

Heart - to - Heart

North American Bulletin

October 2010
Volume 37, no. 1

Theme: Where do you find Hope in Faith and Sharing?

Hooked on Hope

If “courage is fear that has said its prayers”, then hope is despair that kept up the search, and ultimately discovered a glimmer of Sonlight through a tiny crack in one’s broken heart.



I’m certainly! a seeker of Sonlight, and my search sent me to the F&S retreat, where the forecast is constant, always plenty of Sonshine.

Faith and Sharing was the first retreat that I ever attended alone. I had recently gone through a divorce of necessity; one that my heart had wrestled with for decades (in the final round, I put down my gloves to pursue a path of peace). I entered that retreat through a dark, dense door of first-time fear, only to float back home on clamoring clouds of hallowed hope!

Our small-group, a plethora of diversity, yet perfectly connected in brokenness, brought hope to one another through a sharing of our gifts: “Turtle” (*faith and fortitude*), an ‘old-timer’ to F&S, by way of her physical handicaps, helped me, rapidly! to s-l-o-w d-o-w-n; Joan (*courage and patience*), an actively and anxiously grieving widow had never been to a retreat before, much less alone; Eric (*goodness and piety*), a young homeless boy, whose story of abandonment broke and then stole our hearts; Bob, (*gentleness and serenity*), whose placid Presence spoke non-stop (though he uttered not a single spoken word); Jim, (*generosity and healing*) a crusader with an uncanny connection to my medical field, specifically cancer in the adolescent population, tugged at my pediatric nursing heartstrings; and Jean (*self-control and fear of the Lord*), a young woman outspokenly struggling in her real! recovery to alcohol addiction, brought us the gift of hope wrapped in tissue papers of tears. By the close of the retreat, our small group had become a closely-knit community hallmarked by hope.

I was summoned to work on the F&S committee for the following year’s retreat and “got that hope, hope, hope, hope, hope, down in my soul” by doing so!

Hope grew for my younger girls, too, as they became part of the F&S family the next year. On our way to that retreat, my then 14 year-old daughter Madeline and I 'had it out' in the car (I had insisted that attending the retreat was mandatory...). Madeline (in a thunderous!, ear-splitting roar): "What other 14-year-old would go on a 4-day! retreat - - with their - - - MOTHER??#!@!!?" Me (in an artificially unflustered, unperturbed, unemotional tone): "Sometimes you just have to trust, Madeline... I believe you will love this experience; it *could* change your life". That was Thursday afternoon... Friday evening, during our Reconciliation service, Madeline came up and sat down next to me and in a calm, low, and yes, loving! voice said "I'm sorry I said those things to you yesterday, Mom. You were right; I love it here!" That was seven years ago; Madeline's attended every retreat since then!

I've observed as Madeline (and have witnessed the same with my daughter Kathryn and many of our other youths) opened herself to God's incredible! Love through the Presence and loving acceptance from others, especially those marginalized by society; her vulnerability so safe within the walls of this community. She's developed a reverence for, not only those marginalized and struggling, but for varying cultures, ethnicities and socio-economic classes.

With fondness I remember the 'bedtime stories' the girls told each night at the retreat as we went to sleep; I listened to their banter, arguing about which retreatant was 'their favorite'. My daughters fell madly in love

with many of the L'Arche core team members, and got involved serving in two of the east side homes. Madeline organized a Christmas party for them at our home one year. I'm sure the girls would readily agree that the memory of that party is one of the best Christmas gifts they received.

The crown of hope in F&S can be discerned nightly during Adoration, as a pulsating atmosphere of peace. Oh, how I treasure that Peace!

At Faith and Sharing, it is obvious that "Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope... and that Love never fails". I'm hooked on this hope!

Mo VanGuntен
Cleveland

Heart-to-Heart

Subscription :

1 year: \$ 3.00

2 years : \$ 5.00

3 years : \$ 6.00

Supporter : \$ 5.00 per year

By email: free

2 issues per year :

End of October and End of April

Next dead line :

March 15, 2011

Aussi disponible en français

Bulletin Foi et Partage

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Themes of upcoming issues

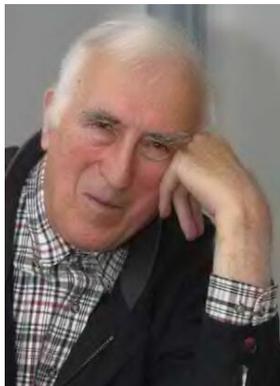
April 2011 (dead line: March 15, 2011):

Celebrate the Lord

October 2011 (dead line: Sept. 15, 2011):

Welcoming the Stranger

Hope



And you, Jean Vanier, how would you define hope?

