



Ministry Programs News & Views Winter 2007

The **News & Views Newsletter** will advise of upcoming events, new courses, and policy changes pertaining to StFX Ministry Programs. Our main focus is the *Diploma/Certificate in Ministry Program* which is designed for personal faith growth, for ongoing formation to work in paid or unpaid lay ministry and as professional development for deacons and teachers/chaplains in the Catholic School system. Our students include those involved in hospital ministry, prison ministry, teachers in the Catholic School system, RCIA directors and volunteers, religious education coordinators and catechists, palliative care ministers, diocesan staff, campus ministers, and those who wish to learn more as part of a personal faith journey. The *News & Views Newsletter* is issued three times a year, winter, spring, and fall. We encourage you to send along information of interest, (e.g. upcoming conferences, ministry experiences, resource materials, job postings, etc.).

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

Hello folks:

The groundhogs may be 'officially' predicting an early spring but it still feels very much like winter here in Nova Scotia. But **Cindy** and I are keeping warm by working at a fast pace to keep up with all the new developments in the program office!

We congratulate the 21 students who received a **Diploma in Ministry** at fall convocation 2006. We were very happy to welcome participants from across Canada who were able to join us for the celebrations. As well, **Essie Hans** traveled from Bermuda with her husband, and enjoyed the festivities despite the drastic change in temperature! See page 2 for details on Graduation 2006.

Three courses in the *Certificate in Spirituality* program begin this week and Cindy has been busy offering technical support for those new to the CD format. Participants find the course content exceptional. This is the first offering of the fifth course in the certificate program, *Spirituality of Healing: Nourishing the Soul of the Caregiver*. We are very pleased to have course writer, **Tom Maddix**, facilitating the course with the able assistance of **Thomas Salley** (see p. 2).

A Theology of the Heart: The life and writings of Henri Nouwen, is now offered in a CD format. Thanks to course writer and facilitator, **Jeff Imbach** for his able assistance in making this possible. A warm welcome back to **Sharon Doyle**, course facilitator for SPRT120: *An Interfaith Journey: Exploring Prayer and Spirituality*. Feedback from past participants in the spirituality courses shows that they are delighted with the online discussion forum which gives them the opportunity to share their learning and experience with others across Canada and beyond who are taking the same course. A special thanks to the instructors who post the reflection and discussion topics for each week and monitor the discussions.

The **Diploma in Assisted Living: Human Care and Community** has officially been launched with the first course starting February 19. This distance education program is a professional/personal development opportunity of interest to individuals working or living with people who have a developmental disability. We welcome **Anne Escrader**, London, ON, as the facilitator for the first course (details p 3).

If you live in the Vancouver area, I invite you to attend an informal information session on **MARCH 4 @ 3:00 pm** in **Saint Francis de Sales** Parish Hall, 6610 Balmoral St., **Burnaby**. It is an opportunity to learn more about the various courses that we offer by **distance education**. It is our hope that graduates and former participants in the programs will be able to attend and to share their experience with others inquiring. Thank you to **Marguerite Goldsmith**, DMP graduate, for making the arrangements for this session.

If you (or your parish) are interested in hosting an information session in the coming months, please contact the program office so we can include it in our planning.

The T2202A forms for income tax purposes will be mailed by the Business Office by the end of February.

**Program Office: 1-902-867-3319 or toll-free @
1-877-867-5562 or 1-877-867-5561**

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUALITY

Courses offered in the fall term include
SPRT 110: *On the Road to Emmaus: Spirituality in the Christian Tradition*
SPRT 140: *Spirituality of Family and Relationships*
Details on the Certificate in Spirituality program can be found online @ www.stfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry-Spirituality.html or call today for an information package.

GRADUATION 2006

Congratulations to the 21 participants in the *Diploma in Ministry* program who received their diplomas at Convocation 2006. We were delighted to welcome the 7 participants and their guests who traveled from near and far to take part in the celebrations (see photo below). We offer our heartfelt congratulations to each of the graduates and invite you to keep in touch as you continue your faith journey and your ministry.

