



Diploma in Ministry Program News & Views

September 2003

The **News & Views Newsletter** will advise of upcoming events, new courses and news pertaining to the St. Francis Xavier University Diploma in Ministry Program. The Ministry Program is offered in a distance education (print based) format to adults across Canada. The program is designed for those who may be involved, or who wish to be involved, in ministry in their parish or diocese. It is also of interest to those who wish to learn more about their faith for personal reasons. Our students include those involved in parish pastoral council, hospital ministry, prison ministry, teachers in the Catholic School system, RCIA directors and volunteers, religious education coordinators and volunteers in parishes, palliative care ministers, diocesan staff, campus ministers, and those who wish to learn more as part of a personal faith journey. **News & Views Newsletter** is issued three times a year, at the end of January, April and September. You are invited and encouraged to send along information that you think will be of interest, (e.g. upcoming conferences, ministry experiences, resource materials, job postings, etc.).

Program Office Staff: Mary MacInnis, Programs Coordinator; Cindy MacEachern, Programs Assistant

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Thank you!

Welcome to the Fall 2003 term! We are especially pleased to offer a warm welcome to our students and local advisors, both new and returning.

It has been a busy and challenging summer and I invite you to visit our updated web-site @ www.stfx.ca/academic/ministry for details on many of the topics mentioned in this newsletter. Thank you to **Ray Roddick** in the StFX On-Line Learning Centre for his expertise in completing this project.

We are delighted with a very successful offering of the Nouwen Summer Institute held during June. A big thank you goes to **Irene Lefort**, who acted as on-site coordinator for the Institute. Everyone enjoyed the personal insights and giftedness of the guest speakers, **Sue Mosteller, csj, Jeff Imbach and Joe Vorstermans**. It was a time of thoughtful spiritual reflection and an enriching experience for everyone involved.

Our travels this past spring/summer brought us to Gander, NL for the *Atlantic Religious Educators* annual meeting, to Halifax, NS for the *Association of Roman Catholic Communicators*, to Saint John, NB for the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of their *Lay Formation Program*, and to Ottawa for a meeting with the newly formed organization, *Celebrating the Call*. We were warmly received at each of these events and welcomed the opportunity to meet those interested in our programs, as well as friends, both old and new. Our travels will continue this fall with a

visit to Moncton for the Atlantic Liturgical Conference, followed by the AACYM Conference, in October and later in November to Winnipeg for the Canadian Association of Ministries Programs annual meeting and the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators. I hope to have the opportunity of meeting many of you during one of these events!

The Certificate in Youth Ministry courses offered on campus in July gave fourteen participants the opportunity of learning with two exceptional course facilitators; **Gertrude Rompre** of Saskatoon, and **Miles Meyers** from Regina. Our web-site offers details, photos, and testimonials. We invite you to share the web-site with interested individuals from your parish.

We are pleased to welcome the participants in the new course, *Ecumenism: an Introduction*. This course began in early September with registrations received from across the country. It is interesting to note that many of the participants are graduates of the Diploma in Ministry Program. **Sister Donna Geernaert** has done an exceptional job of developing a course which introduces a complicated topic with an insightful and caring presence. Her years of experience in the field of ecumenism give her a rich background to bring to her writing.

Jeff Imbach has submitted the draft for what promises to be an exceptional course on the life and spiritual writing of Henri Nouwen. (Details below.)

For many years we have nurtured a dream of being able to offer bursary funds for students in need. That dream has now been realized with help from you.

In closing, I wish you many blessings in this time of harvest and invite you to contact us at any time if we can be of assistance.

IMPORTANT NOTICE re Orientation tapes
Due to technical difficulties we are not able to provide orientation tapes for all of the courses this term. We apologize for this and hope that you will be content with 'meeting' the course instructors through their welcoming letter in the course manual.

COURSE DEVELOPMENTS

We would like to thank **Michelle Kucey** for her years of service to the Diploma in Ministry Program. Michelle served as Program Coordinator from 1996 to 1998; and as course writer/instructor for both MNST160 *Self-directed Study* and MNST170 *Practicum* courses from 1998 to 2003. The successful development and subsequent growth of the Diploma in Ministry Program can be traced directly to her dedicated efforts. Michelle recently gave up her position as course instructor to pursue other career opportunities. We wish her all the best and thank her sincerely for her commitment to lay formation in Canada. THANK YOU, MICHELLE!