J.V.: When everything collapses or falls apart, when despair seeps through, I become totally powerless. Then, there comes along a tiny murmur, a breath of confidence. Before my nothingness, my emptiness, there is the tenderness of God's love that covers everything. It is the same HOPE for those with whom I live as it is for me: God's tender love.

Magazine "Famille Chrétienne", #1630.

Theme: Where do you find Hope in Faith and Sharing?

Hoping against all Hope

The communities "Faith and Sharing" inspired by Jean Vanier's spirituality, were founded especially for those persons who recognize their "poverty" in its various forms. Retreats, corn-husking parties, monthly renewals characterized by prayers, hearty welcomes and fellowship nurture the daily lives of those who frequent Faith and Sharing.

It is very important to mention that sharing is truly found in the persons who take Faith and Sharing to heart. Truly, in spite of their weaknesses, each person has at least one specific gift that he can offer, if he so wishes and is able to do it, doing all that is possible to make the meetings fruitful and worthy of God's reassuring acceptance. Their presence is really important because they know that they have a role to play in Faith and Sharing.

Being that our wonderful family is gradually getting older and that recruitment is slow, I think that we should have recourse to a certain wisdom. As the coordinator for Sherbrooke, I must see, with the help of a good committee, that our community pursues its mission but at the same time be aware and respectful of our capacities and our limitations. We must be what we are, in all simplicity. Prayer and discernment were always essential, and must remain so.

As far as I'm concerned, there is hope for Faith and Sharing because of our willingness to conform ourselves to the Father's will. My faith urges me to be really open to listening, without always understanding immediately what a little divine voice is telling me, but to go ahead and to have faith. Christ's plans are inspired by the Holy Spirit. I know nothing of the future of our communities, but I believe that those who are part of them will firmly believe in the importance of their commitment and fully endorse the mission of Faith and Sharing.



God has sown the Word as we sow the seeds.

Lise Morin
Coordinator for Faith and Sharing, Sherbrooke

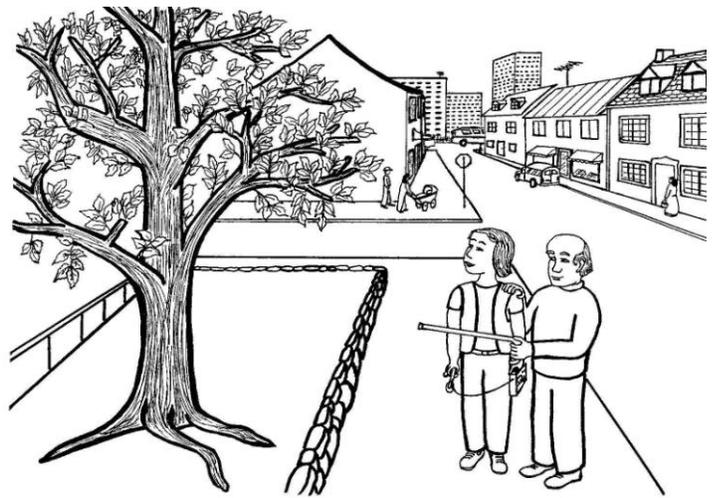
Theme: Where do you find Hope in Faith and Sharing?

