

"THE ANNUNCIATION" E-NEWSLETTER

SANTOS ANJOS (Holy Angels)

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

A means of embracing to proclaim Jesus!

February 20, 2010 Year 2 Number 8



FORT APACHE

VeraLucia and I have been seeing an extraordinary amount of suffering around us... Everywhere we turn to, our own immediate and extended family, friends, requests to the Prayer Chains we belong to; some of the stuff is almost unbearable. My niece Michelle has been haunted by a brain tumor since she was 12 y.o. After two years of treatment it shrunk and "went to sleep." When it "woke up" last year at age 20, bringing Michelle almost into despair, I was inspired to write her this message while praying and meditating on her struggle. I encourage you, no matter what your "hopeless" situation might be, to substitute Michelle's name for yours and to pray with Mary, the humble, hopeful and trusting Mother of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

"Fort Apache....wagons in a circle, screaming of the Indians, screaming of cowboys, flaming arrows flying, gunshots whizzing past your head...bodies falling on the left and on the right, pain of the arrow in your shoulder, despair, futility, frustration, sense of being utterly alone, that all is lost...and yet – there is hope. Hope you say? Hah! Madman you are! ...You mock me to claim "hope" in an hour such as this? How? Who? When? I can't bear it! I see NO calvary troops coming to save us! I'm about to expire! What foolish words are these in the midst of such obvious pain and chaos of Fort Apache? Hope?!...Yes, hope where there is no hope...hope, when the rational self gives up...hope, when the darkness seems complete....HOPE, even when you are the last one – when all have expired their last breath around the wagons...when the whole world seems to have abandoned you....and you are alone with seemingly no one and no way out. Still hope is present. Hope.

Tell me the nature of this hope for I have nothing to lose for all is clearly lost.OK...I will speak to you of this hope...and I only ask that you, who state that you have nothing to lose, be sincere and follow my instructions and promptings as I talk to you of hope. Agreed?...Hmmm...very well...for what have I to lose by accepting this silly request....all is lost anyway?...Agreed.Wonderful, so let us begin.

I ask you to meditate on three seemingly hopeless situations – when all "was" impossible, all "was" lost and yet the answer to the seemingly hopeless situation was...to hope.

Situation one: The Virgin Mary's "Yes" to God brought about the coming of Jesus into the world through her womb. Think about it....a virgin who never had relations with a man, and conceives by the Holy Spirit...go and explain THAT! Imagine the potential for fear....a growing pregnant tummyexplain that to your fiancé at a time when adultery meant public stoning to death. OOOooooo...no way out, no explanation, no solutionseemingly no hope. So what does Mary do? She hopes beyond all hope....she trusts in God. She abandons herself fully to God's will. "Be it done unto me according to your word." No conditions, no deals, no hostages....just hope in God's care to resolve it. So, how does she get out of her "Fort Apache"? By her humble obedience to the will of God, St. Joseph gets a message through a dream that the baby in her womb is a miracle – the very Messiah, the expected One... St. Joseph obeys and against all worldly logic, believes the message in his dream and takes Mary and the baby in her womb as his wife, and the baby as his earthly son. Voila...hope beyond all hope, trust in God, saves the day.

Situation two: The same Mary, 33 years later, watches the time come when her son Jesus goes to Jerusalem to be tortured, humiliated, suffer and die a horrible death on the cross. She faithfully visits him along the way while he carries his cross – and her heart breaks as her innocent son is walking to his tortured death – mocked and ridiculed, spit upon and nailed to the cross. Jesus suffers and dies on the cross. Worst case scenario. What is she to do? Is she to despair? Is she to rage against the Romans? Is she to rage against his friends (the Apostles) who have all but one abandoned him? Is she to rage against God who has abandoned both her and her Son? OOOooooono way out, no explanation, no solutionseemingly no hope. So what does Mary do? She hopes beyond all hope....she trusts in God. She abandons herself fully to God's will. "Be it done unto me according to your word." No conditions, no deals, no hostages....just hope in God's care to resolve it. So, how does she get out of her "Fort Apache"? Just as in the first situation, Mary's complete hope beyond hope, saves the day. She hangs tough in complete

hope and trust beyond all worldly logic and waits for three days...and God, who is faithful, rewards her hope. Jesus rises from the dead.

Situation Three: 20 years old Michelle is going through yet another hospital stint over her brain....Tumor? Treatments? Unbearable pain? Doctors opinions? University pressure? Steroids? Family stress? Lost time? Never ending health issues? Uncertain future? Marriage? Mortality? Reputation? Friends? OOOoooo...no way out, no explanation, no solutionseemingly no hope. So what does Michelle do? She hopes beyond all hope....she trusts in God. She abandons herself fully to God's will. Michelle says to Jesus: "Be it done unto me according to your word." No conditions, no deals, no hostages....just hope in God's care to resolve it. So, how does she get out of her "Fort Apache"?