Dr. Marjory Gallagher, SC has also decided to move on. Marjory wrote and instructed our course on the sacraments, MNST140 *God and the Christian Tradition* since the initial offering in 1997. This has been one of our most popular electives and we owe a debt of gratitude to Marjory for the insight and experience that she brought to this course. She teaches in the Canon Law department of St. Paul's University, and recently served as Acting Dean for her department. With her added work load and her many other commitments, it leaves little time to relax. We wish Marjory God's peace as she continues her excellent work. THANK YOU, MARJORY!

APPOINTMENT OF NEW INSTRUCTORS

Susan Eaton, course writer and former instructor for the MNST120 course, *Adult Religious Education*, has accepted the instructor's role for MNST160 *Self-directed Study* and MNST170 *Practicum* courses. Susan assumed this position in July 2003, and has established a strong rapport with the participants in these courses.

Rev. Sydney Miffen has been appointed as course instructor for the MNST120 course, *Adult Religious Education*, for the winter 2004 term.

Rev. Paul Abbass has been appointed as course instructor for the MNST140 course, *God and the Christian Tradition*, offered in the winter term.

Check our web-site for biographies on these exceptional instructors.

A Theology of the Heart: The Life and Writings of Henri Nouwen will be offered in the Winter 2004 term. Course writer and instructor: Jeff Imbach. Participants may register by phone, fax or e-mail. *This course is an intense, practical introduction to the rich legacy of Henri Nouwen's life and writings. Through the course assignments, interactions, and responses, the students will be given opportunity to interact intimately with the wide range of Henri's literary output, to allow these important themes to intersect with their own life experience, and to develop a creative response to the material covered. It is the course writer's deep desire that Henri's honest commitment to the spiritual journey will resonate deeply in the souls of the students, and that his writings will encourage them to search for and claim the unique themes of their own spiritual development.* Details and registration forms can be found on our web-site under *Additional Courses @ www.stfx.ca/academic/ministry*, or by contacting us @ **1-877-867-5562**. Enrollment is limited.

3-CREDIT COURSE BY DISTANCE EDUCATION

We will once again be offering a three-credit course by distance education (print package), CS241 *Sin & Salvation in the Catholic Tradition*. This course will be offered in the winter term, beginning January 5, with **Dr. Richard Nash** instructing. Application fee, \$30; tuition \$592.50.

This course will study the themes of sin and salvation as they appear in the Bible, in literature, and in two great theological controversies, the Pelagian controversy of the 5th century, and the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. Call us for details.

COURSE REGISTRATION - WINTER 2004 TERM

Course registration forms for the winter term will be sent to students in **October**. Registration is accepted by phone if you are paying tuition by credit card.

WINTER SCHEDULE

MNST110 *Ministry in the Christian Community*
MNST120 *Adult Religious Education*
MNST140 *God and the Christian Tradition*
MNST160 *Self-directed Study &*
MNST170 Practicum (open access)

BURSARY FUNDS AVAILABLE

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the family of the late **Dan & Margaret O'Brien** of Moncton, NB who has established a yearly bursary in their memory. Contributors to this annual fund include **Dr. Brian O'Brien, Halifax; Mrs. Marie McIsaac, Halifax; Mrs. Sylvia Smith, Saint John; and Dr. Kevin O'Brien, Antigonish.** Thank you for your ongoing support for lay ministry in Canada through the Diploma in Ministry Program. The **O'Brien Memorial Bursary** of \$500 will be awarded to a returning student in good standing with the Diploma in Ministry Program for either the fall or winter term.

Thanks to the generosity of a few graduates, students and friends of the Diploma in Ministry Program, we are pleased to announce that we are now able to offer an annual bursary through our **Diploma in Ministry Program Bursary Endowment Fund.** To-date we have funding to award one bursary for \$500 which will be awarded annually to a new applicant to the program, in either fall or winter term.

Contact the program office to request details or an application form for either of these bursary funds. Deadline for applications this year is November 14. In future years, the annual deadline will be August 15.

Every contribution is important. As the fund grows, we will increase the number of bursaries awarded each year. To make a donation to our Bursary Endowment fund, forward your cheque, payable to St. Francis Xavier University, to **Linda Henke**, Development Officer at X, (E-mail: lhenke@stfx.ca, St. Francis Xavier University, P. O. Box 5000, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5. Please be sure to indicate that the funds are to be used for the **Diploma in Ministry Bursary Endowment Fund.** All donations to StFX University are tax deductible.

YOUR NEWS & VIEWS

You are invited to contribute to this segment of the newsletter by forwarding your news/views to the program office.