Go into the City and you will be Told what to Do”

Over the past few years as a high school student, participating in the annual summer Faith and Sharing Retreat has been a blessing and an overall positively rewarding experience in my life. Though each retreat is unique in its theme and animator, it seems that every year the message of the weekend pertains to what is going on in my and other’s personal life. Some of the animator’s words during the last Faith and Sharing Retreat connected to something I was going through. Though I was excited about starting my first year of college at Cleveland State University, I was a little hesitant this summer about how living on my own would actually be. I had questions and fears that had been surfacing during that summer, such as “How will I make friends?” and “Will I like living in downtown Cleveland?”. Rich Clark, the animator of last year’s retreat, provided much spiritual advice and many inspiring stories. He explained that God surprises us when we least expect it and that our job is to transform reality, which happens every time we go to Communion. This struck me because I realized at that moment that when living at CSU, I would have the ability to attend Thursday night mass at Fr. Jim’s, which is less than five minutes away from my dorm. Now that I am at college, I also desire to attend weekend mass at St. Malachi’s, which is just over “the bridge” from where I live. By going to Communion, I can do my part in transforming reality, as Rich explained it.

During another lecture, Rich was talking about how Father Jim O’Donnell once said that, “if you see a homeless person on the street, look them in the eyes before walking away.” This really struck me, knowing that when living downtown I would see homeless people. It inspired me to treat everyone equally as God’s Children, no matter who they are or where they come from.

Lastly, Rich spoke of his position as President of the fairly new Catholic inner city high school, St. Martin De Porres. He talked of how he never imagined himself doing that and how God, through several random experiences in his life, led him to where he is today. He brought up a quote from the Bible in which God speaks to Saul, and says, “Get up and go into the city and you will be told what to do.” This quote filled me with hope that while at Cleveland State, in the city, God will tell me what to do if I am willing to listen. I know that God will lead me to what I am supposed to be doing and being at the Faith and Sharing Retreat quelled my fears and encouraged me to trust in God and believe that he will answer my many questions. God’s answers may be directions or possibly orders for how to do His Will in “the City.” No matter where I am, I know that God loves me and would never leave me alone without hope and His great love.



Kathryn Van Gunten
Cleveland

Theme: Where do you find Hope in Faith and Sharing?

Hope for Faith and Sharing

I do think that hope for Faith and Sharing is found in the unconditional acceptance of the other because many persons cannot find their proper place in the present day Church. Even if we are imperfect, we become a complement, an alternative to living the Gospel by our very simple gestures.

We must also carry out the necessary changes in our groups because the members grow older and that requires an adjustment. Our groups belong to God, they are God's work; we must do all that we can and leave the rest to Him. (Take action and let go).

We must be prayerful members (on a daily basis) and not only once a month. I put great hope in Faith and Sharing.

Hélène Verret
Quebec

Theme: Where do you find Hope in Faith and Sharing?

North American Retreat My hope

I just came back from the North American retreat that took place July 18-21, in Plantagenet (near Ottawa). And I ask myself: "What hope is there for Faith and Sharing?"

For that retreat in Plantagenet, we were some thirty participants. And I cannot help but compare with the first North American retreat I made in Guelph in 1993. There were more than 100 participants, I think. It must be said that Jean Vanier attracted a great number of people.

Presently, it is clear: Faith and Sharing is declining in numbers. Fewer groups. fewer active members. But, positively speaking, we must remember that many members are now in heaven.

So, even though "there weren't that many people" at the North American retreat, here are some points that give me hope:

- Persons who were attending their first Faith and Sharing retreat. They were a source of new light; we should not become accustomed to a Faith and Share retreat - each one is a grace.
- In the Word passionately proclaimed by Pierre Desroches; Pierre really has the gift of the Word, and it is good to see persons who have assimilated the Word and that they have the facility to always make it new.
- The participants listening to the Word; the Word changes the heart, slow but sure, beginning with mine.
- The joy that one could feel, even though it was not exuberant.
- That feeling of fraternity that I discover in each meeting of Faith and Sharing.
- The fact that there are as many subscribers to the Heart to Heart bulletin as there were twelve years ago, about 200. We cannot get together physically speaking, but the Holy Spirit is capable of establishing a link between the members and the communities.

"Behold, I make all things new". Love is always new. There lies my hope.

Jean Roy
French Coordinator

News from Rouyn-Noranda

Here is some brief news from Rouyn-Noranda. Yes, we are still active in Faith and Sharing. We meet once a month, on the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. We share what we have experienced throughout the month that has gone by. Then we share on the past Sunday's Gospel, and we close the evening by reciting the breviary in union with the whole Church. We are 5 or 6 persons that take the time to enjoy this time of peace and comfort.

