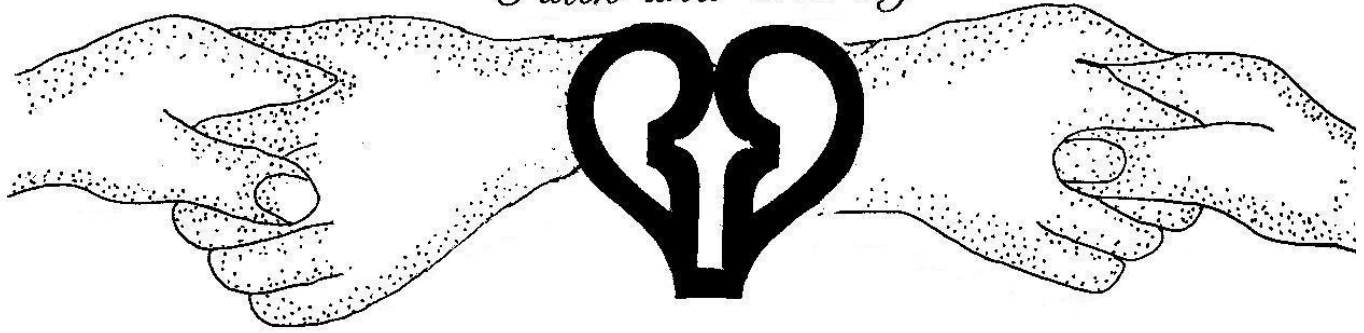


*Faith and Sharing*



## *Heart - to - Heart*

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**North American Bulletin**

October 2015  
Volume 42, no. 1

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Theme:

**“Living community at Faith and Sharing,  
in order to be community in the world”**

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### **The importance of living Faith and Sharing**



*By Lise Morin  
Coordinator Faith and Sharing Sherbrooke*

Greetings,

Living within the community Faith and Sharing is, above all, to be inspired, as much as possible, by the spirituality of our wise prophet, Jean Vanier. The latter prioritizes the welcoming of the “little ones” as Jesus did by the washing of the feet as a sign of love, of service and equality.

In so far that each person is humble enough to admit his “frailties”, such a person can find a place in Faith and Sharing. Each one, called by name, can practice, with great simplicity, his gift of service and mutual aid by living a fraternal communion. A heartfelt welcome, sharing, forgiveness and prayer are the essential values characterizing our community.

In my daily life, I try, with the help of God, to live relationships that are identical to those transmitted by Faith and Sharing. To do so, I must control, know and understand my own wounds so as to better relate to those of my brothers and sisters. My only ally on such a road is the faith that I have in Love. As it is written in a psalm: “Without Him, I can do nothing”.

I invite you to “dare” discover the small joys in Faith and Sharing. 💜



## Living community at Faith and Sharing in order to be community in the world



By *H el ene Verret*  
Quebec

Each meeting of Faith and Sharing is a gift from God and a gift of life. It is given to us free of charge so that we may become givers of that gift in our own surroundings. Be it the Word, meals, group sharing or celebrations; each moment of the day is a perfect occasion to nourish ourselves spiritually and to then feed each person that we meet on a daily basis.

### Heart-to-Heart

#### Subscription :

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October and April

Next dead line :

**March 15, 2016**

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To receive the bulletin by email:

[jea\\_r@videotron.ca](mailto:jea_r@videotron.ca)

Web site:

[www.faithandsharing.net](http://www.faithandsharing.net)


Let us not forget to "GIVE TO THE NEXT ONE" and to give hands to the Gospel.

A thought transmitted in the telecast "*La Victoire de l'Amour*" (Victory of Love) - Dr. Gilles Lapointe:

"It is through our friends that God takes care of us."

A thought taken from a homily given by Bishop James Weisgerber, Archbishop of Winnipeg (August 30, 2009):

"God has called us as a community and as individuals to be signs of his love, of his forgiveness and of his acceptance of each human being as is."

United in prayer. 



### Themes of upcoming issues

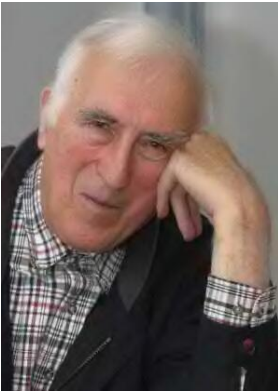
April 2016 (dead line: March 15, 2016):

**"He who believes in me will still live,  
even if he dies"** John 11:25

October 2016 (dead line: Sept. 15, 2016):

**Defending the poor is defending the Earth**

## **Our communities at the very heart of society**



The Christian communities cannot be outside of society. They are not places of escape liken to a drug to eliminate sadness, places where we soothe our consciences, places where we flee the present in a world of dreams. They are, quite the contrary, places of revitalization to help each person attain interior freedom and to love all mankind as Jesus does: “There is no greater love than to give one’s life for his brothers.” Jesus’ message is quite clear. He scolds the rich and the proud; he praises the humble. The Christian communities must be at the very heart of society, and visible to all: “We must not hide the lamp under the bushel.” They must be bearers of a sign that with very little materialistic resources and without any superficial means, we can have a happy heart and admire the beauty of a person that is close to us, the beauty of the universe that is our home; a sign also that it is possible to work together to make our neighborhood, our village, our city places where justice, peace, friendship, creativity and human development can truly flourish.

