

THE NEW WINE

bringing Our Lord's personal love to people, *one person at a time*



OUR FIRST HOME

45° 19' 46.127" N 75° 45' 57.667" W

We give thanks to the Lord for the many ways He provides for us! Thank you to all of you who have given both of your financial and prayerful support to our community and our need for a house. We began our quest to raise funds by planning a 'lunch and Mercy-themed talk' on St. JP II's birthday last May. Our hope had been to raise \$15,000 towards our home. With the great news of Fr. Scott McCaig

being named a bishop, we decided to cancel our event and focus on this happy event. Our fundraising efforts shifted to creating a letter to appeal for these funds from our friends and benefactors. Many responded generously and we exceeded our goal by \$8,000. We had \$27,000 more to put as a down payment for our home!

Thank you! Thank you! God is good!

Our new home is nestled in a warmth of other Catholic homes. We have 7 bedrooms, one converted into office space and one being renovated into a chapel. A few generous gentlemen have been helping us with that task. Tito Frias and friends began the work and Ron Colautti is completing the beautiful details. We will soon have a Marian-blue Chapel! Tito is also a loving servant, unrelenting in his care of our yard and preparing a garden that will yield many veggies next summer. We are looking forward to the fresh veggies of our labours! Thank you again for your generosity in giving to our community and the work the Lord is doing here.



My Camino



BY ALISON WEBER

Philippians 1:6 – And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (RSV)

My name is Alison Weber. I am from Houston, Texas. I am the youngest of four children and my parents have been married for over 52 years.

Growing up I learned about God's existence, but I never knew God. We were merely passing acquaintances. Nothing more; nothing less. I didn't know how to defend my faith. My answer to the questions of "why do Catholics do this or that" was always "because that's the way we have always done it". Not very convincing.

After college, the monotony of life and church set in. It took a friend sending me to a mega non-denominational church to give my heart a jump-start. The day they had their "communion" was the last day I set foot in that church. It was then that I came to believe in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

In 2008 I was invited to go on pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. This is where everything changed for me. I encountered the Holy Spirit. My heart was set on fire and I was ready to go out and conquer the world. The theme that year was Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Surrounded by thousands of young Catholics from across the world, I was a new person. This scripture came to life in my heart. I had a hunger deep down to serve the Lord. When I got back home, I became more involved in ministries, serving at church, going to bible studies, attending retreats, etc.

I found my way to the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston where I met the Companions of the Cross. It did not take long for me to find my home there. I continued to stay involved and became a Lay Associate of the Companions and also met the Servants of the Cross. I believe this was when I began to discern the vocation call to the consecrated life.

“This is where everything changed for me. I encountered the Holy Spirit. My heart was set on fire and I was ready to go out and conquer the world.”

Over the next few years, I would see the Sisters when they came to Houston for our Lay Associates retreat. Each time I visited with them, there was a stirring deep down in my heart. In Houston we are blessed to have an Office of Vocations and I began to work with them through discernment meetings and retreats. I was able to find a spiritual director and began to seriously discern this calling from Our Lord. I came for a "come and see" in September 2015 and was present for Sr. Penelope's first promises. By December, my spiritual director and I agreed that it was time to take a step forward, put into action what I was feeling in my heart. I contacted the Sisters and applied to the Applicancy program.

The interviews quickly came, and the challenge of debt payoff loomed ahead of me. It was by the grace of God that in four short months I was able to pay off \$21K in school loan debt through many generous benefactors. I am in awe of how quickly this past year has gone. I turn in prayer to the Lord and ask, "Why Me? Are you sure it is me that you want?" the answer always comes back "Why not you? I love you and you are mine". I received a deep peace knowing how much He loves me and I look forward to what the Lord has ahead of me as His plan continues to unfold. I trust in His word in Philippians 1:6, "I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ". With this spiritual journey which the Lord has begun in my life, in the spirit of the ancient pilgrimage in Spain, the Camino de Santiago de Compostella, I say "Buen Camino" which means "Have a good way or journey".



Giving God Everything

BY GINETTE MARION

God is so good, so patient yet generous with us. I have found this more and more as I journey on this walk in faith. Allow me to share with you a bit of my faith journey thus far.

I grew up in Winnipeg. And, I would say that I enjoyed my Catholic faith and knew that it was important, but yet I am not sure that I had truly experienced a personal encounter with the Lord, sometimes faith was more of a routine.