Family Retreat - Faith and Sharing - 2010

Fatima Camp - Rouyn-Noranda

Theme: *I am loved as I am!*

Again this year, in spite of health problems, we were able to organize a retreat for some thirty persons. Robert Larouche was our animator. About ten children were part of the group. We were privileged to share our retreat with some people that Robert and Judith brought with them from l'Arche of Amos. Also to be mentioned, some persons coming from Ontario came to share with us. They strongly believe in Faith and Sharing.

Next year, our retreat will be held at the Oasis, a house of prayer founded by Father Joseph Guiho. Some changes will be made. The retreat will last three days and the people will be able to sleep in their own homes at night. Being held in the city, transportation will not be a problem for many of the persons attending. We will also organize a one day family retreat that will take place in March.

Gisèle and Émilien Labelle
Responsible for the Rouyn-Noranda community

Welcoming the Suffering as Jesus Did

Faith and Sharing retreat

Quebec, August 16, 17, 18, 2010

Animator: Pierre-René Côté, priest

What a wonderful retreat! We were truly welcomed as Jesus would have welcomed us in his merciful love. Pierre-René Côté really reached us in the very depths of our hearts and knew how to maintain our interest during these 3 days in spite of the absence of a co-animator, Angèle Gagné, who was supposed to share the teaching with him. She could not be present because of the death of her brother.

Pierre-René based his teaching on six topics:

1. A woman suffering from severe bleeding (Mark 5, 21-43) (25-34)
2. The Centurion (Luke 7, 1-10)
3. The prostitutes entering into the Kingdom of God before the great priests (Matthew 21, 28-32)
4. The adulteress (John 8, 1-11)
5. The boy with an evil spirit (Mark 9, 14-29)
6. The disciples despised without cause because of Jesus (John 15, 18 - 16, 15)

Here is what I remember of those teachings:

Each human being is wanted by God, even before the creation of the world, to be with Him and in His love for always. God wants each person to be autonomous, free, proud, productive, happy, holy (an ideal according to the plan of God), and free from the slavery of evil. In spite of the harm that was done unto me, in spite of the evil I could have committed, I do not belong to evil; I belong to Christ who has given his life for me to redeem me from all evil, to make me the beloved child of the Father.

The woman suffering from severe bleeding (Mark 5, 21-43) (25-34)

The story of this woman is given to us by Mark within the telling of another story, the one of Jairus' daughter who is dying; contrary to Jairus who comes directly to Jesus to ask for the healing of his daughter, the woman who deemed herself impure, does not dare address herself directly to Jesus, but says to herself "if I just touch his clothes, I will get well". As Jesus agrees to accompany Jairus, he recognizes the woman and leads her to confessing her faith; he tells her: "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your trouble." To Jairus, he simply says: "Only believe".



Faith is the source of salvation. No matter if my trouble comes from my own choices or is caused by other people, or is the result of nature itself, Jesus tells me: "You do not belong to what is evil; I gave my life so that nothing nor anybody may belong to what is wrong."

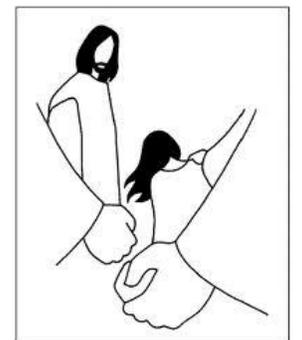
The Centurion intercedes for his servant (Luke 7, 1-10)

This Centurion is a soldier of the Roman garrison stationed in Capernaum. He had a servant, a favorite of his, who was sick and near death. Having heard about Jesus, he sent some elders to him to ask him to come and heal his servant. He did not go himself, maybe because he felt unworthy, as he would say later on, or maybe because he was used to having others do his errands. But he has faith in Jesus, so much so that he says: "But give the word and let my servant be cured". Jesus grants his request because of such great faith that he has not found, not even in Israel.

Those who know Pierre-René know that he is an excellent storyteller, and by means of the centurion theme, he gave us the whole history of Moses, and from that also there are lessons to be drawn. But that is another story that would further lengthen my text.

