

# THE NEW WINE

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

## BECOMING DISCIPLES AND MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE

BY SR. MONIQUE BISSON

Mondays with Fr. Bob. The applicants, in their 1st semester listened and studied a series of talks called *Catholic Disciple* by Fr. Bob, our Spiritual Father – ten talks that would inspire them to grow in faith and in relationship with God and the Church. They felt better equipped as disciples and were sad to see the series end ... The talks are like a springboard that has helped them in their discipleship journey as a Servant and also in their first steps of knowing the value and importance of sharing their faith with those they encounter.

Since the beginning of the year, Sr. Anna has been inspiring us to put our mission of evangelization into practice. Following an orientation talk that every Servant hears, be it for the 1<sup>st</sup> time or the 13<sup>th</sup> time, our hearts were stirred with great desire to serve God. She asked us to put that desire into practical terms and set personal goals. We would check-in each week to share how we were accomplishing these goals.

My personal goal was, *Allow myself to be stretched in going out of my comfort zone. Be grateful and see everything as a gift from God. Give Him thanks daily. And give Him the praise that is due to Him. When praising Him, do it from the heart.*

Having to be accountable once a week motivated me to put my goals into action. Every night before going to bed, I would thank God for 5 things that day. For example, thanksgiving for a crazy hard-working day; thanks for those who helped renovate our chapel; thanks for those who crossed my path that day. Then, I examined my thoughts and actions. Did I get carried away with the busy day and get impatient with others? Did I lose my focus and side-track? Was I grateful to the Lord for the ways He guided the day? Did I shy away from others or was I smiling at the people I met today? And then, with the grace of God, I resolved to do better the following day.

Another beautiful way that we are encouraged to live out our mission is to express our gratitude to a Sister every night. We shared 3 ways we were thankful, one for that sister, one for ourselves, and one for the Community. This helped in getting

to know the other Sister, created an attitude of gratitude, and has built this capacity in each of us to love and be loved by one another.

How were we to bring this attitude of gratitude and desire to share this joy with others? Advent rolled around and we committed to spend 1-1.5 hours once a week at a local mall, to be a presence to others during the busy season before Christmas. We found ways to smile at others, enter into conversations, and allow God's hand to guide our time at the mall. We met many different characters, prayed with them, and even invited one or two over to our house.



“ I'M FULLY AVAILABLE TO YOU TODAY, SO GUIDE ME BY YOUR SPIRIT. ”

We are continually reading books to expand our knowledge of God and ways to grow as a disciple. One book by a pastor named Bill Hybels, encourages others to give God permission to use them in bringing others to Christ. This prayer is powerful. Pray with me:

*“My life in in your hands, God. Use me to point someone toward you today – I promise to cooperate in any way I can. If you want me to say a word for you today, I'll do that. If you want me to keep quiet but demonstrate love and servanthood, by your Spirit's power I will. I'm fully available to you today, so guide me by your Spirit.”* (Hybels, B. Just Walk Across The Room 2006. pg 37)

It is exciting to see the fruits in my life and in my Sisters' lives with this journey of discipleship. I can attest that my eyes have been opened to new ways to see others around me. My Sisters speak joyfully of meeting new people and sharing God's love with them. I'm looking forward to this new year and all the ways we will continue on this journey and learn how to share but also to discipline ourselves as followers of Jesus. And as followers of Jesus, we follow his 1st Servant here on earth, Pope Francis, in the call for each of us baptized members of the Church, to evangelize and love one another.

# CATHOLIC DISCIPLE

reflection

BY GINETTE MARION

As part of our formation, Alison and I have been given a glimpse of the heart of Father Bob. We have come to know him through all the beautiful stories shared by people who have known him and through reading his book, *The Catholic Disciple* and listening to its accompanying DVD talks. It is clear that he had a heart for the renewal of the Church and a deep desire for others to encounter the Lord in a very personal way.

Fr. Bob mentioned in his DVD talk that it took more power for Jesus to heal and transform Mary Magdalene's heart than for Him to raise Lazarus from the dead. This really struck me because I never would have thought that a heart could be harder to transform than to raise someone from the dead.

Fr. Bob mentioned that oftentimes, it is the physical healings that grab peoples' attention. But ultimately, the Lord is after our hearts because it is through our hearts that He will lead us into eternity. As Fr. Bob shared, *"I have seen people healed of physical ailments, and that's great, but the greatest work that God does is to touch a heart, capture it, and grapple it to Himself."* Experiencing a conversion of heart is not easy to explain. It requires cooperation with God's grace, and often it takes time. In differing ways, we are all in need of a conversion of heart.