Just as in the first and the second situations, Michelle's complete hope beyond hope saves the day. She hangs tough in complete hope and trust beyond all worldly logic and waits...and God, who is faithful, rewards her hope...and everything works out.

Wow, that's amazing! Wow...So Mary's simple, trusting, hope-filled, humble prayer "Be it done unto me according to your word" and Michelle's simple, trusting, hope-filled, humble prayer "Be it done unto me according to your word" saves the day for both of them? Yes, fully.

Sigh....well, I'm down to my last bullet, the Indians are comingHmmm...I will, like the Virgin Mary and Michelle, follow their simple, trusting, hope-filled, humble prayerhere comes an Indian and the tomahawk is raised above my head and all appears lost.... so, I close my eyes and say trustingly, humbly and full of hope: "Be it done unto me according to your word"...and I let go...

....and that's when I woke up, and realized that it was just a bad dream.Amen."

*Tim Coughlan
Second Year Postulant,
Santos Anjos Catholic Community*

Our Apostolate

FELLOWSHIP

WEEKLY PRAYER AND SHARING GROUP

COLLABORATION WITH PARISH MINISTRIES

BIBLE, PRAYER AND FAITH BUILDING COURSES

EVANGELIZATION

MISSIONS, WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND SEMINARS

SANTOS ANJOS OPEN HOUSE

Our **The Life of Prayer Seminar** is coming to an end! With one more session to go, it has been an amazing seven-week journey of exhortation, encouragement, resources and support to personal prayer!

It is the beginning of the real spiritual growth and it is now up to each one of us to walk with Christ, with perseverance, constantly asking the Holy Spirit to overshadow us, revealing and bestowing His gifts upon us!

Making time for God everyday is not an option. It is a necessity for anyone serious about growing in love, holiness and desiring to be in the centre of His will!

Stay tuned for our next issue of *The Annunciation*, when we will share pictures and testimonies from the participants!

The **Living Water Prayer and Sharing Group** restarts on Monday, March 8!

We meet weekly at St. Albert the Great Parish (10 Prestwick Drive SE, Mackenzie Towne) from 7 to 9pm.

Come and join us to experience and grow in Praise and Worship, Prayer and Sharing, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Fraternal Love!

We especially invite all the participants of THE LIFE OF PRAYER Seminar as we believe that this is the perfect setting for you to put into practice everything you learned: and to continue learning, growing, sharing, loving,...opening yourself to receive and put those special and extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit into service!

We look forward to welcoming you!

Volunteerism: an important expression of our Apostolate - and we THANK YOU!

Our community offers “various forms of volunteer work which express themselves in a multiplicity of services and activities (...) If this impartial service be truly given for the good of all persons, (...) then volunteer work can be considered an important expression of the apostolate which lay men and women have a primary role.” (from Pope John Paul II's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation to The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People “Christifideles Laici” # 41)

Everyone desiring to collaborate with the implementation of the Kingdom of God, eager to participate more actively in the community's life, is invited to do it as a volunteer.

By participating in our Prayer and Sharing Group, Retreats, Courses and Seminars, and others by invitation, as needed, many wonderful men and women have stepped in service and answered the call of the Spirit to help us. For believing in what we do, for sharing and multiplying your precious talents of time, organization, leadership, teaching, music, prayer, material and spiritual gifts, our heartfelt THANK YOU!

You know who you are and we are so blessed to have you in our lives! Be assured that you are always in our prayers! Your kindness is always remembered and your intentions are lifted up regularly at our community masses in Brazil!

Thank you for being a SANTOS ANJOS FRIEND! We are still such a small mission! We could not do what we do without you!

Our Vocational Path



“Even with our frailties and limitations, the Holy Spirit of God brings about a beautiful community vocation.” (Paulo Diniz, Founder and General Moderator)

Time passed by very quickly and the Beginners in our Vocational Path have come to the end of a six-month discernment period, when they received the very basic information on our community.

One of our discussions, and subsequent reflection, was on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (cf. Gal 5: 22-23). As we tread the vocational path, and as the thought of giving our lives to God in the community challenge our behaviors and personalities, it became very clear to all of us that it is the very gift which sanctifies us.

God calls us the way we are and where we are in our spiritual journeys. He makes no distinction because we are all sinners, limited, fearful, moody, and the list goes on... If we were perfect He wouldn't need us because it is in our weakness that His glory is manifested. This is such a hard idea to grasp! It is much easier to judge and rule people out - it is our nature!

