacrament of the present moment", especially when greeting someone.

"Making eye contact, a firm handshake, using their name, and actually meaning "how are you" are all important ways of greeting someone – and listening – it's the small stuff that adds up," said English, adding that a respect for one another's time in this pressured world was also a way of being genuinely hospitable.

His session, one of many which took place during the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, was attended by some 100 people in the basement of St. Joseph's Hall and ended, appropriately, with bread, beverages, and an opportunity to socialize.

Fr. Leo English, C.Ss.R., is a Redemptorist Priest currently one of two Priest Moderators serving Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon, as well as traveling to parishes at Asquith, Delisle, and Canscoy outside of Saskatoon, SK.



Some ways that you can show hospitality and be Eucharist to others ...

- Make donations of food, clothing or children's toys to local charities or churches for Christmas hampers.
- Volunteer at a shelter to prepare and serve a Christmas dinner.
- When you greet someone with "How are you?" make sure you mean it!
- Visit the elderly at a nursing home.
- Offer to take your elderly neighbour Christmas shopping, then treat her/him to dinner.
- Become a 'greeter' at your church.
- Make eye contact with the person you are extending the 'sign of peace' to during Mass.
- Offer someone that parking space ahead of you during the busy Christmas shopping season!



Top 10 Reasons why YOU should attend a Redemptorist Come and See Retreat!

10. It's free.
9. It's a weekend away from the hustle and bustle of life.
8. Because my grandmother says I should be a priest or brother, and now I want to find out for myself.
7. Three square meals! (At least on the Saturday!!)
6. Chance to meet other men who are wondering about their future.
5. There are opportunities for prayer, discussion, and reflection.
4. You get to meet the Redemptorists and find out what we are all about.
3. It's a chance to travel to an exotic location like Saskatoon, St. John's, Vancouver, and Toronto!
2. You believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ is indeed 'Good News', and needs to be proclaimed through evangelization, mission, and living community.
1. You are compassionate, and believe that Jesus the Redeemer has something to say to all people.

But don't just take my word for it, 'Come and See' for yourself!

Upcoming Retreat dates are listed in the box to the right. Go to our Website for more information about Discernment and the Retreats itself.

Even participate in a "Virtual Online Discernment Retreat" at your own pace!

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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

Vancouver: January 18-20, 2008

Toronto: February 1-3, 2008

Saskatoon: February 22-24, 2008

St. John's: April 4-6, 2008

Toronto: July 4-6, 2008

See the website for more details.....

For Discernment and Retreat Opportunities, Contact:

Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R.
Coordinator of Redemptorist Vocation Ministry
456 St. Germain Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1W7
Phone: (416) 789-3217 Fax: (416) 789-9266
vocations@redemptorists.ca

www.ryvm.ca

Evangelizare Pauperibus et Pauperibus Evangelizari

Don't Miss Out!

49th International Eucharistic Congress— Quebec City, June 2008 Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry Pilgrimage



(www.bonsejours.com)

The RYVM Team is planning to bring a delegation of 15 young adults (age 18-30) and 3 Redemptorists to the event.

Event Dates: June 15-22, 2008

Hotel Accommodations: Hotel Bonsejours, Quebec City (2 per room, but bring a sleeping bag / inflatable mattress)

The group will travel from Toronto by van on **June 14th and return to Toronto June 23rd.**

Cost: If application for registration is received **before December 21, 2007**, the cost is **\$420.00** per person. If application for registration is received **after December 21, 2007**, the cost is **\$450.00** per person.

Note about the Cost per person: The cost of the event will include: Hotel, Registration, Lunch during the Congress, Transportation from Toronto, Transportation during the Congress, Group T-Shirt, and Preparation materials.

Other meals like breakfast and dinner are not included in this registration fee, and will be the responsibility of each person to provide for those meals, unless otherwise specified.

Thank you to the Redemptorists of the Edmonton-Toronto Province for their financial contribution to help keep our 'cost per person' low. :o)

Go to www.ryvm.ca for further registration details and information about the Congress itself, and to download an application.

For more information, contact Pat Csinos or Fr. Santo Arrigo at our office in Toronto (416) 789-3217.

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 Toronto:	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,

On-line Busy Person Advent Retreat Starts Dec. 2.

www.ryvm.ca

S.E.R.V.E. 2008

Summer Endeavor in a
Redemptorist Volunteer Experience

If you are a young man or woman between the ages of 18-30, and looking for a faith-filled challenge, join us for a five week live in opportunity with one of our Redemptorist Catholic Communities. Together we will grow in our understanding of prayer, the Eucharist, and being of service through ministry as a volunteer.

