

SERVANTS OF THE CROSS †

THE NEW WINE

SPRING 2010

COST: A SMILE

LET'S FEAST!

Sr. Anna Chan

Wine – A Taste of the Glory of Creation

Have you ever joined us for *Eggs and Fellowship*?

We serve brunch, here at our home, on the third Sunday of every month (during the school year only). We serve at noon, though most people come right after their respective church service. The crowd usually starts with parishioners from Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, then St Maurice, then family and friends who come from as far as Petawawa, and then, we usually know that everyone for the day has arrived after the group from the 11am mass

at St Mary's gets here. People are full and I don't mean full from the egg casserole we serve, but full in the sense of the Spirit. People are full of life. People come and we *feast*, we celebrate with one another, and we become what feels like, "the extended family" feasting together.

God's Overflowing Generosity

Pope Benedict's *Jesus of Nazareth* (worth chewing on), speaks about this *feasting*. More specifically, he relates feasting to the Johannine image of wine. Wine, he says, "allows us to glimpse something of the definitive feast God will celebrate with man". Our eggs may not have the same feel as an aged bottle of Bordeaux, but the time spent in coming together leads us to an encounter of God's overflowing generosity. Listen to what Pope Benedict says,



We thus begin to understand the event of Cana (John 2:1-11). The sign of God is overflowing generosity. We see it in the multiplication of the loaves; we see it again and again – most of all, though, at the centre of salvation history, in the fact that he lavishly spends himself for the lowly creature, man. This abundant giving is his "glory". The superabundance of Cana is therefore a sign that God's feast with humanity, is self-giving for men, has begun. (...) The hour of God's marriage feast with his people has begun in the coming of Jesus. The promise of the last days enters into the Now.

Lavishly Spends Himself

Jesus 'lavishly spends himself' for you and me. He performs the miracle of changing water into wine as a sign and a gift He wants

to give us. As a sign, he wants us to give as He gave with no expectations, no ambitions, and no agendas. He wants our utter and complete surrender. He wants us to know, through Him what love really means. And as a gift, there is no end to His giving. The wine He wants us to have is for our feasting! And what better way to give to each other, as we come together around the table. We come to be a sign and a gift to one another.

If you are in the area, take this as your invitation, come feast with us. And don't hesitate to start your own feasting, share His message of wine!

We hope you enjoy *The New Wine*. Pass it along. We want the world to know of the wine God has waiting for each of us!!

Come visit us @ www.servantsofthecross.ca

Servants of the Cross: A Timeline



1999-2000: Anna and Monique with their National Evangelization Team (NET)



December 2000: Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Young Adults Group founded by Anna and Carlos Martins with two others



June 2003: Anna receives her call (one month after the Companions of the Cross receive their status as Society of Apostolic Life)



March 25, 2006: Sr. Anna and Sr. Monique receive their veils at their First Private Promises



December 2006: Women of the Cross session - a ministry providing discussion and fellowship



March 2007: Sr. Monique involved in one of our ministries - helping at Our Lady of His Mercy Centre



September 2008: Fr. Bob celebrating Mass during our annual Community Days



September 2008: As new applicants, Vicki and Melinda received a "Sister Shower", a great welcome into the community



August 2009: Archbishop Prendergast blesses Fr. Marc Syrenne as Spiritual Advisor to the Servants of the Cross

Dear Friends and Family,

My first real conversation with our Spiritual Father, Fr Bob, was on the telephone back in 2003. I was a nervous wreck. I called to share the stirrings of my heart that God was calling me to come forward and found the sisterhood of the Companions of the Cross. Fr Bob listened attentively and he asked that I write down everything I shared with him and call the Moderator next week for an appointment. Fair enough. I felt I could breathe. One week to really prepare my words and my heart. Well, it was the following day that Fr Bob left a message on my phone telling me that Fr Roger was waiting to meet with me that night or the day after. Forget about the week reprieve! I met with Fr Roger and the story of the Servants of the Cross begins...

How did Fr Bob know to act so quickly? The only way I can explain the movement of the Holy Spirit is through his own words,

The priority is to find out what God is doing and go do it with Him. If He has initiated it, it will have His power. We won't have to push it. We won't wear out trying to make it happen. The principle is simple once we see it in operation. He initiates. We support. (Evangelization: A Challenge for the Catholic Church, 1997)



Fr Bob showed me that day, back in June 2003, that I can boldly and confidently believe that the Servants of the Cross is God's priority. We have a commitment to live and spread the message of evangelization as

Fr Bob envisions. And we see the urgency of our responsibility to see that this mission is completed.

In order to meet the responsibility of our mission we need your help. Schooling, running a community and our ministries all add up financially. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation.

We thank you for your generous support. You are in our prayers daily, asking that through the intercession of Our Lady, the Lord bless you abundantly.



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Personal Information (please print)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Support Options

**1. One Time Donation(s)
Donation by Cheque(s)**

Payable to the *Servants of the Cross*

- Cheque in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Post-dated cheque(s) in the amount(s) of \$ _____ is/are enclosed.