Congratulations to St. John's, NL student, **Janet Battcock**, and her husband on the birth of their first child, Juliet Aoife (Aoife is Irish for Eve and is pronounced "Eefa". Juliet was born August 9th. Please remember this young family in your prayers.

Congratulations to our student, **Nancy Pinsonneault**, Woodstock, Ontario, on her acceptance into the

Master of Divinity Program at St. Peter's Seminary in London, ON (University of Western Ontario). Nancy will receive her Diploma in Ministry at Fall Convocation 2003 and has been awarded credit for some of the DMP courses toward her Masters program. She is also the recipient of the Bishop John Michael Sherlock Catholic Leadership Award through King's University College. We wish Nancy all the best as she continues her studies.

Four graduates of the Diploma in Ministry Program live in Nunavut. I recently met up with two of them, **Lynn Rollin** and **Nadine Lamoureux**, at a conference in Ottawa. They continue to work in ministry in Arviat and area. One of the interesting projects that they have underway is the production of teaching booklets which they plan to have ready for a liturgy workshop to be held in October. Future plans include having the material posted to the web and thus made available to everyone. At this point they have three booklets on liturgical life: *Introduction to Sacramentals*, *Liturgical Actions* and *The Art of Presiding*. Future plans include a follow-up booklet on sacramentals that will look at all parts of the Eucharist, with a short explanation, biblical quotes and historical notes. All of their booklets are in color and are enhanced with pictures of the North. If you would like to receive a copy of the booklets, contact Lynn @ mikilaaqcentre@eudoramail.com.

Nadine Lamoureux will serve as Coordinator at the Mikilaaq drop-in Centre this winter along with the help of **Jennifer Moore**. Nadine is also involved in music ministry in the parish and helps to produce the adult faith education material. **Jennifer Moore** produces the communities' newsletter, *Northern Bloom*, as well as the design for the educational material.

Another graduate, **Susan Pameok**, is continuing her education and is presently in Rankin Inlet finishing a second year in Management Studies. She hopes to graduate in Spring 2004. Congratulations one and all!

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

For alumni who contribute to the Annual Giving Campaign @ X, we ask that you consider designating your donations to go directly to the Diploma in Ministry Program. All contributions to this fund will be used for program development and will be most appreciated. Donations are tax deductible.

SEVEN ORDAINED TO PERMANENT DIACONATE

Congratulations to seven of our students who recently were ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Kingston. These seven men, along with three of their wives, will receive a **Diploma in Ministry** at StFX's Fall Convocation 2003 as part of

Kingston's requirements for diaconate training. The men are also enrolled this term in a third elective, MNST150 *Contemporary Catholic Issues*. The following comments and article were copied with permission from the August/September issue of *Journey*, Kingston's diocesan paper. We begin with some comments from **Patrick Ritchie**, in response to questions from *Journey* to the newly ordained deacons about their work in ministry. This is followed by an article written by Ron Kelly, editor of *Journey* on the ordination ceremony.

Patrick: *"My work with seniors is generally long term care. My wife Agnes sometimes assists me in this ministry. To see Jesus in the eyes of a senior person is extremely magnetic and soulful.*

My ministry in spiritual care —at its heart — is a particular art of conversation. This ministry offers a distinct service. This conversation with my senior friends focuses on that place inside where the 'psyche meets the spirit'.

That space or place to me is the soul. For such a dialogue of souls to occur the spiritual care worker must bring his or her whole self to that moment of encounter with the person to whom they are ministering. The years of diaconate study in theology and other related disciplines all really come together in this art of dialogue wherein empathy and the search for meaning are brought together.

To sum up, the deacon and his wife are a diaconate couple. To go through the diaconate formation without Agnes would have been impossible. Sometimes it was an emotional roller coaster — it wasn't easy — but with much prayer and discernment the Holy Spirit guided us through the whole experience. We have been called, formed and we have been sent."

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Patrick and Agnes Ritchie



Article by Ron Kelly, Editor of *Journey*, photo by Fred Happy

Seven men affirmed their resolve to serve God and the Church and were ordained to the permanent diaconate in a very formal ceremony on June 28 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston.

Orlando Diaz, Don DiRocco, Robert Fencott, Brian Hanoski, Eric Lawson, Richard Neary and Patrick Ritchie knelt in turn before Archbishop Anthony Meagher and pledged to respect and obey him and his successors.

The Archbishop placed his hands on the head of each candidate to impart the Holy Spirit and, with the prayer of consecration that followed, he conferred the Sacred Diaconal Order upon each candidate.

The newly ordained deacons then donned the vestments proper to their new office: the stole that is worn for all liturgical services and the dalmatic — the liturgical outer garment of deacons.

