

SANTOS ANJOS (Holy Angels) Catholic Community

A means of embracing to proclaim Jesus!

Niteroi, RJ/Brazil * Calgary, AB/Canada



"THE ANNUNCIATION" E-NEWSLETTER

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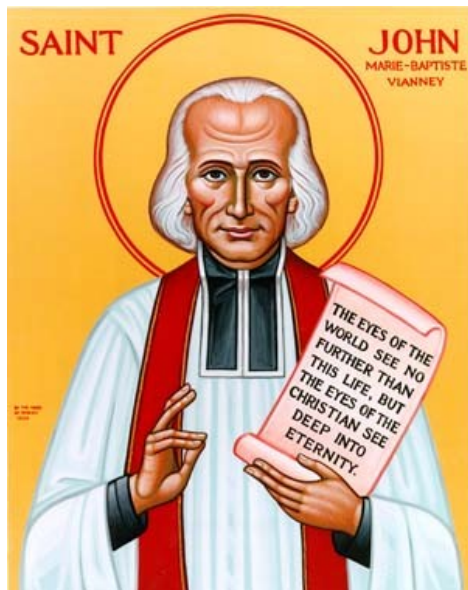
THANK YOU, LORD, FOR OUR PRIESTS!

On June 16th Pope Benedict XVI wrote a letter to his brothers, the priests, on the 150th anniversary of the death of Saint John Marie-Baptiste Vianney, the Curé of Ars, and the opening of the **Year for Priests**. The Pope hopes that during this year all priests will deepen their commitment *"to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world,"* and invites them to ponder on the Curé of Ars words: "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus."

I "met" St. John Vianney very soon after reverting to Catholicism. I was at daily mass one morning and before the priest started celebrating he placed a small statue of St. John Vianney on the left-hand side of the altar and gave us a brief introduction of who he was. It was the memorial of his birth. As I walked out of the church, I felt drawn to find out more about him and that was when I bought the little booklet "Thoughts of the Cure d'Ars," which I kept on my bedside table for many years, covered with highlights and post-it notes. What wisdom! My devotion to this Saint never stopped. When I married Tim, and John and Joseph came into Marina's and my life, I taught them about St. John Vianney and to this day we never go to bed without praying for his intercession, asking him to help us to "be smart and to know what Jesus wants us to be."

In his own wisdom, Pope Benedict XVI is not only inviting the priests to rekindle their relationship with this Saint as the Patron of Parish Priests, looking at him as the role model of pastoral possibilities in difficult times, **but he is also inviting all of us, Christ's lay faithful, to know St. John Vianney better** so that we may understand the joys and hardships that our priests face in their ministry, as well as the very basic principle of who they are.

From the Pope's letter:
(Don't miss reading St. John Vianney's words on the icon!)



*Explaining to his parishioners the importance of the sacraments, he (St. John Vianney) would say: "Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest; always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die [as a result of sin], who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest... **After God, the priest is everything! ... Only in heaven will he fully realize what he is. Leave a parish for twenty years without a priest, and they will end by worshiping the beasts there ... The priest is not a priest for himself, he is a priest for you**".*

Priests are priests for us! – And God's plan entails our working together with them for the building of the Kingdom! St. John Vianney spent his whole life leading his parishioners to a deeper relationship with God – and the whole of Europe, once his extraordinary, supernatural gifts (CCC #2003) of reading the secrets of hearts, knowledge of events at a distance, healing the sick, prophecy, tongues, among others, became known and people began to flock to Ars. They wanted to confess with him, listen to his powerful homilies and witness the love and reverence he had for the Eucharist! He was filled with the Holy Spirit and humbly allowed the gifts to outpour in everything he did. Through firm catechesis, formation and exhortation, he empowered the people to take to heart their calling to be one in Christ and through Christ.

And again, in his letter, Pope Benedict XVI says for our own times: *"(...) I would like to invite all priests, during this Year dedicated to them, to welcome the new springtime which the Spirit is now bringing about in the Church, not least through the ecclesial movements and the **new communities**. "In his gifts the Spirit is multifaceted... He breathes where he wills. He does so unexpectedly, in unexpected places, and in ways previously unheard of... but he also shows us that he works with a view to the one body and in the unity of the one body". In this regard, the statement of the Decree "Presbyterorum Ordinis" continues to be timely: "While testing the spirits to discover if they be of God, priests must discover with faith, recognize with joy and foster diligently the many and varied charismatic gifts of the laity, whether these be of a humble or more exalted kind". These gifts, which awaken in many people the desire for a deeper spiritual life, can benefit not only the lay faithful but the clergy as well. **The communion between ordained and charismatic ministries can provide "a helpful impulse to a renewed commitment by the Church in proclaiming and bearing witness to the Gospel of hope and charity in every corner of the world"**.*

We, Santos Anjos Catholic Community, a **new community**, invite you to be with us! Our Calgary Mission is here to serve you; to help you grow in faith, in fraternal love, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and ultimately, in your relationship with God.