*From the book: “Community and Growth” (translated from French version) 💜*

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## **A Need for a New French Coordinator for June 2016**



*By Jean Roy  
French North American Coordinator*

My mandate as French Coordinator comes to an end next June. It is time for me to leave, well aware that “new blood” is good for any organization.

It was a pleasure for me to serve as coordinator. It’s an excellent occasion to work with other committee members, to visit the communities, to meet with outstanding people, to be a witness to the numerous graces that God bestows on the Faith and Sharing movement.

I invite the members to think, to pray and discern as to who could be the next French coordinator. If you have in mind the names of persons who could render such a service, do not hesitate to communicate with me. The assignment will be made by the North American Committee. Send me your suggestions:

- By E-mail: [jea\\_r@videotron.ca](mailto:jea_r@videotron.ca)
- By mail: 3852, rue Grignon, Sherbrooke, QC, J1N 2W2
- By phone: 819-822-3172

Thank you for praying on that. I thank God in advance for the person who will succeed me in this service. 💜



## Vancouver Island Retreat



*By Claire Donovan  
Vancouver Island*

Faith and Sharing on Vancouver Island celebrated Christmas at their summer retreat this August. 47 people gathered in Nanaimo, including 6 children who took part in their own program.

We gathered at Bethlehem Retreat Centre where we have been retreating for 26 years. The Centre was for sale this year; and when we began our planning for the retreat, we did not know whether it would still be there for us. But we planned our retreat in faith, and in mid-July we heard that a group of “Friends” had purchased the



Celebrating Christmas

Centre from the Benedictine sisters with the vision of continuing to run a retreat centre and expanding their mandate. They welcomed us enthusiastically; their first big retreat since the sale.



In the Dining Room

Our animators, Carolyn and Geoff Whitney-Brown from Cowichan Bay on Vancouver Island, used the bible stories of the annunciation, Joseph’s dream, Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, Zechariah’s prophecy, the coming of the shepherds and Wise Ones and their returns home, to help us explore “Responding to the Call”.

People joined together to make the retreat from Victoria to Campbell River on Vancouver Island. Many regulars, a few returning after several years absence, and some first timers, aged from 5 to 89 years old. It truly was a time of sharing, joy, creativity and discovery.

We celebrated Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic and Anglican services as well as an outdoor reconciliation service using water to cleanse ourselves and our parched earth. Along with the talks and liturgies there was time for silence, art activities, and hikes around or swims in the lake.

Reconnecting with friends and getting to know new ones is always a big part of our retreats. We truly are an extended family living community for 5 days. The experience surely helps us in our attempts to live community in the world. 💜



Reconciliation service

## Welcome Back, Brian



*By Brian Daw  
Cleveland*

On March 14 this year, I turned 65 years old and began the long welcomed task of planning retirement. Like many people, I was filled with many ideas of what I wanted to do with my “free time”. But, with 11 children and 7 of their spouses and 19 grandchildren, it didn’t take long to figure out that my life would continue to be busy. Yet, the big question that kept going through my head was “What did God want me to do?”

Soon summer came and I found myself busy as usual with one of my grandson’s baseball team and with my son-in-law, John. I was still contemplating what God had in mind for me. In June, I received a visit from Kirt Bromley, Vice Coordinator Faith & Light USA West. He spent several hours with me gathering information so he could write a detailed history of Faith and Light in the USA. While I prepared for his visit, I began searching through several boxes of pictures, banners, articles, documents, and other memorabilia from my years in Faith and Light. Oh my mind was full of questions. Where were all these people now? Why hadn’t I kept in touch with them? Why was Faith and Light coming back into my life after nearly 30 years?

While Kirt was visiting, he mentioned that he was also in town for a Faith and Sharing Retreat that was going to be in Akron that weekend and invited me to attend. Kirt’s visit soon began to make more sense to me. The next day I saw Sr. Maggie at our baseball practice and told her about Kirt’s visit and the upcoming retreat. She immediately said to me, “Why not come to our retreat in a couple weeks?”

The very next day Sr. Maggie handed me two brochures and told me that Fr. Jim would like my wife Pat and me to come. So, on June 16, Pat went on her first Faith and Sharing retreat and I went on my first in over 30 years.