The adulterous woman (John 8, 1-11)

"Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you; go away and don't sin any more". Even if I have been reduced to slavery, I do not belong to that slavery... God's plan is compromised by evil, but if I agree to be redeemed, I am "on the road to salvation" and I am liberated from evil. Thus I become a collaborator in God's plan, a person for justice, adjusted to God's plan, and I cease to put labels on those I believe to be bad. The Sanhedrin, the holy Council of the holy people of God, are the ones who condemn Jesus. Let us pray so as to avoid being somebody's Sanhedrin. God loves us in such a way that his love does not stop even though we don't deserve it. "You are priceless in my eyes and I love you. Even in your worse downfalls, you can count on me".



The prostitutes will have precedence over the High Priests (Matthew 21, 28-32)

A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today". He answered: "I will not go", but afterward thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second son who answered: "Certainly, sir," but did not go. What resemblance with us! Sometimes we say "yes" and then postpone until tomorrow or to later on and finally we do not do what was asked. Other times, we say "no" because we do not like to be led by the nose, and then we say "yes" out of kindness, but not necessarily because we are remorseful. It happens in our relationships: parents-children, between spouses, in the community, and even with God. Doing God's will is not always easy, especially if we have learned that it means accepting hardships, sickness, death! But it could also mean agreeing to give life to a wonderful child, marrying an outstanding person, to find oneself with a dynamic group and even accepting the following words: "You are my beloved child!"

I can proclaim God's infinite love for me even though I do not deserve it.

I can proclaim that I do not belong to what is evil.

I accept Christ as my Saviour and I agree to live as a child of God.

The epileptic demoniac and his natural helper (Mark 9, 14-29)

Often enough, those natural helpers, such as the man at the supermarket who helps his wife suffering from Alzheimer's disease, find themselves quite alone, surrounded by emptiness, and the state's help is seldom assured... Often also, the natural helpers find that they receive more than what they give to the handicap or the sick...

Often, in the communities, we try to do without the others, to not bother with other persons' business, supposedly out of respect... We are shepherds without sheep or sheep without shepherds...

During the washing of the feet, we are at the service of others, we venerate the person who is also the body of Christ. We are granted the grace to find Jesus in the feet that we wash or in the person who washes our feet. It is acceptable to be as autonomous as possible, but when the time has come, we must allow ourselves to be taken care of. Thus, we transmit the image of Jesus who needs to be taken care of, which is a good thing. It's a vocation, it's a ministry! "I saw his face transfigured, luminous, present - I saw that I was washing Jesus"

The disciples despised without cause because of Jesus (John 15, 18 - 16,15)

"My choice withdrew you from the world, and you no longer belong to the world; therefore the world hates you". In the Gospel, we find three aspects of the enemy:

the demon: (from the Greek: *daimôn*). A hostile force that assails me and I cannot get rid of it.

Satan: from the Hebrew, meaning adversary; the denouncer, the accuser that I have in my heart, that voice that taunts me: "Surrender, you are going to fail".

Diabolos: the one who divides - Found in every committee, in all communities - he who makes us suspicious...

In John, the world is everything that wants to succeed by itself, without God. We disturb them because we question their way of doing things. That is why they hate us. "A servant is not greater than his master; if they persecuted me, they will persecute you too."

Jacquelin Léger
Québec

Cleveland retreat

For several years, the Cleveland Faith and Sharing community came together for their annual retreat at St. Joseph Christian Life Center on the shores of Lake Erie. The Center had large rooms for whole-group meetings and liturgies and a number of smaller rooms for small group meetings. Outside, the beautiful setting provided lake views, flowers everywhere, and shaded benches where one could be “alone” with their Creator. It seemed a perfect location for the yearly gathering of the Faith and Sharing community.

But time and the economy doomed the Christian Life Center. Needed repairs were deemed to be prohibitively expensive; the Life Center was closed and eventually sold by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.

Although disappointed by this turn of events, the Retreat Planning Committee was undeterred. Everyone realized that it wasn't the location that made F&S retreats what they were; it was the people who came to share their lives and their faith. Researching potential locations led the committee to Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, one of Cleveland's eastern suburbs. Ursuline also provides a lovely setting, many meeting rooms and a friendly, helpful staff.

Three years of successful, uplifting, and fulfilling retreats at Ursuline College have shown that, with respect to Faith and Sharing retreats, it's not “Location, Location, Location.” It's “People, People, People!”