I am thankful to God that I never fell away from the faith, although I did have some dark valleys to walk through. These difficult moments became opportunities that I was able to see God shine more brightly in my life. One time in particular was during my high school years. I felt very alone at times because it

was difficult to really know who I could connect with about my faith, even among my friends. I had to start leaning on God in a very real way and I began to see how He loves me in a personal way. I would open my Bible, reading the exact words I needed to hear. God was listening and speaking to me. I also started going to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament regularly.

During high school, my Mom and I prayed that God would bless me with good Catholic friends. God answered this prayer tenfold after High School. I began to connect with one of my cousins who introduced me to a youth prayer meeting at our Archdiocese, called 'Emmaus'. Suddenly, I was surrounded by like-minded people who cared about each other and about living an authentic life in Christ. I have made many beautiful friend-

ships through this faith-community. They have helped me to grow into a more confident person and brought out leadership qualities that I had not yet used.

I was gradually led to discern my vocation when I began to feel restless in the summer of 2014. I knew I had not yet found my spiritual vocation. I started to wonder if maybe God was calling me to consecrated life since He hadn't opened the door to marriage. I began to sense God asking me to give Him everything, and that it would become clear in time what this meant. One day in the summer of 2015, I was hanging out with three friends; we each shared that we were considering consecrated life. One of the girls and myself ended up going to a 'Come and See' visit in the Fall of 2015. It was a very positive experience visiting these consecrated women. They were joyful and funny. They had a 'joie de vivre' that many people don't have. I decided in early 2016 that I needed to look into consecrated life more seriously, so I connected with my friend and we agreed to do a 'Nun Run' together. In May 2016, we visited six different communities, one of them being the Servants of the Cross.

I came home and reflected on the month-long experience. I felt attracted to the Servants of the Cross because they were Charismatic. I have really grown to love our Charismatic community in Winnipeg. I have seen a lot of people be healed through this type of prayer (myself included) and a renewal of the spirit. I was also drawn to the fact that the Servants make evangelization their mission. I have always wanted to be able to share Jesus in an authentic way

with those I meet. I have also appreciated how the Servants are very real. They are honest and very loving, easy to talk with.

Along the way of my discernment, I have learnt that if this is to be my vocation, it is not dependent on what I want, it has to come from the Lord. The most life-giving yet difficult decision I have had to make is to constantly remind myself, 'Lord, not my will, but Your will be done.' It is a constant decision to surrender my desires and my vocation into the Lord's hands knowing that He works all things for good. *Jesus, I trust in You.*

“ Suddenly, I was surrounded by like-minded people who cared about each other and about living an authentic life in Christ. I have made many beautiful friendships through this faith-community. They have helped me to grow into a more confident person and brought out leadership qualities that I had not yet used. ”



Yes!
I Support My Sisters

I support the Servants of the Cross in their mission of evangelization.
I have indicated below the option of my support.



PERSONAL INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

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

ONE TIME DONATION(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 # _____
Expiry Date: _____
Name: _____
Signature: _____

PRAYER REQUEST

We invite you to send your special intentions and we will join you in prayer.

MONTHLY DONATIONS THROUGH BANK

- \$25 \$50 \$100 Amount \$ _____
- I have attached a VOID cheque.

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 Pre-Authorized Deposit 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 Amount \$ _____
- Visa MC

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 advance written notice.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

A SURPRISING JOURNEY

BY SR. PENELOPE NGUYEN

That Easter of 2013, two hundred copies of the first edition of the Vietnamese Treasure in Heaven were printed... A few months later, I ordered five hundred more copies.



NEEDING TO REPLACE MY HEARING AIDS.

Every 5 years I'm faced with replacing my hearing aids. They cost approximately, \$8500 US/ \$11000 CDN. Alongside the Community, many generous people have helped me reach half my goal. If you want to learn more and help come visit the link:
www.gofundme.com/2jucu5a5

My cousin who had converted to Catholicism tried to renew her cosmetology license. I asked her to fly over from Michigan to California so I could assist her in reviewing materials for her exam. We had time to build our relationship; and she shared with me about her life journey. I taught her how to make a good confession. I also answered some common questions about the Catholic faith. I supported her with much prayer, love, patience and encouragement. She went home proclaiming the mercy of the Living God ... and she passed the exam!