Gerald Blaquiére	Campbellton, NB
Stephen D. Bourque	Carleton, NS
Louise A. Brecht	Asquith, SK
Ronda L Burchartz	Oshawa, ON
Maura Cameron	Hammonds Plains, NS
Maureen Gurrie	Quebec City, PQ
Essie Hans, JP	Hamilton, Bermuda
Shirley Holzman	Wilkie, SK
Catherine E. Jordan	Corner Brook, NL
Guy Kelly	Calgary, AB
Roderick W. Maynes	Dartmouth, NS
Clayton L. McAleer	Chalk River, ON
Patricia Ann McCarthy	Gloucester, ON
Linda McInnis	New Glasgow, NS
Heidi Matthews	Erin, ON
Sharon Murphy	Amherst, NS
Patricia O'Connell	Belleville, ON
Agnes Rolheiser	Saskatoon, SK
Mary Helena Simpson	Guelph, ON
Stephen J. Treller	Mission, BC
Phyllis Wiscombe	Thompson, MB



Mary Boucher, local advisor for Vancouver and area offers congratulations to **Stephen Treller** as he proudly displays his Diploma in Ministry received in December 06.

Diploma in Ministry recipients who attended Convocation 2006 include: (back, l-r) Shirley Holzman, Rod Maynes, Essie Hans, Maureen Gurrie, Phyllis

Wiscombe, Gerald Blaquiére, Linda McInnis, and Mary MacInnis (Coordinator, Ministry Programs). Front row (l-r) Sr. Brendalee Boisvert, Associate Chaplain, StFX; Rev. Paul MacNeil, Chaplain, StFX; Bishop Raymond Lahey, Rev. Syd Miffen, Course facilitator, MNST120; and Susan Eaton, Course facilitator, MNST170.



Homily by Raymond J. Lahey, Bishop of Antigonish, Celebration of Eucharist, Convocation 2006

Years ago I had become practically convinced of a number of things. One was that the regime of apartheid that prevailed in South Africa could only end in a bloody civil war; another was that the Soviet empire that prevailed in Eastern Europe was destined to be there for a long time yet to come. But I have to admit that God surprised me, and made very plain that verse of the Psalm in which God said plainly: "My ways are not your ways."

We have had surprises in the Church also: the calling of a new general council of the Church by John XXIII in 1959 when he was expected to be only an interim figurehead; the election of John Paul II in 1979 that put an end to a period of over four centuries in which the Papacy had come to be regarded almost as an Italian monopoly.

I mention these things simply as illustrations that our God is a God of surprises; that the very nature of God means that we cannot fathom God's breadth and God's depths, and that we cannot predict or prescribe the ways in which God will act in our world. Rudolf Otto, a German theologian, wrote in 1911 that humans can only stand before God in an attitude of awe, and that attitude means that we must always allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the beauty, the might, and the love that are attributes of God, and allow ourselves also to be surprised by the action of God in the world that is God's own creation.

What has this to say in terms of ministry? First it must tell us that no ministry can ever be fundamentally institutional. Although any ministry exists only with a mandate from the Church, and must be faithful in

representing the very best that the institution has to offer, it can never only serve interests that are narrowly institutional. All ministry is ultimately at the service of the world that God created, and at the service of the whole of humankind whose salvation is God's will. Thus any person who exercises ministry must always see himself or herself within this perspective. There must always be a recognition that whatever we do in ministry, even though our commission regards only particular functions and duties, is carried out within this wider sphere. No ministry is directed only to the formation of lectors, or the catechesis of Grade Nine students, but always and ultimately to the service of God's world and to the salvation of every person God has created.

In practical terms then, we should always see ministry as an outreach to the world. Like the Church itself, ministry should be always at the service of the world in which it finds itself. It must always identify and serve the real needs of its own time, not some artificially created needs that have no true foundation in the hearts of people. Likewise, it must be always fundamentally social: while addressing individuals and thoroughly respecting the human dignity of every person, it must always seek to promote the common good and to build the kingdom of God in which all humanity is gathered in unity. Thus any ministry is ultimately also a ministry of justice and peace, for these dimensions can never be absent as we seek to serve the greatness of God and the real needs of God's people.

Further, any ministry must be entirely inclusive. As we minister, we must always remember that we are never dealing only with individuals. We are always representing God and the Church not only to those who are directly before us, but also to their family and friends, and also to the wider community, both local and ultimately global. We can exclude no person from that ministry and that care, whatever the social and even the theological differences that might exist between us, for the God in whose name we minister is the God of all and every human person bears God's likeness, and is the object of God's love and God's salvation that we represent.

What God will do then, perhaps even through our own hands and voice we may never know. But we must be prepared always to be surprised: surprised by people who will find and promote God in ways that we may never truly understand, and who can teach us things of God that may broaden our own horizons; surprised by events, for the way in which God may act does not have to fit our own agenda or even our prayers.

As you go forth from here today with a Diploma in Ministry, I would ask you to let the God whom you serve be God, let God be for you a God of constant surprises, for these surprises, even if off-putting to us, are always for the benefit of the creation God's own hands have made and for the benefit of the human persons who

bear in their own person the image of God that they reflect to all the world.