Jane and Fran Dinda
Cleveland

North American Retreat Love's Ruling

I really was glad to attend the retreat: I enjoyed the various encounters, the sharing in small groups enabling us to be more confidential and more intimate, an atmosphere of fraternity, the discovery and the richness and diversity of an enlarged family. As for Pierre's preaching, I always found it interesting and often enough very touching. Those meditated ideas coming from his own experience and from the Holy Scriptures fascinated me. I must say though that I did not give them much thought during the rest of the summer, busy as I was enjoying the beautiful weather! Therefore, the invitation to share some thoughts about the retreat in this newsletter caught me by surprise and proved to be somewhat difficult. “What did Pierre really mean by telling us all those stories? What was his main thought? The theme of the retreat was about renewal... What connection between the theme and his narratives?” In all simplicity, I share with you what came to mind...

What really struck me in all his narratives was the contrast of the Jews' attitude toward the law of Moses and Jesus' attitude: the rigor of the legalistic aspect of the law and the merciful love of Jesus. Jesus tells us that even though the law remains, it will be accomplished only by a show of mercy, by a show of love, a love that forgives and that heals. Only love is capable of saving, of renewing what is truly human. To love, I think, is to respond to the needs of others and even to our own needs. For that, we must learn to live with an open heart; to open also our eyes, our ears, our arms and our hands. Quite a program! With God's grace, it is possible, but we must really want to do so! And that is what I wish upon us: That the desire to truly love may burn within us with great intensity so that the fire that Christ came to light throughout the world may really engulf all of humanity!!!

Viviane Décarie
Montreal

North American Retreat
“Behold, I make all thing new” (Rv. 21.5)

I mention through these lines what I have remembered and what has struck me most of Pierre Desroches’ talks on the theme: “Behold, I make all things new” during the North American retreat of Faith and Sharing given in Plantagenet July 2010.

I make great use of my notes, hoping that I will not distort his teaching. Forgive me for I do not have a mind easily capable of summarizing.

Pierre Desroches spoke of that newness that God makes by using biblical texts and by referring quite often to his personal experience and/or to what exists around him.

That newness of God is a call to become a new being, a call to be transfigured by life. Saint John (3, 6-8) talks of what is born of the Spirit. The new life comes from the Spirit. Our understanding is limited: we have to be born of a new breath of life.

Jean Vanier teaches us that the other person is a gift, a gift of God. To make things new, we must stop and listen to God, that is to be in a relationship of communion, and not in a relationship of business or one that is purely functional.

Saint James, in his letter to the first Christian community (Jm.1, verses 19 and so on) describes what is the New Life. “Be quick to listen but slow to speak and slow to rouse your temper. God’s righteousness is never served by man’s anger.” (God’s justice is a gift of self and mercy.)

And Saint James continues by telling the community to rid themselves of all evil, of all excesses, of wickedness, and to accept the Word of God put into them, a Word which is capable of saving their life. You must be instruments of the Word of God, not only listeners who delude themselves.

That Word calls us to happiness. It wants to make all things new in our old and stuffy habits.

Let us now examine Jesus in his conduct, his attitudes, his behavior in different situations of his life. If there is anyone capable of doing something new, it is truly Jesus.

He shows us how to make something new by being the good Samaritan of the Gospel. Consider the other person’s suffering. Be willing to accept it in your body “to conquer it”. In doing so, you complete what is lacking in Christ’s sufferings so that the other may be renewed.

Concerning the disciples of Emmaus, nothing was going right for them after Jesus’ death; nevertheless, something new was made. Jesus came up to them and walked with them. Thus it is for us in the Church before Vatican II and after Vatican II, and also with Faith and Sharing. Generally speaking, it was people of older religious institutions who revised their relationship among themselves and who developed a new and different outlook after the Council. And the new was made out of the old.

And it still goes on: Jesus walks with us.

On Easter morning, the women at Jesus’ tomb did not see him “outside” and yet they say that he is alive.

And what about us? Are we connected (we should be) with our interior world to see that he is there; also to recognize him on the right path where he is. If so, our fears, our “deaths” will be vanquished and we will be able to start anew. A new life will be born.