Recently, I told one of the Sisters that I never eat artichokes but that I had eaten them a few times that week. She asked me, "And what is the Lord trying to tell you?" I replied, "peeling away all the layers to get to the heart." Since joining community, I realized that the Lord has begun a good work in me. **But there are layers of my heart that need to be peeled away**, to be transformed. I find it helpful to spend time in the morning in personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This helps me to stop and recognize where my heart is at. It takes humility and a certain willingness to let the Lord in.

Here in community we go out intentionally to share Christ with others, seeking to invite others to deeper conversion of heart. For example, we might go to a mall and just be a presence there, asking the Lord to bring people in our path that He wants us to speak to. In this, I am learning to

trust God and His timing. It's not up to me to figure out who I will speak with. Fr. Bob summed it up well,

*"It's grace. We do our bit. We speak the words. We try to live it out... speaking, giving it out - that's our work. Conversion- that's God's work. That's a grace. We can't manufacture grace. God gives it. It's amazing..."*

It has indeed been amazing to see the special moments God has given me to share my heart with another person, and they with me. Mary Magdalene would have certainly agreed that once we have received something so good from Christ, we must be open to giving it away and sharing it with others. As I continue to allow God more room in my heart, I can begin to discover the ways He is asking me to serve Him.



“

it took more power for Jesus to heal and transform Mary Magdalene's heart than for Him to raise Lazarus from the dead

”



BY ALISON WEBER

Although I have been associated with the Companions of the Cross for nearly 6 years, I didn't have the honor of meeting Fr Bob Bedard in person. However, since being accepted into the Servants of the Cross community and moving to Ottawa, I have enjoyed getting to know Fr Bob in a number of different ways. I have read a couple of his books, and I especially enjoyed the "Tribute to Fr Bob", a compilation of stories from people who knew him in honor of his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. I have also made it a point to ask people to tell me their stories when I hear that they knew Fr Bob. It is through all of these stories, both written and told, that I feel as if I have met Fr Bob personally. My favorite time with Fr Bob has been through the first semester of formation and spending my "Monday's with Fr Bob". What better way to learn than being taught directly by our spiritual father?

Here is what I've learned so far: It all begins with Jesus. In order to intentionally go out and bring Jesus to others, we have to have our own encounter with Him first. Fr. Bob says it best,

*"Our faith is more than just membership in an organization. It is not so much following a set of rules. It is a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ."*

We must discover who Jesus Christ is, then go out and share Christ with others. I have personally learned that bringing Christ to others starts simply with saying hello to a stranger and striking up a conversation. This is not as easy as it sounds. Honestly, I have not yet found the confidence to boldly share myself with random people. I tend to try and be the "silent partner" observing the

sisters in their encounters and taking mental notes of how things can flow once I work up the courage to lead a conversation. For now, I just pray for the gift of remembering people's names, as Fr. Bob was known for, as I am terrible with names. As I continue to grow and keep giving Him permission to move through me to reach others, I trust He will be doing the moving of hearts, not me.

Bringing Jesus to others through evangelization is the mission of our Community. It is one of the many things that drew me to apply. As Jesus comes alive for me in new ways through this time of formation, and as I am being taught how to share Him with others, I am assured that I am following the will of the Father for my life. I can say with confidence that our spiritual father, Fr Bob, is interceding for me to our heavenly Father. And I remind myself everyday, as he says it so well,

*"The will of the father is the only thing worth doing in this world. Nothing else matters anyway."*

IT ALL  
BEGINS  
WITH  
JESUS

*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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_



American Thanksgiving with Bishop Christian, Fr. Tim and friends



Christmas tree hunting - Sr. Anna and Sr. Melinda picked a sweet \$20 Christmas tree from Ikea. Great find!



Playing Telestrations with the Scherr's - Way too much fun with friends over games, bacon, and eggs.



RiseUp: Sr. Melinda & Sr. Penelope supporting the Vocations Workshop. Great crowd!



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

## 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](http://www.gofundme.com/2jucu5a5)

These gifts have the power to draw people to God and are to be used for others instead of for our own benefit.