CONGRATULATIONS SHEILA JENKINS!

Congratulations to **Sheila Jenkins** who recently took part in a pastoral workshop/seminar focusing on the joys and challenges of ministering in the contemporary Catholic Church. Sheila was invited by the Toronto Archdiocese Office of Lay Ministry and Chaplaincy to be part of the panel discussion at Regis College. Sheila received her Diploma in Ministry in 2005 and is now Sacramental Coordinator for Sainte-Marguerite d'Youville parish in Brampton, ON. We will have further details on Sheila's experience in the next issue of *News & Views*.

We invite graduates and current students to share their experience in ministry and/or their studies by sending an email to mlmacinn@stfx.ca to be included in a future issue of *News & Views*.

DIPLOMA IN ASSISTED LIVING

This series of five distance-education courses provides a holistic approach to the needs of persons with developmental disabilities, with emphasis on building community, fostering spirituality, and celebrating individual giftedness. The program is open to individuals who have a minimum of one year experience working or living with people who have a developmental disability. The courses build on the knowledge and skills participants already possess regarding community living and human care.

The 12-week courses are offered on a cyclical basis in either the fall term (September – December) or winter term (February – May). The program will take approximately 2.5 years to complete.

The first course, ALHC 110: Foundations of Disability and Caregiving, provides a foundation in the history and evolution of the concept of disability in the West, from socio-cultural and medical perspectives. It also examines social, economic and political policy approaches and how they have been used to care for, label or control people with disabilities. The topics are explored through the lens of developmental disability, but also have general relevance for all disabilities. The readings are from the social sciences, humanities and social policy. They operate with an understanding of impairment or disability as social and cultural phenomenon as opposed to individual 'problems' or deficits as they were typically viewed within the pervasive medical perspective.

Contact us to request an information package or go to www.stfx.ca/academic/continuinged/assistedliving.html. Call toll free: 1-866-551-7575 or locally 902-867-4696; assistedliving@stfx.ca.

RESOURCES

"Celebrate! The Journal That Makes Liturgy Come Alive!" is published six times a year by Novalis Press. To subscribe, call 1-800-387-7164 in Canada or US (except Toronto area – call 416-363-3303).

The Social Edge, www.TheSocialEdge.com, is a very interesting and informative online magazine focusing on social justice issues.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



Plenty Good Room Extending the Hospitality of God

June 1 - 3, 2007 St. Francis Xavier University Antigonish, NS *Early-bird* registration deadline: March 31, 2007

Special Presenters: Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave, internationally respected conference and workshop facilitators from Australia and Ireland. Monica and Hilary will make our conference an experiential gathering that will creatively engage participants through theological reflection, scriptural imagery and storytelling, music, mime, ritual and sacred clowning. Please note that catechetical resources from a number of suppliers will be available for purchase at the conference. Contact Cathy Walsh 902-863-3335, chancery.ant@ns.sympatico.ca or Marie Duggan 902-863-6580, stnininianreled@ns.sympatico.ca. To download a registration form, please visit www.rcantigonish.info.

Brian Carwana, Director of **Encounter World Religions Centre** invites you to inquire about the following event:

**Exploring World Religions
July 15–21, 2007
Toronto, Ontario**

Information 519.822.0099 or
encounter@worldreligions.ca
www.worldreligions.ca

Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology, Toronto, ON; June 16-19, 2007. The Festival vision is a society where older people and those with disabilities are fully integrated, living well, and living longer. The mission is to share knowledge, create and enhance recognition and collaboration in policy formulation and practice to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, older people, and their caregivers. FICCDAT hopes to draw people from around the world who are interested in

issues of aging, disability, caregiving, and the policies, research and technologies that address these topics. Each of the five different conferences looks to attract a specific audience. Visit the conference web-site for details: www.ficcdat.ca/General/Faq.aspx?RID=6&land=en-US.

49TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, QUEBEC CITY 2008. Check the website for updates: www.cei2008.ca.

Donations to our endowment bursary fund are gratefully accepted on behalf of those seeking faith formation but experiencing economic hardship. Contact Linda Henke, Development Officer @ lhenke@stfx.ca (902-867-5017) for details on how to make a donation. Each year we have a greater number of requests and our funding is limited at this point. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

This and past issues of *News & Views* are available online @ www.stfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html. **Please let us know if you prefer to receive your copy by email attachment.**

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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY PROGRAM FOR THE FALL 2007 TERM. PLEASE ENCOURAGE INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY EARLY TO HELP US WITH PLANNING.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER BY SHARING WITH A FRIEND