The Apostles also were greatly disturbed by Jesus' death. An example: Simon Peter, his betrayer. He did not really know himself. He had false ideas about himself. In reality, he was afraid; he controlled his fear, appearing to be sure of himself. But Jesus knew him: "Once you have recovered, you in your turn must strengthen your brothers".

Peter will be renewed once he acknowledges his frailty. He will be strengthened, made strong by his contact with Jesus who enters in communion with him. Thus it is for us: we need to be renewed in our weaknesses: our relationships with others must be relationships of strength, not of weaknesses.

All that new life given by Jesus to the adulterous woman. He knew how to handle her and her accusers who wanted to set up a trap for him. They meant to harm him (not only the woman) by having him talk.

All those accusing words that encircle, stone, and kill are the works of Satan. There lies all the evil of the world. And when we enter into it, or belong to it, evil dominates over us. How does Jesus escape from the hands of the Scribes and Pharisees? Let us watch him. Jesus bends down and starts writing on the ground with his finger. Jesus made them look at themselves, he makes us look at ourselves, at what we are living. By bending over, he took everything upon himself, and he stood up and made us stand up.

After the betrayal of Judas, he let himself be tied up and condemned. He took everything upon himself on the cross. He gave his life, his whole being to fulfill His Father's plan of love. He saved us, gave us a new life. We must also accomplish redemption by our humiliation and elevation.

It is up to us to make all thing new by following Jesus, our true model, and by knowing that he is alive, that he is with us.

My impressions

I really enjoyed participating in that North American Faith and Sharing retreat. Seeing all those people gathering together (and many came from far) is a sign that a special grace is being experienced in Faith and Sharing.



All were happy to see each other again. I felt their heartwarming joy. There was mutual aid and sharing. I could feel their happiness. I truly lived those days in earnest.

Meals and snacks were excellent occasions to fraternize, to create bonds of friendship. I was able to put a face to known names.

The talks, healthy nourishment that put life into us and I must say that they really anchored me in my convictions.

The sharing in the small group was inspiring, truthful. Faith and hope were there - God's Word was at work.

I thank God for all his graces. Thanks to the organizing committee of the retreat. Everything went off smoothly. The heartfelt welcome by the house personnel was greatly appreciated. The country air really felt good. And everybody was wishing that such a rendezvous will be repeated many times in the years to come.

Gaétane Laroche
Montreal



A NOTE OF THANKS

To all whose efforts blessed the attendees at the NA Retreat last July in Plantagenet, especially Fr. Pierre Desroches for his inspiring message, Jean Roy for making all of the arrangements with the “Centre de l’Amour”, Fr. Jacques Pelletier for leading us in prayer (and keeping us on task), Hortense de Villers for the translation, Raymonde Doucet for her music ministry and to all the Faith & Sharing members in Ottawa for your hospitality and rides to and from the airport.

A JOYFUL NOTE for Faith & Sharing as we welcome Eileen McIlwee who was discerned as the new English Coordinator and ratified at the Annual General Assembly meeting in Plantagenet. Eileen brings to this role her wealth of experience as an active member of the Cleveland F&S Community. Welcome Eileen!

ANOTHER NOTE... of appreciation to all Faith and Sharing members who took the time to read about the new structure proposed by the NA Committee. The members in attendance at the Annual General Assembly Meeting in Plantagenet overwhelmingly accepted the proposal. We now go forward under a new structure that is smaller and more flexible. The role of the Regional Coordinator is now suppressed and the NAC will consist of 4 members. Local communities will now relate directly to the NAC. Let us pray for a revitalization of the mission of Faith & Sharing as we work within this new structure.

A PERSONAL NOTE... of gratitude to all who assisted, supported, educated, prodded and cared for me during my five years as English Coordinator. I am grateful for your love and friendship. I plan to continue as an active member of Detroit’s Faith & Sharing Community and look forward to seeing you all again at the next NA Retreat.

Pat Mueller (former English Coordinator!!)

New English Coordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all the faithful readers of Heart to Heart. My name is Eileen McIlwee and I have been selected to serve together with Jean Roy as the North American Coordinator for Faith and Sharing. I have been a member of the Cleveland, OH Faith and Sharing group for many years and have served in many positions, most recently coordinating the children’s program for our retreat weekend, truly a labor of love!