## Teaming up with the HOLY SPIRIT

BY SR. PENELOPE NGUYEN

This past December St. Mary's Parish, Ottawa, Canada had its "Called and Gifted" Spiritual Gifts workshop. Tracey McAskill and I are honoured to work together as co-leaders for the ministry. At the end of the workshop, Tracey said a few words of gratitude that really stood out for me. She smiled, looked at me and said, "Sr. Penelope ... we couldn't be more different!" How true! We are very different. But we have unity in vision that allows us to be free and to have healthy conflict. We share our various gifts. We communicate our uniqueness. That's teamwork. It's even better when we team up with the Holy Spirit and use His gifts.

Spiritual Gifts Ministry exists to encourage people to discern and minister within their gifts. Spiritual gifts also known as charisms are given by the Holy Spirit who enable His people to be powerful channels of His love and goodness. These gifts have the power to draw people to God and are to be used for others instead of for our own benefit. Those who minister in their charisms experience peace and joy. Many lives are touched because of their witness and dedication.

Serving in our spiritual gifts benefits the Church greatly. At the parish, we have implemented a thorough discernment process developed by Catherine of Siena Institute. We offer an introductory workshop, one-on-one interview, and small group meetings (to help discern our gifts more). We will also have a Ministries Fair where the participants can match their gifts to the different ministries of the parish and listen to how God might be calling them to serve. From this past workshop, many participants responded enthusiastically. Best of all, typically half of the people who attend workshops sign up for the follow-up interview, but in our case 75% of the people made a commitment to take this next step. The momentum is high and we are committed to give the support and care for the participants to explore God's call.

Loving God and one another requires me to become a mature disciple of Jesus Christ and to encourage others to grow. The Church is made up of many parts which ought to function well together, and yes that includes Tracey and I. ☺ I am delighted to share the mission of building up the Body of Christ by helping people to be aware of the roles and charisms of the Holy Spirit, to be empowered and equipped for the tasks the Lord calls us to do. I also feel the need to grow in teaming up with the Holy Spirit, relying on His Power, and staying in communication with Him as I walk with people. In this way, it is my joy and honour to be God's disciple.

# THE INVITATION

## 3 STEP EVANGELIZATION

There are 2 really important steps we need to consider when we share the gospel message with someone: #1.The Message and #2.The Invitation. Fr. Bob has taught us that the invitation is crucial.

I've provided some simple truths in my booklet. That's #1.

And these truths can be picked out of sequence. It really depends on where the hearer is at in their walk with the Lord. Here's where the invitation, that's #2, becomes crucial. It's something most of us lack. We have so much we can share about our faith, oodles and oodles. That's #1. But our invitation is weak. That's #2. Check out pages 26-27. We want to give the hearer the chance to know that they can give God permission, that they can ask Him to show them He is real. I've seen it in people's expressions. This is often times a real eye opener that they can decide for God, they can talk to Him, they can go at their own pace.

And step #3, well, that's when you hand it over, like passing a baton over to the Holy Spirit. That's all we can really do, eh?

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

GIVE US A CALL TO PICK UP YOUR COPY OF



LET'S GET GOING!



# Come and See Weekend!

FRIDAY FEB 17 – SUNDAY FEB 19, 2017



GIVE  
GOD  
Permission

A great opportunity to  
**COME-AND-SEE**

the Servants of the Cross and experience  
our community life, spirituality, and mission.

FOR SINGLE WOMEN AGES 18-35 WHO DESIRE TO DISCERN THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE

SERVANTS OF THE CROSS : 33 AURORA CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ON

CONTACT SR. MELINDA 613.729.8710 OR [MSCHENHER@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MSCHENHER@YAHOO.COM)

# BLESSED

## Ladies Night



We want to share our vocation with as many women, young and old, from 0 to 99 years. Come for a blessed night of prayers, supper, and fellowship.



3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month (Jan to May)  
5:30-8:30pm | 33 Aurora Crescent



# YOU WERE BORN

For such a time

# AS THIS

— CONFERENCE —  
Esther 4:14

**you**  
HAVE BEEN  
chosen, called  
set apart

Join us for Mass,  
Workshops, Prayer  
& Anointing

TORONTO  
Saturday  
Nov 19, 2016

HOUSTON  
Complete  
Jan 14, 2017

DETROIT  
Saturday  
Jan 20, 2017

HALIFAX  
Saturday  
Apr 8, 2017

OTTAWA  
Saturday  
May 6, 2017



*Servants of the Cross*  
33 Aurora Crescent  
Ottawa, ON K2G 0Z6  
613-729-8710

[www.servantsofthecross.ca](http://www.servantsofthecross.ca)

Contact  
**Sr. Anna Chan, SC**  
Moderator

Check out our website for photos, events, and more!  
Design and Layout: CJamesRun Design