Thanks to my cousin's situation, I thought of the possibility of having a little prayer booklet for those who were new to the faith, those who did not like saying many prayers, and those who did not have a prayer life. I contacted Fr. Mark Goring, CC and asked if I could translate his little prayer booklet Treasure in Heaven into Vietnamese. That Easter of 2013, two hundred copies of the first edition of the Vietnamese Treasure in Heaven were printed. My cousin received the very first copy. I asked my friend who hosted a popular website, thanhlh.net, to publish online. A few months later, I ordered five hundred more copies. I also gave to those who I thought might be willing to pass it on.

I started this booklet before flying to Canada in August 2013. I was feeling happy that I had done what I did to serve God's people. The friend who helped me manage the booklets informed me that some people in Canada, California, West Virginia, and other States, had asked for copies of the booklet after seeing it on the web. I could not help but think of this scripture, John 12:32, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." I really saw that when I was willing to give of myself for God's sake, more people were drawn to Him.

After completing two years of formation, I resumed working on the booklet. Within two months, the second edition of the Vietnamese Treasure in Heaven was completed with 1100 copies printed. Fr. Alfonso Tran invited me to come and introduce the prayer booklet to the people at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston. He helped make it reachable to others on a large scale. In addition to making the booklet available online and to people in the States and Canada, I sent 50 copies to a Maryknoll priest who served in Japan.

Seeing the many blessings the Vietnamese people received through the booklet, Fr. Mark, asked that I translate his newest book, St. Joseph the Protector. This book would help people prepare their hearts and entrust themselves to St. Joseph. The Vietnamese translation was initially introduced to two parishes including Christ Cathedral in Orange County, California, this past summer. It is available on amazon.com and at the Catholic Charismatic Center bookstore in Houston.

I am convinced that the Lord has a good sense of humor. The first time I saw Fr. Mark's booklet in the CCC bookstore, I walked away thinking, "No, thank you. I'm not interested." It was the Holy Spirit who inspired me to pick up the booklet, use it, and get ready for a future full of hope and surprise. I never thought I would be serving the Vietnamese people in this way. God brought it all together for me to fulfill my earnest desire of helping others to grow deeper in relationship with Him. It is a joy to experience God's Spirit and follow His lead. May the name of the Lord be praised.

If you have any questions or if you would like to introduce the Vietnamese Treasure in Heaven and St. Joseph the Protector to other people, please email Sr. Penelope at sisterpenelope@yahoo.com.

It was the Holy Spirit who inspired me to pick up the booklet, use it, and get ready for a future full of hope and surprise.

GOD IF YOU ARE REAL, SHOW ME!

I've created a booklet that connects you with others who have yet to know about the *realness* of a friend like Jesus. I've seen how powerful this word *real* is. I was walking alongside a young mother who was going through the most challenging time of her life, feeling so much guilt, shame, hurt. The Lord inspired my heart, *Go simple Anna, go simple. Tell her that I'm real and I'll show her.* That's all I did. It was a weekend of me encouraging her to give God permission, to pray that dangerous prayer of *God if you are Real, Show Me!* Needless to say, it was pretty immediate that the Lord gave her an open door and now, her life is on its way back up. She's taken God more seriously and is trying to re-establish her relationship with Him. Praise be the Lord.

That's all we can really do, eh?

God wants us to help initiate the conversation and then, let Him do the rest.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ONLINE: CLICK ON 'GALLERY' FROM OUR MAIN MENU.

Alison and Ginette ready for their Sister Shower



Our first sailing adventure with Fr. Rob on his boat – Duke in Altum. Fr. Dennis proved to be a pro when he stepped into the helm.



Alison shares her vocation testimony with all the ladies



As we mentioned on the cover – blessed to celebrate with our brother, Bishop Scott McCaig, CC, ordained as a Bishop on May 31, 2016.

Ginette after sharing her testimony. For both Alison and Ginette, the ladies returned a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill them.



