

New members of the Lay Ministry Office:

James Dunn
Manager of Chaplaincy
Ext. 518

Mary Kelly
Manager of Stewardship
Ext. 560

Update on Sr. Bridget Nazareth:

On Sept. 22, Sister underwent a liver transplant operation. She is recovering well and living at Loretto Abbey (Infirmiry). She is thankful to the donor who made this possible, a Deacon of our Archdiocese.

Many thanks and best wishes to:

Eileen McGowan
Parish Social Ministry
Durham Regional Facilitator
Catholic Family Services of Durham
She moves on to a new ministry role as Leader of the Chaplaincy Team at All Saints Catholic High School in Whitby.

Beverly Carpenter
Parish Social Ministry
Etobicoke Facilitator
She remains co-ordinator for Parish Social Ministry at St. Dominic's Parish.

Our Heartfelt Congratulations

Congratulations to Fred MacKay for completing 21 years as Catholic Chaplain in the Spiritual Care Department at the Hospital for Sick Kids. Fred began in September 1987, and was the first lay hospital chaplain to be appointed in the Archdiocese of Toronto. As well, we thank Christina Dashko for 20 years of service in Catholic Chaplaincy which began in September 1988. Christina is currently at Mount Sinai Hospital. Thanks Fred and Christina, for these years of dedicated ministry.

If people do not feel welcome, they may go elsewhere! Hospitality on Sundays is often about greeters chatting with each other and with those they know; it may include an invitation to coffee in the hall after Mass. Hebrews 13:2 admonishes us: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Do we welcome the vulnerable, those outside the circle of parish relationships? There are strangers in our midst every week and some of them are people we see regularly but who may, unknown to us, be newly divorced, grieving a great loss, troubled by a family conflict, struggling with health issues... Do we welcome those who bring less to the encounter or do we regard hospitality as a form of networking? Whom do we welcome to Sunday Mass?

Some reading for further reflection:

Untamed Hospitality: Welcoming God and Other Strangers

Elizabeth Newman
Brazos Press, 2007
Christian hospitality is more than a well-set table, pleasant conversation, or even inviting people into your home. It is an extension of how we interact with God.

Making Room: Recovering Hospitality As a Christian Tradition

Christine D. Pohl
Wm. Eerdmans Publishing, 1999
Not a book about greeters and doughnuts after Mass.

A Day of Reflection

You are invited!



It is hard to find quiet places, to escape the noise of the world and our own inner noise. If your work connects you in some way to this Office, we invite you to take some time for yourself as we reflect on our vocation as lay people ministering to others in the name of the Church. **Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 24, 2009.** We will gather at Columbus Centre in Villa Colombo, 901 Lawrence Ave. West. Watch for further details as they become available.

Ryerson Catholic Chaplaincy Centre

Supported by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, the Ryerson Catholic Chaplaincy Centre responds to the spiritual and pastoral needs of students, staff and faculty as they struggle with the big questions that their studies or work may raise for their faith.

We have a cozy little house on McGill Street where students can find peace and friendship and take a few moments to pray. Whether you live downtown or are a commuting student (or staff), consider contacting us or visiting us to see what we can offer you!

Some of our current events include: Alpha on Campus; Mass (M, Fr 12:15), Faith Sharing (W 12:15 pm), faith-in-action trips and social events. We are located at 64 McGill Street / www.ryercath.ca

Kim Gottfried
Director of Chaplaincy Services
Ryerson Catholic Chaplaincy Centre

lay ministry
report

In this issue

Message from the Director.....1
Chaplaincy: A Call to Serve.....2
Stewardship: A Way of Life.....3
Events.....3
Hello! You're in my Seat!.....4
A Day of Reflection:
You are invited!.....4
News.....4

Message from the Director

Calling lay people to ministry

The clarion call of Vatican II and the renewal of the liturgy was to "full, active and conscious participation". More than 40 years later, we are still struggling with this in some parishes and the concept itself is being re-examined in many circles. When we talk about forming lay people so that we might minister in the Lord's name, we must recognize that many of us are not fully, actively, and consciously participating in the life of faith in general. We may attend Sunday Mass but many of us become dry souls shortly after it ends. Some psychologists even observe that many of us are not even fully engaged in our own lives but rather move through life as detached and lonely observers.

Calling lay people to ministry is not about jobs in the church! "...to respond to (our) vocation, (we,) the lay faithful must see (our) daily activities as an occasion to join "ourselves" to God, fulfill His will, serve other people and lead them to communion with God in Christ." *Christifideles Laici (17)* Being formed for ministry cannot result in lay people who are simply busy around the parish. Nor is it sufficient that we know even more about what we believe, as though faith is a set of beliefs only.



Archbishop Collins reminds us that "our lives as individual disciples, and as communities of faith, ...should, like Paul, be contemplatives in action." Well considered and systematic formation can help parishioners become effective witnesses of gospel life when we are able, with confidence, to discuss, explain and defend the Faith. Then the ministry of the lay person will have an opportunity to thrive and we will become full, active and conscious participants in the great cosmic liturgy.