Donation by Credit Card

Visa MC Amount: \$ _____
Card # _____
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Name: _____
Signature: _____

2. Monthly donations through Bank

- \$25 \$50 \$100 Other amount \$ _____
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I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 30 days. I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

Monthly Donation by Credit Card

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other amount \$ _____
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Card # _____ Expiry date: _____

Please Complete:

I hereby authorize the Servants of the Cross to arrange automatic withdrawals from my chequing account or credit card,

on the ____ (1st or 15th) day of each month for payment of my pledge. I understand that I may cancel this authorization at any time with written notice.

Name: _____ Date: _____
Signature: _____

Thank you for your generous gift!

Timeline Continued



September 2009: Sr. Stephanie is thrown a Bridal Shower by her sisters as she prepares for her First Promises



September 15, 2009: Sr. Stephanie joins Sr. Anna and Sr. Monique in making promises



October 2009: The Servants moved into the Rectory at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish. Thanks to all those who helped!



THEY WHO ARE A PART OF ME

Melinda Schenher



Since last summer (2009), I've been chewing on an idea that came from my friend Jim Murphy. He challenged a group of us to 'see others as **they who are a part of me.**' I interpreted this to mean that as I'm going about my day, whether it's at work, or on a bus, when I interact with anyone, I am interacting with the body of Christ. *And Christ has one body* (see 1 Cor 12:12). So if we are all part of the body, they are a part of me, and I of them.

Moments of joy

One example that comes to mind is when I walk by the crossing-guard at a nearby school on my way to work. For many months we just smiled at each other, but just recently, we started exchanging words: enjoying the sunshine and the coming of spring. These moments of joy



lift my spirit and put a smile on my face as I continue on my way. I feel encouraged and uplifted in my exchanges with her (she even puts out the sign if it's just me). In a very simple way, her joy is mine and mine is hers.

Walking a mile

As much as I share joy with my crossing-guard lady, I am becoming willing to walk a mile with people in my life who may be suffering. I have a friend who in the past year has had her share of struggles. Life seems to deal her one blow after another. At times, all I can see is her brokenness. I hear it in her voice, and in the experiences that she relates to me. I can even sometimes feel the pain of her heart as she shares. I am coming to understand that I don't have to carry her pain, or fix her, or 'make it all better', I just need to see her, and realize that she is a part of me, and more than anything, she needs to be loved.

Insight

One day in prayer, I felt I received an insight from the Lord. He challenged me to "see Him". I heard the words on my heart, "See me. See my heart that burns for love of you. See me waiting patiently

to be one with you. See all of me. When I am sick, see me. When I am bruised, see me. When I am hungry, see me. When I am broken, see me. When I am neglected, see me. When I am battered, bruised, torn and crucified, see me." The sense I got from this insight was that He was not only referring to Himself, but to His body here on earth.

Day by day, the Lord presents more situations where I can make the choice to 'see Him' or just continue on my way. Oh, that I would have eyes to always see Him in those moments of joy, those moments of suffering, and in those challenges we receive from the Lord in prayer. As I see it, our life is full of joys and sorrows, but it's always better when we have someone to share them with.

My prayer for all of us is that we may become intentional in our interactions. May we take the moment to look into a person's eyes and see Jesus reflected back to us. Let's take the opportunity to 'see Him' today!



Come and See Retreat

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "Who are you looking for? They said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "**Come, and you will see.**"

(Jn 1:38-39)

Do you want to share your love for Christ with others?
Do you feel a stirring on your heart to the religious life?



ARE YOU READY?

Call Sr. Anna Chan with your request at the number below.

Come and See Schedule:

March 25 - 28, 2010

April 22 - 25, 2010

Experience our community life, prayer life, and receive one-on-one guided direction throughout the weekend.



Talaga?
(Filipino for "Oh Really?
Did you know?")



(Donations come in all forms, even in our Money Tree!)

~ The Servants of the Cross now have Pre-Authorised Payment! Please see our insert for more details!

~ Our brothers, the Companions of the Cross are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this May!

Fill it to the Brim Our Wish List



If you would like to help *fill* our needs *to the brim*, here are a few of our wish list items:

+ For our monthly ministries where we serve food:

- Eggs and Fellowship: eggs, bread, fruits, sweets, honey, peanut butter, frozen juice
- Women of the Cross: fruits, snacks, appetizers, juice
- Young Adults Group: snacks, appetizers

+ Fill Our Freezer:

- Meat (such as ground beef, chicken, and pork)

+ Other needs:

- Adobe InDesign CS4 [for Mac] (for our Newsletter-designing needs)
- Clear plastic bins for our pantry
- Two wooden 6' tables and benches for our dining room
- + You can also help in **filling our needs to the brim** through gift cards (Real Canadian Superstore, Costco, Staples).

For more details, please call us.

Mission Statement

We are a religious community of women called to spread the message of the Gospel through a dynamic evangelization. Akin in spirituality to the Companions of the Cross, we live this message in our everyday life as Fr. Bob Bedard, our Spiritual Father envisions. We stand on four pillars: being faithful to the Eucharist, being open to the Holy Spirit, being devoted to Our Lady, and being loyal to the Church's Magisterium.

Contact Info

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