



# Canadian Province Newsletter

October 2006

This time of year we give thanks, we note the changing of seasons, and this year we mark transitions as Carmen Diston prepares to move to Rome. This Canadian province of IBVM is blessed with giftedness of so many members, associates, colleagues and friends. We can call on the spirit in our country and its geography that is resilient in the face of challenges, to see us into the future. The following reflection (from *Circle of Life*, by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr) was part of our prayer at a recent leadership group meeting. Maybe it will nurture your reflections during this season of Thanksgiving.

If you look at a sunset, you might see only the disappearance of daylight.

If you look beneath, you may see darkness opening the splendour of stars.

If you look at illness and disease, you might see only physical diminishment.

If you look beneath, you may see it as a teacher bringing you vital wisdom.

If you look at a broken relationship, you might see only a harsh ending.

If you look beneath, you may see the courageous seeds of new growth.

If you look at lost dreams, you might see only disappointment and doubt.

If you look beneath, you may see the stuff that new dreams contain.

If you look at the death of a loved one, you might see only pervasive sorrow.

If you look beneath, you may see that love lives on forever in the heart.

If you look at the planet's pain and creatures' woe, you might see only despair.

If you look beneath, you may see hope woven in the compassionate care of many.

If you look at yourself, you might see only tarnished unfinishedness.

If you look beneath, you may see your basic goodness shining there.

If you look for the divine being, you might see mostly unresolved questions.

If you look beneath, you may be astounded at the availability of divine love.

*In this newsletter you will find news about various ministry areas. Always we keep before us the goal of a greater mix and involvement of members, associates, friends, alumnae and colleagues in IBVM mission and ministry. If you have ideas please make them known to the various ministry coordinators.*

## JUSTICE MINISTRY

From September 8-10th at St. Joseph's Morrow Park, Maria Lanthier and Rosemary Albon attended the annual **CRC-ON-JPIC conference**. Facilitated by Joan Atkinson,csj and Sue Wilson,scj the meeting focused on Engaging Justice through the process of Contemplative Dialogue/

Awareness. Through ritual, prayer and dialogue the group reaffirmed the Canadian Religious Conference's commitment "to speak with a common voice --- for a reconciled world." While members spoke to the eradication of violence in all forms, issues about human trafficking and right relationship with the earth were adopted as the key issues. Challenges were voiced about structures and processes for speaking with a common voice and how laity and parishes can network with CRC-JPIC. Some questions and insights shared by the group were:

- CRC-JPIC membership is not fixed.
- How does CRC-JPIC network with its membership?
- How can we structure a contemplative ap-

proach to our JPIC network?

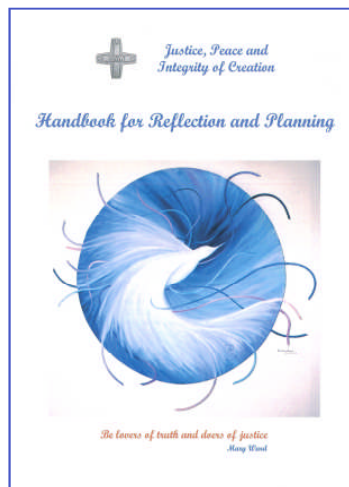
- Can I/we move from personal assumptions to a graced freedom that leads to group creativity?
- Recognition that WE ARE the prophetic voice of the church and must speak out.
- Who are we really today? What is our time in history? What carries our vocation today?

## New Justice Coordinator for the IBVM Canadian Province

*Evanne Hunter* has been named the new justice coordinator – members presently involved in this area will continue their work. Evanne will pull the various efforts together, oversee movement in this province's justice strategic direction, and fulfill the responsibilities of a coordinator as outlined in the IBVM JPIC handbook. Perhaps this is a good time to reread the handbook. We hope to have this handbook available soon for associates, colleagues and schools.

The overall aim of JPIC ministry in all our provinces is as follows:

*Through our work, our prayer and our lives, we seek to contribute positively to the building of a world that is more just, more peaceful and more respectful of creation in all its dimensions. There are six related objectives in the handbook.*



Here reprinted are our province strategic objectives in the area of justice:

- *Continue our commitment to justice through our connection with the United Nations, Justice Alerts and other advocacy initiatives.*
- *Continue to provide support to the developing world, especially through Mary Ward International and our relationship with El Salvador.*
- *Continue to directly serve God's people, in particular women, refugees, immigrants and those individuals facing challenges and adversity in their daily lives.*

One of the related tasks is to explore the need for and feasibility of a "Centre for Justice" and what that might offer and do.