Vested as deacons the newly ordained knelt again before Archbishop Meagher. He placed the book of Gospels in the hands of each man and said: "Receive the gospel of Christ whose heralds you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you teach."

This ceremony marked the culmination of years of joint study and preparation by these men to become permanent deacons.

Throughout the ceremony each new deacon was accompanied by his wife. The couples processed into the cathedral together and they stood together at the altar. During the presentation of candidates, the wives of the men also came forward, agreeing to accept the adjustments to family life that will come with their husband's reception of the diaconate.

In his homily before the rite of ordination Archbishop Meagher made special comment about the strength that the couples drew from their love for each other.

He said that the life experiences of married deacons bring an added dimension to their work for the Church, the parish and the faithful.

"The work of the deacon takes him out into the community where he works with the disadvantaged in our society," said Archbishop Meagher. "He carries the message of Jesus Christ into the workplace and the marketplace and he brings the needs of others back into the parish."

He said that there's a culture in the workplace that goes against the Catholic faith and he encouraged the deacons to be an influence to counteract that culture.

Archbishop Meagher said it was nice to see so many priests and deacons come out to support these men and he expressed his sincere thanks to Msgr. Don Clement, Sister Shannon and the members of the committee that sustained the diaconate program in the archdiocese. Archbishop Spence launched the program in the Archdiocese of Kingston soon after the permanent diaconate was re-established by the

Second Vatican Council. The ordinations bring the total number of permanent deacons in the archdiocese to 18.

Deacons may assist during the liturgy, distribute communion, administer baptism, witness and bless marriages, and officiate at wakes, funerals and burial services. They may also proclaim the Gospel at Mass and preach the homily.

Further articles are available in the August/September issue of *Journey*, (613-548-4461). In addition to Don, Patrick, Orlando, Robert Eric, Brian and Richard, we offer our sincere congratulations to **Janet Hanoski**, **Agnes Ritchie**, and **Jacqueline DiRocco** who will also receive a Diploma in Ministry from StFX University in December. We send our best wishes to these men and their wives who have offered their gifts in service to God's people.

GRADUATION 2003

Fall Convocation will be held **December 6** in the MacKay Room of Bloomfield Centre, StFX. The day will begin with a celebration of the Eucharist @ 10:30 a.m., concelebrated by Bishop Raymond Lahey, Rev. Gerald Campbell, Rev. Paul MacNeil (Campus Chaplain), and Rev. Bedford Doucette (Director of the Antigonish Lay Formation Program). Following the mass, a luncheon will be held in the Keating Millennium Centre (www.keatingcentre.com). Details will be sent to eligible students in October. Graduation ceremony is at 3:00 p.m., followed by a reception for all graduates & guests.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Atlantic Liturgy Congress, October 10 -12, 2003 at the Delta Beausejour Hotel in Moncton, NB. Keynote speakers: **Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher**, Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall, and **Bernadette Gasslein**, Editor of *Celebrate*. Open to all persons interested in Christian liturgical celebrations. Call 506-867-9531 or fax 506-857-9533 for details.

Atlantic Association of Catholic Youth Ministry (AACYM) will hold their annual general meeting October 24 – 26 in Memramcook, NB. Their theme is "Nurturing the Spirit of Leadership". This annual conference is open to those serving as youth leaders, coordinators, pastors, and others interested in the formation of our youth. Call 506-857-9531, ext. 227.

The **Canadian Association of Ministry Programs** annual conference: Winnipeg, MB from Nov 5 – 9, theme: *Vatican II and beyond: The vision of the laity, where are we now?* Presenters Reg Bibby and Rev.

Richard Cote. For details, call 204-237-9851, ext 217, fax 204-237-9942, rcampeau@archsaintboniface.ca. I am honored to have served on the Executive of **CAMP** as the representative for Eastern Canada for the past two years. In November, we will be seeking a new rep for this region. **Note:** Members from the Atlantic region are asked to consider nominations to be brought forward at the Business Meeting of the conference.

The **Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators (WCCRE)** will be held in Winnipeg, MB, **November 12-16, 2003**, on the theme of the General Directory for Catechesis. For more information contact: (250) 964-4424 or plumtoo50@hotmail.com

YOU ARE INVITED to become a friend of the Nouwen Society in Canada. Please contact: nouwensociety@nouwen.net, 905-884-0025, or see their web-site for details: www.nouwen.net

HELPFUL TIPS

Working with course manuals: New students are often surprised (dare I say shocked!!) when they receive their first course manual. It is very convenient to receive the complete course at once, which allows for flexibility in study/reading time, but we realize that the size is rather intimidating. The manuals contain all eleven lessons, plus any additional required readings other than textbooks. **To make working with the manual more manageable**, we suggest that you remove the lesson and required readings that you will need for a particular week and transfer them to a smaller binder. As you complete each lesson, it can be returned to the larger binder before removing the lesson for the following week. This also makes the material more portable and gives you the opportunity of taking advantage of reading time while commuting to work, waiting in line ups or traveling on vacation.