However, for those called to life in community, it will be through the brothers and sisters, with their different cultural and educational backgrounds, different upbringings, behaviors, wounds and joys that God will bring a beautiful vocation to fruition!

Notwithstanding the above, we must strive for self-knowledge, which will often come from a brother or a sister, and not lose heart; being faithful to our prayer time, walking in faith and thanksgiving, seeking change: conversion and growth, believing that the Holy Spirit will come and do His work in us and through us! All we have to say is “Yes!” (just like Mary did to the Angel Gabriel...)

DID YOU KNOW?

LENT: The Way of the Cross (Via Crucis)



“There are two Ways of the Cross:

That which Jesus walked some 2000 years ago and the everyday Way of the Cross of our lives.

To pray the first is to dive deep into the Passion and Death of Jesus to understand our own life. Without His Way of the Cross we cannot understand the events in our lives. Without it, we won't know that the Father's mercy is always waiting for us.”

Archbishop Alberto Taveira Correa, Belem/PA, Brazil

Spiritual Advisor, CFCCCF (Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships), Vatican

What Else Is Happening?



THE DIVINE MERCY RETREAT

WHERE: St. James Church, 5504 20th Street S.W. Calgary
Tel. 403-243-2680

PRESENTERS: Sr. Annuntiata Cornelio & Sr. Katrina Le
The Congregation of Sisters of Merciful Jesus

Monday, March 8

7.00 p.m. The Eucharist (Votive of St. Faustina)

7.30 p.m. The Mission Talk: "Divine Mercy: The Message and The Devotion" (Sr. Annuntiata)

Tuesday, March 9

10.00 a.m. – Meet the Sisters (social) and a Film: Faustina

7.00 p.m. The Eucharist

7.30 p.m. The Mission Talk: "Living Mercifully" (Sr. Katrina)

Wednesday, March 10

9.00 a.m. – The Eucharist

10.00 a.m. – Discussion: Apostles of Divine Mercy

7.30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration: Encounter with our Merciful Jesus
(time of silent adoration, brief reflection, sing the Chaplet)

"Where, if not in the Divine Mercy, can the world find refuge and the light of hope?"

(Pope John Paul II, April 1993)



SAVE THE DATE!
 March 25, 2010 - 7pm
THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION
 More information in our next issue!

2010 God Squad Canada Men's Conference

Friday, March 12th and Saturday, March 13th, 2010

Walking with Hope into the Future

Guest speakers include Steve Wood, his son John Wood

and Peter Kreeft, with music by ReVera

\$40 early bird registration before Feb. 28th,

\$50 after and at the door

Doors open at 6pm on Friday

Opening Mass at 7pm

St. Peter's Catholic Church -

541 Silvergrove Drive NW Calgary, AB

Saturday, April 10, 2010 – 9am

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The CCCRS is hosting a brand new PRAYER BREAKFAST!

St James Catholic Church

Live Music by "Soul Comfort"

The breakfast will be provided and prepared by the board of the CCCRS. **Admission is FREE!**

A love offering will be taken

The guest speaker will be announced soon

Praise and Worship ○ Prayer Ministry

Light the Fire May 15-16,
Catholic Charismatic Weekend
CALLED TO BE LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

At Our Lady of Victory Camp (OLVC), Bentley, Alberta.

This weekend is for Catholic families, singles, youth, lay people and consecrated in Alberta and beyond who want to praise our Lord Jesus Christ and go deeper into their faith and spiritual life.

It is a chance for families and friends to come together and celebrate through the charisms of the Holy Spirit. It is an opportunity to bring those you care about into an encounter with the living Lord.

This is the CRNA's third annual provincial conference. Youth ministry will be provided by a "Team" of Young Adults from OLVC.

To register and for more information on cost, directions and what to bring, please contact Teresa van Kampen, Chairperson, CCCRS at 403 278-9863.

MASS FOR HEALING

Friday, May 7

7pm

Celebrant: Fr. Alfredo Pereira

St. Luke's Parish (NW Calgary)

The Season of Lent started. One more time we receive the special invitation to stay away from sin and to believe in the Gospel.

Whether we walk in the steps of Jesus and His *Via Crucis*; whether we mortify our bodies and hearts by fasting from our favorite foods and worst behaviors, in the conscious effort of uniting ourselves to His suffering for our sins, we must take the call to repentance and conversion seriously.

We wish you all a very holy Lent and we hope to see you soon!

Until next time, God bless!

Vera Lucia Cottim-Coughlan
Coordinator, Calgary Mission