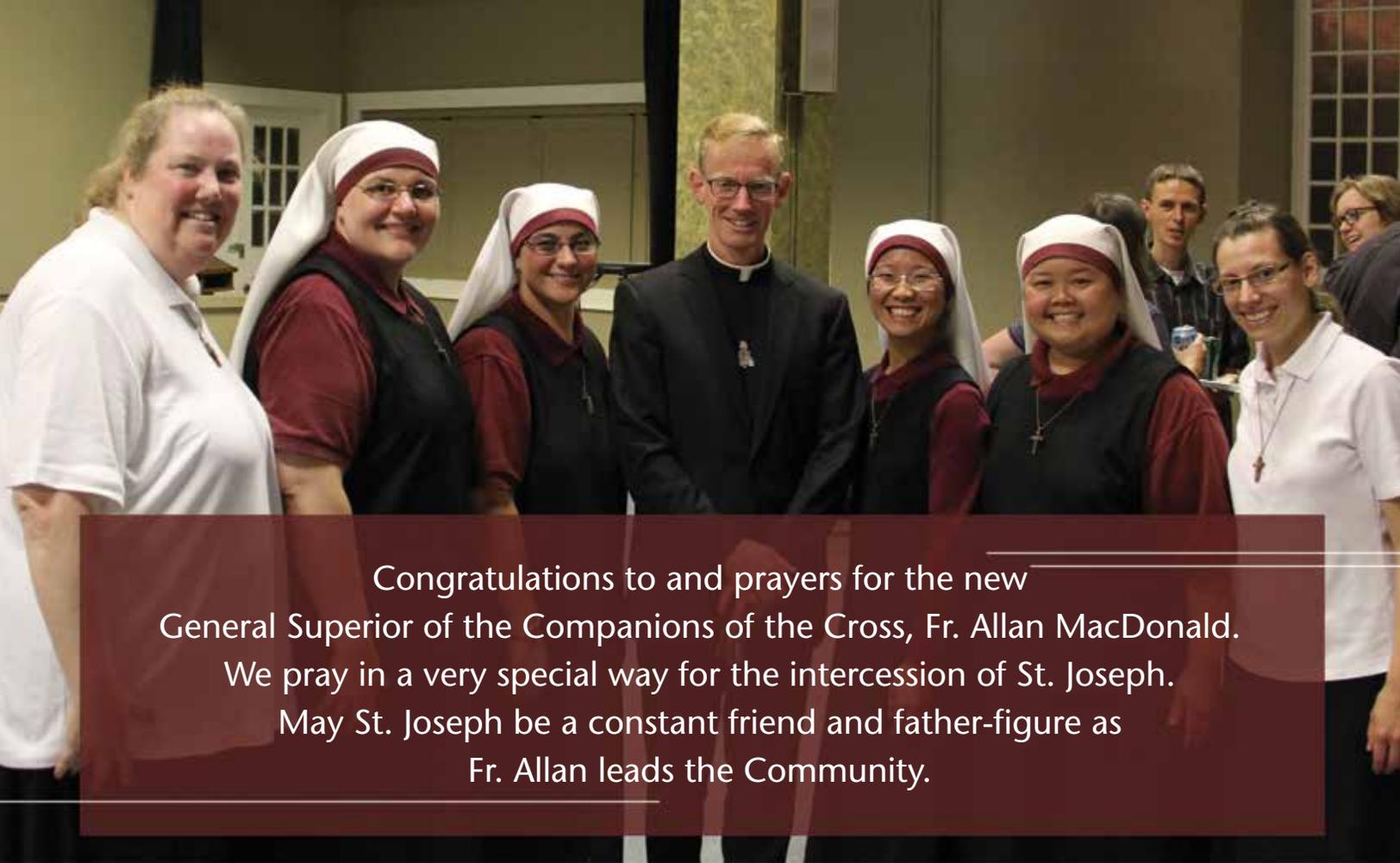
Srs Doris, Denise and Therese were among our first visitors at our new home.



Community Days: an 'Escape Room' where you have 45 minutes to solve multiple puzzles that will let you exit. We were 80% successful (didn't win), but we had fun!



Blessed to have Fr. Mark Schwab, a CC Associate Priest celebrate Mass for us during Community Days. Thank you Fr. Mark!



Congratulations to and prayers for the new General Superior of the Companions of the Cross, Fr. Allan MacDonald. We pray in a very special way for the intercession of St. Joseph. May St. Joseph be a constant friend and father-figure as Fr. Allan leads the Community.

† SERVANTS OF THE CROSS



SHARE
JOY

FOR VOCATION INQUIRIES
CONTACT SR. MELINDA 613.729.8710

WWW.SERVANTSOFTHECROSS.CA



We've moved!

Servants of the Cross

*33 Aurora Crescent
Ottawa, ON K2G 0Z6
613-729-8710*

www.servantsofthecross.ca

*Contact
Sr. Anna Chan, SC
Moderator*

Check out our website for photos, events, and more!

Design and Layout: CJamesRun Design