Evanne and Doryne Kirby (as the Institute's representative at the United Nations) will attend the World Social Forum in January. This annual forum brings together various organizations and groups working towards building a more just world.

## Make Poverty History

Through the past two months we have been called to focus once again on "Make Poverty History." From our United Nations office we heard about the "Stand Up" campaign. The young women at Loretto College—our university residence—took the challenge to heart. Attached to this newsletter is an account of their response. If you heard of, or were part of, similar activities, please send an account to Doryne Kirby at the U.N. - [ibvmdtk@rogers.com](mailto:ibvmdtk@rogers.com).

## REFUGEE MINISTRY

*Maria Lanthier provides a news update on some of our sponsored refugees. Let us rejoice with each of them in their successes and initiatives, and in the ways they keep in touch with and support each other as well as newcomers.*

In the year 2000 we sponsored nine Rwandan men:

**Dismas** is 32 years old. He graduated from a three year diploma course at George Brown College in June 2005. Since then he has been working three days a week for a large company (hoping for full time) in his field of computer systems.

**Fabian** graduated in June 2005 from his three year diploma course in public relations (Humber College) and found a position as a junior public relations worker with a Mississauga company. By this past summer he had saved enough money to transfer to Concordia University, Montreal where he will obtain his degree in the same field.

**Jean** is approaching 29 years of age. He works full time with Factory Direct and is a customer's delight when it comes to solving computer glitches. He is married to Anne, a young Kenyan woman working in Toronto.

**Anicet** (32 years old) has retained his full time job with Loblaw's head office as the food dispatcher for their stores in Mississauga. He keeps in touch when new arrivals from Rwanda are happening and makes sure that he pays a visit to the family.

**Edison** (30 years of age) is a floor manager (dispatching) at Nealanders Food Warehouse at Credit Valley Road in Mississauga.

**Aimable** also graduated from Humber College in June 2005 with a three year computer engineering diploma, while working part time.

**Dieudonne, Joseph and Felicien** are each working in various employments.

**The Ufitimana Family** continues to thrive.

Ignace works full-time and Pascasie is a Personal Services Worker since completing her certificate in this field two years ago. Their eldest son has graduated from high school and saved enough money over the past five years to attend George Brown College this year. Two other children are in high school and elementary school respectively. This family, in collaboration with St. Joan of Arc church, has recently been responsible for bringing another family to Canada.

**The Munyaiakazi Family** who arrived last April is also making great progress. Faustin has secured a position as a teaching assistant in the French Department of St. Michael's College, U of T, and will also begin pursuing his Ph.D. Theopiste, while working in a factory, has applied for a position as French teacher in the Montessori school system. All of the children are enrolled in school and two of them work part-time.

**Marie Claire Tuyishime**, age 20 and related to the Ufitimana family, arrived on October 2 of this year from Johannesburg. She left her country of Rwanda 12 years ago when the massacre began. She has spent most of her time finishing school in a Holy Cross orphanage in Cape Town. By the time she was 14, she was taking considerable responsibility with the small children at the orphanage on weekends. She has developed skills working with children and likes the younger age group. At this time she is living at Indian Road. She is seeking full time work in order to save enough to be able to live independently in the near future.

## VOCATION MINISTRY

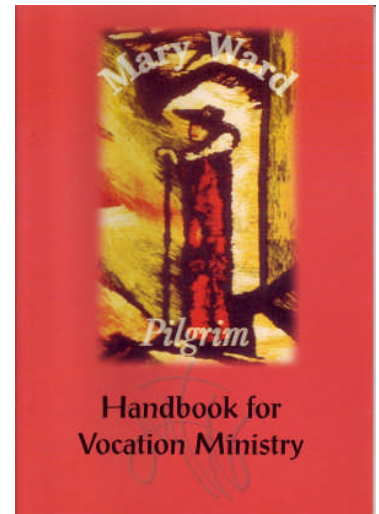
Helen Cameron met this month with the leadership group and together we reviewed her ministry in light of the Vocations handbook and our strategic direction. I'm sure you are all aware of Helen's enthusiasm and activities in this ministry. And the Spirit is at work too calling women to consider religious life – many are searching for Ignatian spirituality for women and attracted by our expression of this.