We invite you to pray and offer sacrifices for our priests this year – and don't forget our Bishop! We also invite you to pray that all of us – you and I – may be open to the Holy Spirit in His fullness, letting the Lord Himself direct and guide us to always be at the centre of His will – despite our fears, weaknesses, and busy agendas.

Rest assured that God has plans for all the baptized – no exceptions – and that our complete happiness lies in finding His will and fulfilling our calling to love and serve one another and His Church!

St. John Vianney, please help us and pray for us!

Vera Lucia Cottim-Coughlan

PAULO DINIZ'S VISIT TO CALGARY: The highlight at the end of a great year for the Lord!

June was an incredibly busy month for us with the visit of our Founder and General Moderator from Brazil! Paulo had the opportunity to speak at different venues, including our first "Open House" in Canada and the third edition of our "Throw the Nets into the Deep – A Prayer Experience Retreat." It was a busy and very tiring agenda for all of us, but the feedback and love we received made it all very worth it! Praise God, and God alone, for all the hearts that were touched by God's message through Paulo and the many seeds that were planted for God's glory!

After three weeks, Paulo left Calgary with a huge smile as he "carried" in his heart the gift of five souls who will be entering the "Beginner" stage of our Vocation Path in the fall!

We want to share with you below a few pictures and testimonies from our *beginners* and from others who attended not only Paulo's talks and "Throw the Nets into the Deep" Retreat, but also journeyed with us this past year!

I had the privilege of playing music at the Santos Anjos Open House. I wasn't sure what it would be like or even what to expect. Shortly into the afternoon, Paulo, the founder of Santos Anjos Catholic Community, took the microphone and began to speak. Despite the fact that what he said was being translated, it by no means took anything away from the spirit of the message. From the moment he started to speak, I was riveted to every word. His words spoke directly to my heart. Paulo's humility and deep spirituality were evident. His sincere love for the Church, for the Blessed Virgin Mary, for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and his openness to the Holy Spirit, all had a profound impression on me. I felt like I was in the room with a future saint. I had the opportunity of hearing Paulo speak three more times during his visit to Calgary. Each time, I was captivated by what he had to say. My heart was on fire each time I heard him speak. I wanted to spend as much time with him as possible while he was here, learning everything about him and the community that the Lord has asked him to form. What a gift to have been able to spend time with a man with such holiness and passion for the Lord! I also had a unique opportunity to meet (via Skype) some of the community members in Brazil. Their joyful enthusiasm and genuine love for Paulo will remain with me as a treasured memory. Immense joy and peace fill my heart at the prospect of journeying with this spirit-filled community. I am excited to begin the Vocational Path and the years of formation that may come from it should this be what God's plan is for me. My heart yearns for a community such as Santos Anjos. It feels like home!

Brenda Lerner, St. James Parish

I attended the Santos Anjos Community's Open House at St. Albert the Great Church on June 14, 2009. My intention in attending was to help support the organizers with some praise and worship music. I had no preconceived plans of attending the Open House to learn more about the community itself. But from the moment that their founder Paulo Diniz first began to speak it became very clear to me that we were in the presence of a profoundly spiritual man; a man intimately connected to and moved by Jesus in the Holy Spirit. What an "anointing" it was to hear him speak with such power and gentleness of the intense love that Jesus has for us - and not just that, but of the intense desire which the Holy Spirit has to reside in each of us, today. Paulo shared with us from scripture and also from his own life's journey as it connected to the founding of the Santos Anjos Community. As he read and expounded on the story of the blind man meeting Jesus (Lk 18:35-43) we all knew that Christ Himself was present, asking each of us at that very moment: "What do you want me to do for you?" Paulo's personal testimony about the beginnings of the community was a living example of the powerful action of the Holy Spirit in our world, today. I left with a faith that was touched and strengthened; but also with a sense that my complacency and comfort were at risk of being shaken up.

Of course, after the Open House I decided in my heart that it might be safer for me if I would just treat this experience as a "one off" and not attempt to learn more about the community. I didn't really want to shake up the comfort and routine of a prosperous life that I had spent years building and balancing. But it is not so easy to dismiss the memory of such a meeting as we had at the Open House. When one encounters the profound presence of Christ you can't just "walk away from it". And so I spent the week turning over the words and prayers of Paulo in my mind and heart. I almost succeeded in staying away, except for the kind invitation of the community members who asked me to attend a Prayer Meeting at their home in Calgary. When Jesus asks twice, you go.