SERVE takes place at
Holy Redeemer Parish in Sudbury, ON.
from **May 3-June 7, 2008.**

St. Mary's Parish in Saskatoon, SK.
from **May 10-June 14, 2008**

For An Application Contact:

Pat Csinos
S.E.R.V.E.
426 St. Germain Ave.
Toronto, ON M5M 1W7
(416) 789-3217

ryvm@redemptorists.ca



Applications now available ONLINE, at www.ryvm.ca

Deadline for applications: Feb 22, 2008

S.E.R.V.E. Celebrating 20 Years: 1988-2008



The Redemptorists: Edmonton-Toronto Province



Summer Endeavour in a Redemptorist Volunteer Experience

S.E.R.V.E. is 20 years old in 2008!

In celebration of this milestone we have gathered all the S.E.R.V.E. banners that were crafted by the participants themselves (starting in 1993) and created a very attractive, eye-catching poster (11"X 17"). Yours for the asking! These posters are available through Liguori Circles, your local Redemptorist Priest or email us your mailing address at ryvm@redemptorists.ca .



Stepping Back, "Out IN the Cold!"



By: Fr. Santo Arrigo, C.Ss.R.,

With all the hustle and bustle around this time of year, we are almost shocked to have to look at our calendars to see how the months have just past us since we were at this point a year earlier. It almost seems like yesterday that autumn had officially arrived, and now we face the official start of winter as the days continue to grow dim, and the commercials for the season's favourite toys become more frequent. It seems as if life just flies right by, yet the Season of Advent, our preparation towards Christmas, is an opportunity for us to stop, reflect, take stock of life, and our need for Christ to be born in us again. The irony of the season then comes to life because we get so bogged down with thoughts of what is needed to be done: turkey, trees, gifts, lights, plum pudding, carols, staff parties, egg-nog, and of course, Christmas cake! All in the name of our Christmas preparations! I guess it is all a question of balance.



The other night, I worked my first shift back at St. Patrick's Out of the Cold Program in Toronto. It was evening, and the meal was completed. I stayed by the front desk, helping with crowd control, and helping to make referrals for other shelters since we were full with our overnight capacity. As some of the crowd slept, some watched the evening movie feature on the television, and I became very conscience of the imbalance of life. They were there for the night, sleeping in the church basement. Our guests from "Out of the Cold". Tomorrow, they would be off to another church or shelter for a hot meal and a warm place to sleep. And we will see them again next Sunday to visit, eat, and stay over once again.

In a moment when I was sitting by myself at the desk, looking out on the crowd of people bunking down for the night, I was slowly singing the somewhat forgotten words of "Away in a Manger".... I think the Spirit was working in my mind and heart that night, because the only words from the song I could recall were, "no crib for his bed", "no crying he makes", and "asleep on the hay". Later as I continued to look on at the crowd in the dimly light hall, the words from the song, "be near me, Lord Jesus" came to mind, and I was profoundly touched with the sense of Christ's presence in the hall that night. Touched by the sense that the words of that familiar song spoke of a reality 2000 years ago, yet was true of the reality that night. Jesus was there with us as they slept. Because he came down and was born among those we least expected, including us!



Perhaps that is the mystery we celebrate in Advent, finding Jesus in those whom we least expect, including us! Perhaps my journey that night, and the journey that I have taken each year in working at Out of the Cold, either cooking, doing first aid, or working with the volunteers, is the quest of the wise at Epiphany.... seeking Christ here and now, and knowing that he came for each one of us.



The life we experience at Out of the Cold isn't a matter of just being there to give food, clothing and shelter for homeless people. It is truly an opportunity to see in our guests the face of Christ, keeping ourselves honest about the important things in life, giving thanks for the good things we have been given, but also an opportunity to share those good things with our new friends whom we welcome each Sunday night.

May Christ find in your heart, a place to be born. May it be a place of warmth, shelter, and welcome. And may that welcome be brought to birth in the world through you! Amen!

Liguori Circles Continue Across Canada!

Inspired by the Redemptorist founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori, these Circles are places of welcome, prayer, discussion, and fellowship.

Liguori Circle is a time for Young Adults (age 18-30) and Redemptorists to come together to grow in faith and friendship through sharing God's word, growing in their sense of mission in the community and in the world, and reflecting on the work of God's grace and Redemption in their lives, and in the lives of the People of God.