The *IBVM Handbook for Vocation Ministry* calls each one to make contact with young people through a variety of means; to understand and appreciate their world-view and search for meaning; to show enthusiasm for religious life; to create opportunities and invitation for discernment and welcome. Among the vocation director's specific responsibilities are:

- Promoting the life and mission of the Institute
- Implementing the Province strategy
- Accompanying those discerning their call

This province's *Objectives* include:

- Define the opportunities for each IBVM member to act as an "inviter" to encourage women to consider religious life.
- Develop a vocations strategy that incorporates effective approaches implemented by other IBVM provinces and religious communities.
- Develop and implement a vocations awareness plan that conveys a contemporary and positive image of IBVM religious life.
- Promote vocations awareness, invitation and journey of self-discovery to identified audiences, including Associates, alumnae, secondary and post-secondary students and parish communities.
- Direct vocation awareness to multicultural communities with assistance from IBVM International and local cultural groups.



Several IBVM, friends and associates have been part of an advisory committee and/or actively assisted in this ministry. Still we would like to expand and shift a little the work of this committee. If you or someone you know (e.g. member, friend, associate, alumna) has some of the gifts and a little time to meet our direction and the ministry of vocations as set out above, please contact Helen Cameron – and indicate who you recommend and why!

## SPIRITUALITY MINISTRY

*Jeanine Glute* has an additional responsibility in her ministry at Loyola House, Guelph; she is a member of a small team facilitating and directing the 9-month internship program in spiritual direction. I'm sure Jeanine's personal qualities and skills are much appreciated.

*Caroline Dawson* has been invited to join the faculty of the Haden Institute located at Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Haden Institute prepares people for the ministry of spiritual direction. Caroline's responsibilities start this October.

"Sacred Moments for Every Day: A Perpetual Calendar for your Spiritual Journey." This calendar published by Novalis uses quotations from the Ignatian tradition, and images, to invite people into a reflection on the meaning of life today. Included are twenty or more quotes from Mary Ward.

Thank you to Juliana for responding to an invitation and making these available.

## EDUCATION MINISTRY

Here we highlight the students of *Loretto Abbey*, who over the last three years are responsible for completely funding the building of a 14 room, semi-detached residential house for a medical doctor and a registered nurse/midwife at a Maternity Hospital in Nigeria.

The focus for their fundraising this year is for a Loretto School in India. The project is to convert a marsh behind the school into a playground.

## EVENTS

*St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Weyburn, Saskatchewan* celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September. To mark this occasion we are making a donation to "The Family Place," a local initiative established in 1995 by the Weyburn and Area Council on Child Abuse. Its mandate is to respond to the needs of children and families by providing resources and supportive programming.

The solemn blessing and official opening of **Loretto College School** took place Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at 2:00 pm. It was a memorable event indeed. Architecturally, the building is incredible to look at. Light streamed in through many intriguingly shaped windows even though the day was overcast. The ceremony took place in a magnificent atrium in the centre of the building. The Loretto Sisters had special seats next to the altar which had been given to the school from our Niagara Falls chapel. The others present, well over three hundred strong, represented the past, present and future Loretto – both staff and students. The rite of blessing was led by Reverend Charles Zichella, pastor of St. Nicholas of Bari and Rev. Carlos Tupaz Macatanga, SVD, Chair of Pastoral Zone 6 in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The Loretto College Choir provided the music ending with the very familiar "Blue is the Flag of Loretto." Ani Strazar, a former graduate and long-time staff member, as master of ceremonies introduced the guest speakers: Trustees, Ward Councillors, Board Chair, CSAC Chair, IBVM representative Judith Kidd, etc.