At that Prayer Meeting on June 25, 2009 we had even more blessings as we heard Paulo and the other community members sharing their charismatic gifts of prophecy, visions and inspired scripture readings. Paulo's spiritual maturity and insight were once again so evident. But even more importantly we got to see how deeply Paulo and the Santos Anjos Community are rooted in the teaching and the authority of the Catholic Church; how slowly and carefully their community members are led towards a vocation of living a consecrated life; and how close to the heart of the community are the love and poverty and "woundedness" of Jesus. By the time the Prayer Meeting was over I knew that I really must find out more about the Santos Anjos Community by taking the opportunity to enter the preliminary stage of their vocational development. I felt that no matter how this turns out, whether I have a vocation with them or not, this would be a journey worth taking.

Now it might be surprising to someone reading this testimony to learn that Paulo spoke to us entirely in his native tongue of Portuguese. And of course all of us at the sessions spoke only English (or maybe some Spanish and French). But thanks to the truly inspired translation of his community member Vera Lucia Cottim-Coughlan, we all felt as if we were listening directly to him. There was no confusion, no watering down, no filtering, no distortion, and no delay. We were receiving the raw power, wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit directly and instantly in our own language. To me, it was a repeat of that same moment from the Acts of the Apostles when the Holy Spirit allowed people of every nation and tongue to hear about the powerful deeds of God's love as they were proclaimed by the Apostles on the first Pentecost.

To God be the glory. **Tim Ward, Sacred Heart Parish**

I was touched by everything Paulo had to say, and I could always tell that the Holy Spirit was speaking through him. I enjoyed coming to the prayer meetings, praising, volunteering and participating in the retreat.... I am so thankful that God brought such wonderful models for me in my life. I really needed to be shown the 'right path', and you, Tim, and Paulo were amazing examples for me! Thank you for everything! **Pavla Drapal, St. Cecelia's Parish**



From Right to Left: Tim Ward, Brenda Lerner (Beginners) and Pavla Drapal leading the Praise and Worship at the Open House



With Father Kevin Tumback at the Open House at St. Albert the Great Parish



Beginner Valerie Schey



Prayer moment after Paulo's talk at the "Alive in the Spirit" Prayer Group

*The first time I heard Paulo speak was at the Santos Anjos Open House at St. Albert the Great parish on June 14. I have known VeraLucia for some time; in fact, I attended the "Throw the Nets" retreat she facilitated last year. She had spoken about Paulo, and the Santos Anjos Community, so I was anticipating an interesting day. What I heard was so inspiring that I determined that I would attend every talk Paulo gave while here in Calgary. The following night, Monday, he was at our "Alive in the Spirit" prayer group downtown. The talk was on "Healing, Forgiveness, and Liberation". Before the talk, he prayed that God would grant us the grace to see ourselves as He sees us, and I believe that prayer was answered. God so touched my eyes, ears, and heart during that talk; I was riveted to my seat, my eyes fastened on his every gesture. Even though VeraLucia had to translate his talk into English, it was so very powerful that one could not help knowing that the Holy Spirit was sending us a message we could not turn away from. For several years, I have known that God was calling me to learn and grow closer to Him, and I have been searching for a way. It is for this reason that I have decided to join the Santos Anjos' Vocation Path. I don't know yet if this is my way, but I know I must go where God calls me. Life is too short to do anything else, and I must do everything I can in the time given to me to become what He wants me to be. **Valerie Schey, St. Michael the Archangel Parish***

"(Throw the Nets into the Deep) was more than I expected! It was very helpful in helping me understand the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I felt that the Adoration (of the Blessed Sacrament) was very powerful and touched our hearts. The fact that VeraLucia translated while Paulo talked... it was amazing to see how God works through all of us and how a person would come all the way from Brazil to share so much with us. Also, while talking in our small groups I felt God's presence there and as soon as I got home on Saturday, after going to confession, there was a gentleness and peace in me that I had only felt when going to World Youth Day. I felt the Spirit working in me and changing my heart to go and immediately do things that He was prompting me to. I felt a sense of excitement and peace and followed what the Spirit had asked me to do!"

Jana Drapal, St. Cecelia's Parish

I have been a member of the "Living Water" Prayer and Sharing Group since its beginning last summer. The group was born after Throw the Nets into the Deep (Weekly seminar format) ended. I have also attended the two "Throw the Nets into the Deep" (Weekend retreat format) that followed, both as a volunteer and participant. For me it has been an opportunity to praise and worship God with others both in song and words. It has been a place of honesty, warmth and fellowship which has nurtured my relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It has motivated me to go deeper in my search and love for God and to understand His plans for me.

Rosemary Vinke, St. Albert the Great Parish

The time spent with Paulo was very inspiring. We could not help but think of the fact that **the word** is being sent out all over the world in many different languages. The same message; a different dialogue. We are so thankful and truly blessed to have had the opportunity. Thank you for inviting us to share in the time Paulo was in Calgary.