Currently, I am living in community with Fr. Jim O’Donnell and Maggie Walsh-Conrad. Many of you may know them, as they have been involved in Faith and Sharing for nearly 40 years. I will certainly depend on their advice and counsel during my time as coordinator.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to Pat Mueller for her years of dedicated service to this committee and for all of her assistance and support as I transition into this new role.

I look forward to meeting, praying and sharing our common love for Faith and Sharing with each of you.

Much Peace to all,

Eileen McIlwee
English Coordinator

Monthly activities, 2010-2011 Season French speaking groups

Group	Location	Dates	Time	Theme for the year	Person to contact	Remarks	Next Retreat
Montréal QC	Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Church 5320 Côte-des-Neiges	3 rd Saturday of the month, except: - November 13 - December 11	9:30 am to 4:00 pm	The new life	Mary Munroe (514) 481-1387 munroe80@videotron.ca	Bring your lunch	Summer 2011 (to confirm)
Ottawa ON					Isabelle Frappier Robert Cronier (613) 741-8769		
Québec QC	I.R.D.P.Q. Centre François-Charron, 525 Wilfrid-Hamel	Last Saturday of the month, except: - December 18 - April 16 - June 18	10:00 am to 3:45 pm	Accepting the difference	(418) 651-2880 (418) 831-0125 Web site (french only): www.ecdq.org/foietpartage/	Bring your lunch	August 15-16 2011 40 th anniversary of F&S Quebec
Rouyn-Noranda QC	Saint-Guillaume of Granada Church	1 st Monday of the month	7:00 pm to 8:30		Gisèle and Émilien Labelle (819) 762-2515	March 26: One day retreat	Summer 2011 Open retreat, 3 days
Sherbrooke QC	Community Center, 187 Laurier Street OR Maison Béatitudes	2 nd Sunday of the month, except: - May 15	1:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Let us be filled with wonder...	Lise Morin (819) 565-0307 lise.morin52@videotron.ca	Shared Meal	July 24-28, 2011 Open retreat
Valleyfield QC	Saint-Augustin Church 110, Mathias Street Salaberry-de-Valleyfield	3 rd Monday of the month, except : - December 3 - June (to come)	7:00 pm to 9:30 pm	Together, hand in hand "For we are in his hand, we ourselves and our words..." <i>Wisdom 7,.16</i>	Julie Prégent (450) 373-1956 julie.pregent@sympatico.ca		June 2011 One day retreat, date to come

Monthly activities, 2010-2011 Season

English speaking groups

Group	Location	Dates	Time	Theme for the year	Person to contact	Remarks	Next Retreat
Cleveland (Ohio)	2186 E. 35th Street, Cleveland	2 nd Tuesday of the month	7:00 pm		faithandsharing@gmail.com		July 7-10, 2011
Detroit (Michigan)	Corpus Christi Parish	3 rd Sunday of the month, Sept.-Nov., Feb.-May + Dec. 12 th Christmas Party	3:00 pm to 5:30 pm		John Fitzpatrick: jmfitzpatrick@msn.com		August 4-7, 2011
Jacksonville (Florida)					Trish Kee (904) 230-7447 tkee@dosacamps.com www.dosacamps.com		August 12-16, 2011
Halifax (Nova Scotia)	Senior's residence Leppert Street	3 rd Wednesday of the month	7:30 pm		Terry Wigle (902) 465-6890	Date to come: Christmas dinner	
Saskatoon (Saskatchewan)					Lucie Leduc, (306) 242-1916 programming@queenshousese.com		October 15-17, 2010
Toronto (Ontario)	Downtown Toronto	Days of prayer, dates to come : - Late November - March			Monica Donovan (416) 425-9944	Advent and Lenten Day of Prayer	August 2011
Vancouver Island (British Columbia)	Bethlehem Retreat Center, Nanaimo (BC)	Day of Renewal: October 30		Spirit of the Beloved	Andre and Mary Catherine Ruel (250) 338-9072 amcruel@shaw.ca		August 7-12, 2011
Yarmouth (Nova Scotia)	St. Ambrose Cathedral Parish Center	1 st Wednesday of the month	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Studying " <i>Belonging</i> ", a DVD by Jean Vanier	Raymonde Doucet (902) 742-2822		Summer 2011