The reception following was a truly communal gathering. A delicious array of finger foods, a mingling of many friends and colleagues – all deeply moved that so many IBVM Sisters attended – and a tour of the building, where former graduation photos hung in pride of place, was enjoyed by everyone. [Thank you Juliana for making these available from our IBVM archives for this event.] The spirit of Mary Ward and the heritage of Loretto are alive and flourishing in this new location where young women continue to be offered a Catholic education which empowers them to "do great things." Jane

Dunbar and Helen Cameron help foster this by their weekly visits to the school.

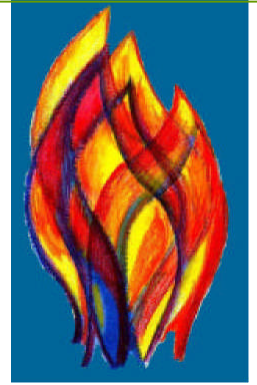
**Jubilarians**, their family and friends, were all thrilled with the celebration – Eucharist and lunch – to mark 25, 60, 70 and 75 years in religious life. Special thanks to all who prepared the many aspects: invitations, hospitality, liturgy, food, space, etc.



Included with this newsletter are Judith Kidd's opening comments, and the homily given by Caroline Dawson.

## "A Day in the Life of the GC'06."

Members, associates and colleagues will gather on October 28<sup>th</sup> for "A Day in the Life of the GC'06." It should be an exciting and informative day.



## Corrections and Additions to the Canadian Provincial Directory

- Page 3** Yan Gong's e-mail is [ibvmsracct@rogers.com](mailto:ibvmsracct@rogers.com)
- Page 11** Juliana Dusel's e-mail is [canprov.archives@bellnet.ca](mailto:canprov.archives@bellnet.ca)
- Page 12** Marianna Gignac – add e-mail [ibvmmarianna@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibvmmarianna@sympatico.ca)
- Page 21** Casa Loreto street name is Via Massaua 3
- Page 22:** Street name under Eileen McConnon should be Nettleford Road
- Page 24** Gill Goulding's ministry number is 416.922.5474 x253
- Page 32** Elaine Regan-Nightingale's telephone is 416.686.0948

### Birthdays

- Louisa Seiferling, IBVM April 7
- Donata Dean, IBVM April 24
- Norma Kirvan, IBVM April 24
- Norah Burns, IBVM June 28
- Victoria Schneider, IBVM August 29
- Laura Gatien, IBVM September 19

Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> 2006

*International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*

**On Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Loretto College (university residence for women) at the University of Toronto joined the international community to “Stand Up” against poverty.**

As a Catholic College we felt compelled to take part in such a worthy cause, for poverty is not solely found in third world countries, but can be seen every day on the streets of Toronto. White ribbons, to be worn around the wrist, were distributed throughout Loretto to enable any resident wishing to make a visible statement in the fight against poverty, to do so.

Pamphlets and poverty fact sheets were also displayed around the building to create awareness about the magnitude of the problem. Many of these pamphlets encouraged attendance at the rally against poverty in Queen’s Park, on the grounds of the Ontario Parliament. However, the heavy rainfall all day long prevented some from attending.

In the Dining Room, the Dean of Loretto, Angela Convertini, stood before approximately 100 standing residents to read the pledge of the campaign against poverty. The Loretto Sisters also took part in a similar ceremony including prayer and reflection led by Sister Margaret O’Keefe and Angela Convertini. The pledge, partially quoted below called world leaders to action:

And we stand up because we are asking not for charity, but justice. We know that in our names, world leaders have made mighty promises to bring this to an end – they are called the Millennium Development Goals. What is needed is the political will to achieve and exceed these goals - so we are on our feet to say:

To the leaders of the wealthy countries: Be great. Fight to keep your promises – debt cancellation, more and better aid, and trade rules that help fight poverty. You know what needs to be done. Do it.

We also stand before the leaders of poorer countries to say: Be great. Make it your first responsibility to save the lives of your poorest citizens. We ask you to achieve real transparency and accountability in how money is spent, to tackle inequality, to root out corruption. You know what needs to be done. Do it.

***Loretto College hopes to continue to recognize the importance of fighting against poverty.*** We hope to create more awareness and action through events such as showcasing movies based on the subject matter, volunteering in the local community, displaying information on our Social Justice boards, and distributing “Make Poverty History” white bracelets with donations to go toward Loretto Missions.

Katherine Schaefer and Mary Kolenko