Wayne and Suzanne Brister, St. Mary's Cathedral



(Above) Paulo Diniz, Tim and VeraLucia with some members of the Living Water Prayer and Sharing Group, friends and beginners at the last prayer meeting before Paulo's return home



(Top Left) – with Beginner Matilda Morton

(Bottom Left) – "Throw the Nets into the Deep" – A Prayer Experience Retreat

... and more from our SCRAPBOOK

What can I say about Paulo's sojourn here among us? I can say without a doubt that it was a very special time of grace for me and for many others, but I find it hard to put my experience into words. I had a deep sense of God's closeness as well as deep communion with others on the many occasions that we got together to sing, to pray, to praise, to listen, to learn and share and break the Bread of the Word together. I believe that our Lord sent him here to build us up and strengthen us in our faith and to make us more aware of the Holy Spirit's power and activity. I also feel he came to wake us up and send us out into the world to be more effective witnesses of Christ. His words sank deep into my heart, and left an indelible impression. I am very grateful that he came.

M.C.



With Bishop Henry



Happy moments we will never forget with friends and volunteers at the Kruis' Home! Left to Right: Christina Kruis, Paulo, Andres and Gloria Nino, and Tim



Left to Right: Danny and Elaine Ho, Paulo, Dominic and Sierra Sequeira, Pavla Drapal and Vera Lucia

*We would like to offer our special thanks to our good Lord in prompting us to attend talks and the retreat; also our deep appreciation to Paulo, Vera Lucia and Tim and all the volunteers and participants. We were moved by the talk on the Living Word – when scripture comes alive in a personal, intimate way – You KNOW God is speaking TO YOU! One of my gifts encountered was as follows: I am a leader (Dominic) of a prayer group and prior to the retreat; I had found myself lacking inspiration and motivation no matter how much I tried. By having to open my heart to God, he has shown me a personal and intimate way through his living word and has inspired me to speak more boldly and yet peacefully to the members of my prayer group. I find this gift very rewarding, fulfilling and with God's grace, I hope to continue his ministry. Also we would like to thank Paulo, Founder of Santos Anjos Catholic Community for all the talks he gave, which we found to be very inspiring and spoken with conviction. We look forward to his future visits to Calgary! **Dominic and Sierra Sequeira, St. Albert the Great Parish***



Jan Kruis, Pure and Applied BBQ Engineer, our host for an evening of great food (can you tell?) and Christian fellowship



Because we knew that Paulo was coming to Calgary, Tim decided to wait for seven months and say his Commitment Prayer into Postulancy (Second Stage of our Vocation Path) before Paulo. This was a very happy and memorable moment for us, since Tim is our very first Canadian vocation, and is now journeying towards Discipleship (Third Stage).

During our meeting with Bishop Henry, Paulo reiterated our commitment of service to this diocese under his guidance and in full communion and obedience to the Church. We talked about new projects to embrace and evangelize, which we will be structuring to introduce to you late this Fall/Winter.

So... indeed it was a year of intense work for us and we are grateful to break for the summer! ... And because we are called to this vocation in our state in life, our children are a big part of it. It is not always easy and we thank them for their understanding and support – and above all, we thank God for His AMAZING grace in making it all fit!



A typical evening at the Coughlan household before we go to the Prayer Group
We love you Joseph, John and Marina!

Last, but not least, our gratitude to Bishop Henry, Father Kevin, the staff at St. Albert the Great Parish, particularly Sharon and Rosanna, who are always so kind and helpful to our groups! And THANKS again to all of YOU, who participated in our programs, supported us with your time and gifts as volunteers, prayed and continue praying for us and all who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord! We look forward to seeing you again soon!

IN THE FALL

“LIVING WATER” PRAYER AND SHARING GROUP

RESTARTS IN SEPTEMBER!

WE’LL LET YOU KNOW THE DATE

**STAY TUNED FOR FALL/WINTER EVENTS AND
PROGRAMS IN OUR NEXT E-NEWSLETTER**

I haven't been to Brazil in three years. I'm taking off on July 13th to spend time with my aging parents, a little vacation, a lot of community work and preparation for the fall! Please keep me and our family in your prayers, since Tim and the kids will not be able to join me this time! Also, please pray for me especially on August 23rd, when I will be professing my permanent commitment to a consecrated life in the Santos Anjos charism at a mass to be celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of Niteroi.

Have a safe and blessed summer!

Until next time, with fraternal love from your sister in Christ,

VeraLucia Cottim-Coughlan,
Coordinator, Calgary Mission

At any time you wish to be removed from our email list, kindly let VeraLucia know at vlcottim_coughlan@yahoo.ca
"The Annunciation" banner and our "Tau" (cross) are original signs of Santos Anjos Catholic Community and may not be copied