Contacting local advisor or instructor: If you have any problems in contacting either, please let Cindy or me know so that we can help you connect.

Required readings: Any problems with photocopy quality or missing readings should be reported to us ASAP.

Assignment due dates: We have changed the due dates to allow two weekends for working on assignments. Both assignments per course are now due on **Wednesdays** (check your manual for dates). If you have any questions, please contact us.

REMINDERS

Course registration forms for the winter term will be mailed in October. Contact the Program Office if you do not receive one.

MNST110: Father Richard Rohr Video – Students who work independent of an advisor, and who received a copy of this video are asked to return it to the Program Office following completion of the MNST110 course.

Credit received – Let us know if you have received credit from another university for the courses you have taken through the Diploma in Ministry Program. We are often asked who is granting credits.

EXCELLENT RESOURCES

Spirituality of Adult Education and Training, Authors: **Leona English, Tara Fenwick and Jim Parsons**. This book acknowledges that spirituality is an integral part of adult learning and development. Building on the history of adult education and training, which is laced with spiritual themes and motivations, the authors suggest that the profession needs to recover some of its early concerns for holistic, spiritually informed, and socially responsible practice. Adult educators and trainers need this text which addresses all facets of spirituality and assists them in making pedagogical choices. The authors challenge readers to examine their own spirituality before and while they are nurturing the spirituality of learners. Here educators and trainers can explore new ways to make sense of their own spiritual lives and those of their students. **ISBN#: 1-57524-180-3**, available from @ <http://www.krieger-publishing.com>.

CARAVAN: is a wonderful resource for animators of adult faith formation: educators, RCIA teams, coordinators of lay ministry programs, marriage and baptism preparation committees and leaders of small groups. It is available from Novalis by subscription. **Tel: 1-800-668-2547** or 514-278-3025.

I Hear You: Responses from a Loving Friend, author: Ann Monster. The following quote taken from the introduction, explains the themes followed in this wonderfully well-written book of inspirational responses to God's love. *"Many times in life a person is crushed by what happens around them or to them. They have no control over these things and are therefore unable to come to grips with them. It is then that they should call on Me to help them deal with these painful episodes."* To order a copy/copies, e-mail showerofroses@sympatico.ca or write to Ann @

9 Shoreline Drive, St. Catharines, ON L2N 3V7. Cost is \$4.00, plus shipping and handling fees.

Website re Grief and Bereavement, (created by **Leo Fahey**, Stellarton, NS, Diploma in Ministry grad, 2000): <http://communities.msn.ca/namastesacre>.

Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto have a new website. Check it out @ www.csj-to.ca.

Earn a theology degree from home through **Newman Theological College (NTC)**. The new B.Th. Pastoral Option degree from NTC is available to be done by distance education except for two summer residency components. This 30-course degree also allows a generous transfer-in policy by which up to half of equivalent courses can be taken elsewhere. **Graduates of the StFX Diploma in Ministry Program receive 12 credits towards this 90 credit program.** For more information, please call the Director of the B.Th. Pastoral Program, Adela Torchia, at 1-800-386-7231, ext. 255 or email at adela.torchia@newman.edu.

Cindy and I offer a sincere thank you to those who have helped us to 'spread the word' about our Ministry Programs. It is through your support in having notices posted on bulletin boards, in newsletters or parish bulletins, including our web site as a link to your site, and most of all, by testifying to your experience, that interested individuals first hear about this opportunity. **THANK YOU!** And please – keep up the good work!!

Thank you! to **Jacqueline deVerteuil, csj**, Local Advisor in Toronto, and her enthusiastic students, for conducting an information session in Mississauga in May. It was a great success and led to the enrollment of several new students! If your group is interested in hosting or conducting an information session, please contact us. We would be pleased to make the arrangements.

FOR DETAILS ON OUR COURSES OR PROGRAMS CONTACT

**Locally: 902-867-3319, or
Toll free (within Canada)
1-877-867-5562, Fax: 902-867-5154**

diplomainministry@stfx.ca

www.stfx.ca/academic/ministry