Bill Targett
Director

We invite you to share your thoughts with us.

Send your comments to:

Lay Ministry, Chaplaincy & Parish Social Ministry
Catholic Pastoral Centre
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2
or by fax to (416) 934-3431
or by email to
layminst@archtoronto.org.

Please include your name,
parish, email address
& phone number.

Office of Lay Ministry, Chaplaincy & Parish Social Ministry

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Chaplaincy

A call to serve!

As a newly appointed Manager of Chaplaincy, I am becoming familiar with those who have chosen to answer the call to work in this diverse field. Though there are many areas in which this ministry thrives, I have recently met with some of the chaplains and spiritual care providers who work in our hospitals and long-term care facilities. I view these individuals as those called to a very special vocation. Their ministry allows them to touch lives that are often in great crisis and pain. There appears to be a definite correlation between a patient's religious and spiritual life and his/her recovery.

The ability to cope during a hospital stay is often assisted by a compassionate, pastoral presence. We all seek wholeness, not only physical well-being, but often spiritual understanding and peace. Illness can often trigger a search for something beyond us. A spiritual quest can begin with an unexpected life event and lead us in the direction of greater knowledge and understanding of God. A spiritual care provider can be part of this quest by listening, offering words of hope and encouragement and walking an unknown journey with patients who seek to be well. Religious needs of individuals are met by our many priest chaplains who also provide Eucharistic liturgies and confer other sacraments to those who request ritual healing as part of their response to

God's invitation to true wholeness. The pastoral dimension is of great value.

I am certain that religious and spiritual care persons bring their own experiences of the love of Christ with them to work. The ability to draw upon this in their daily response to illness, grief and loss, crisis intervention, communication with caregivers, conflict resolution and those countless acts of kindness that are never witnessed or recorded, is key to who they are as selfless individuals. Chaplaincy is truly a blessed and rewarding ministry and I am humbled to become acquainted with the fine priests, lay men and women who assume these positions in our Archdiocese. God bless you all!

James Dunn: Manager of Chaplaincy

A native of Granby, P.Q., Jim moved to Toronto in 1975. He has 33 years experience as a teacher, administrator, and religious education/family life consultant with both the Toronto and York Catholic District School Boards. He holds a Master of Religious Education degree from the University of St. Michael's College. Jim is an engaging speaker and has presented at many faith development days throughout the province including "When Faith Meets Pedagogy", the annual Catholic Curriculum Corporation autumn conference held in Toronto.



Gracious God,
You sent us St. Paul
To preach the Gospel.
Inspire us in faith,
And show us the way
To be good stewards
Of Your grace.

In our time together,
Show us how to be
Fervent ambassadors
Of Christ, Your Son.

Grant us the wisdom
To recognize that,
Through His gift of the
Eucharist, there is one Bread,
And we are one body.

Give us the courage
To proclaim the Good News
In word and deed.

And in the spirit of St. Paul
Teach us to live,
No longer for ourselves,
But in Christ Jesus
Who lives and reigns with
You
And the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.
Amen



Stewardship

A Way of Life!

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1Peter 4:10).

As stewards we are invited to use all our gifts, our time, our talents and our treasure, not just for ourselves but in service to God as Creator and Giver of all, in service to His Church and to our community. Stewardship calls us to a deeper understanding of our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others. For our faith to mature we must actively and assertively choose to follow Christ and to live our lives as God intended. Stewardship is a whole way of life.

This is not an easy choice today. We live in a consumer society where everything is

considered to have a price and consequently can be bought and sold. Many people apply the same consumer view to Church and have sought to "get something out of it" or at least have asked the question: "what can the Church do for me?" Our society puts great emphasis on the individual at the expense of the community. Me, I, my and mine are often heard in the language of our culture, replacing the concept of the common good, community, responsibility and duty.

Stewardship calls us to look outward and develop a service mentality to the people of God. "For the Son of Man himself came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). What a wonderful model for our lives as stewards.

EVENTS

Catholic Symposium for the Laity Group Leaders Gathering

Saturday, Nov. 15
8:30-3 pm
St. Roch's Parish
Registration required

"Knowing God Better" St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish

Brampton
Mondays at 7:30 pm
Until Nov. 24

"The Great Adventure: Journey Through the Bible" St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Thursdays at 10 am or 7:30 pm
Until April 2

"From Paul to John Paul: What Are Christians Saying About Jews?"

Thursdays at 7pm
Until Nov. 20
Paulist Centre
830 Bathurst St
Register: 416-534-2326

"Give God a Second Thought"

Mondays at 7 pm
Nov. 10 – 24
St. Peter's Parish, Toronto

Parish Social Ministry Workshops:

"Anxiety and Depression"

St. Anne's Parish, Brampton
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7 pm

"Healthy Aging"

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Mississauga
Wednesday, Nov. 26, 7 pm