Liguori Circle gatherings are open to any young adult who is interested in exploring different elements of his/her faith, and who desires to be part of a dynamic group of like-minded young adults.

For more details about Liguori Circle see our website: www.ryvm.ca or contact the following sites for more details (see below)



Liguori Circle Details

St. Mary's Redemptorist Community of Saskatoon, SK

Contact: Fr. Remi at 306-244-2983
Location: 211 Avenue O South, Saskatoon
Dates are: Jan 11, Feb. 10, March 2, April 6, May 4

Holy Redeemer Redemptorist Community of Sudbury, ON

Contact Fr. Tony Bidgood at 705-566-8330
Location: 1887 Bancroft Dr. Sudbury
Dates are: TBA - check website for dates

St. Joseph's Redemptorist Community of Grande Prairie, AB

Contact: Fr. David Purcell at 780-532-2351
Location: 10273-111 Avenue, Grande Prairie
FACEBOOK GROUP: 'Liguori Circle - Grande Prairie'
Dates are: The 3rd Tuesday of the Month

St. Teresa's Redemptorist Community of St. John's NL

Contact: Fr. Steve Morrisey at 709-579-3532
Location: 120 Mundy Pond Rd. St. John's NL
FACEBOOK GROUP: 'Liguori Circle'
Dates are: The First Sunday of the Month

St. Patrick's Redemptorist Community of Toronto ON

Contact: Fr. Jon Hansen at 416-598-3269
Location: 141 McCaul St. Toronto, ON
Dates: TBA - start up in January 2008

Redemptorists Celebrate 275 years!

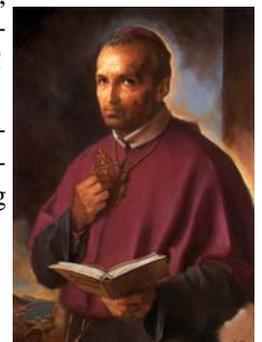


November 9, 2007 marked the 275th celebration of the Redemptorist Congregation. The General Government of the Redemptorist Congregation in Rome invites all in the Redemptorist family to renew our personal dedication to Christ the Redeemer, as well as giving our life for Plentiful Redemption. The third book in the Charism 2000 series: "Charism 3: The Apostolic Community Dedicated to Christ the Redeemer", will be published this year to be used for reflection in Redemptorist Communities, Vocation Ministry, and Lay Associations.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to deepen our commitment to Christ, understand how the Redemptorist Charism to Evangelization, especially to the poor and abandoned, is a gift to each one of us and in the Church, and to see how we are invited to share in this mission through SERVE, Liguori Circle, Vocation Discernment, Retreats and through association to Redemptorist Parishes across the Country!

As Redemptorists, we look forward to continuing this wonderful journey of faith with youth and young adults across Canada.

Happy Birthday C.Ss.R.!



On-Line Busy Person Advent Retreat: Starts December 2

Special Offer Each Day Through Advent!

An opportunity to pray, reflect and prepare your heart for the arrival of our Christ child. Each daily Scripture Reading is followed by a short, well prepared reflection which ends with a couple of questions for you to carry with you for the remainder of the day.



This year, you will read reflections prepared by Redemptorists and Redemptorist Lay Associates from all across Canada, as well as contributions by author Megan McKenna.

Join us as we pray for ourselves, one another, and for our world.

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

The Online Reflections will be available at www.ryvm.ca on December 2nd

Constitution Corner

III. Formation for Community Life

Statute 57. They shall be trained also in the practice of the virtues necessary for the apostolic community life. These are: brotherly love, self-denial, availability to all, especially the lowly and the poor, the ability to work in close co-operation with others in the labours of the apostolate, daring and firm confidence, simplicity and sincerity of heart, tolerance and kindness, the ability to suffer cheerfully in want, in labours, in trials and affliction and in persecutions for the sake of Christ.

Redemptorist Foreign Mission Opportunities for Young Adults!

- Are you looking for an opportunity of a lifetime?
- Would you like to participate in mission work with Redemptorists in places like Zimbabwe, Brazil, Peru, and Thailand?
- Join other Young Adults from around the world who are already taking part in some of these programs in a variety of ways.

Contact Pat Csinos or Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R. if you are interested in finding out more about these opportunities for you to work in a Redemptorist mission with the poor and abandoned across the globe. Timeframes for opportunities are flexible, but may be fixed based on the specific placements available.

Check out this site for some mission opportunities: www.serve.ie

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.vocations.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