When I left Faith and Light 30 some years ago, I was torn, confused and afraid. I was making decisions that isolated me, afraid that no one could or would understand. It was easy for me to hide.



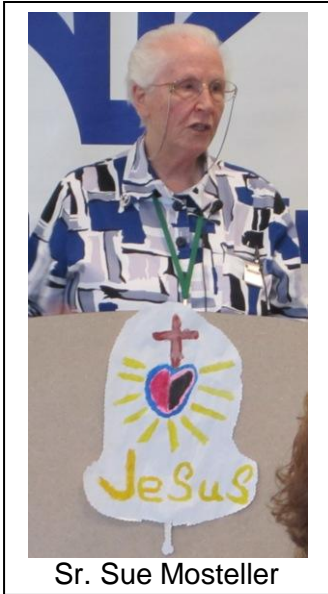
A few years later, with the help of Pat, I was able to again engage people. I had a new job, new parish, and new friends. I began to coach young people and developed new aspirations. My Faith was growing strong again and I found myself, loving people and feeling loved again. People like Sr. Maggie and Fr. Jim were once again present in my life.



As I walked into the Faith and Sharing retreat meeting room on Thursday, the first person to greet me was Bob Loucka, a person who I had lived and worked with in Cornucopia and had been in Faith and Light with for many years. I had not seen Bob for some 30 years... He just smiled and greeted me with his familiar "hi". Soon the room was filled with dozens of people that I recognized. Everyone was happy to see Pat and me and shared with us lots of hugs.



Throughout the next couple of days, it began to feel very familiar, people singing, clapping, dancing, praying and sharing faith, foods and fun. It was all overwhelming, as the presence of God's Spirit was evident. Pat summed it up perfectly to me, "It is like a little bit of heaven here!" Wow I could hear and feel God speaking, "Welcome Back, Brian". Talk about the story of the Prodigal Son!



It was in a very close encounter with Sr. Sue Mosteller on Saturday that I was able to express only a thimble full of what I was experiencing. She listened, prayed with me, and pointedly said "It was never about them Brian, it was about you. You forgot that these people loved you. You left them mistakenly out of fear that they could not love you, when in fact; it was you that was afraid to open to God's unconditional love through them for you."

It was with these healing words from Sr. Sue that I was able to realize fully why God called me to this retreat. It was good to be home celebrating. With new awakened spirit in me, I will continue to pray for God's direction as I enter into this new phase of my life. Please pray for me. 💜

## "Daring the Encounter"

**French-speaking groups - North American Retreat  
June 19 to 25, 2016**



*By Jean Roy  
French North American coordinator*

This seven-day retreat held in French only is organized by the Faith and Sharing North-American **(NA)** committee. It will enable the local French-speaking communities to complement their open retreats usually held over a maximum three-day period without staying overnight.

This seven-day experience will allow the participants to give themselves time, deepen their understanding of the Word, and listen to Jesus in one's heart. Using one language simplifies the organization and facilitates one's understanding.

After discernment, it was decided not to have a NA retreat in English this year. One important reason: the large distance between the English-speaking communities. In addition, there are already multi-day retreats offered by the English-speaking communities.

We are currently raising funds in order to permit all who wish to participate at the French-speaking NA retreat regardless of their financial situation.

Everyone, French or English-speaking, is invited to pray for this retreat, and to participate in this fundraising activity according to their heart and means.

More information can be found in the French bulletin and on the website.

The following is the invitation from Rita Gagné, the animator of the retreat:



*“Who are the people simply waiting for you to meet?”*

*I can relate to this question asked by Jean Vanier in an interview when I think of the 2016 retreat. Our Pope Francis also invited us to develop a “culture of encounter”. For Jean, as well as for Francis, everything starts with the encounter with Jesus ... This is why I invite all of us to contemplate Jesus in these beautiful encounters proposed by Saint John in his gospel ... Why can’t we learn from him the art of getting closer to one another? 💜*

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### Pictures from Madeleine...



July 1987

Visiting the Trappist monastery of Lafayette  
on the occasion of a meeting of the North American Committee at Portland (Oregon).  
On the photos: Madeleine Séguin, Bill Clarke, “Ro”, Marc Rioux and two Trappist monks

## Quiz: Do you know [www.faihandsharing.net](http://www.faihandsharing.net) ?

By Jean Roy, Sherbrooke

If you are not “on line” and if the internet is an abstraction for you, then this quiz is not for you... except to let you know that Faith and Sharing has a Web Site that can be a useful reference for those who are “on line” and wonder what Faith and Sharing is all about. Tell them to go and see “faith and sharing dot net”.

### Questions:

1. Who manages the Web Site [www.faihandsharing.net](http://www.faihandsharing.net) ?
2. In what year was it launched?
3. How many local communities have their page on the site?
4. Which local communities have their own Web Site?
5. Which of the following sections is not on the site: “Historic”, “Links”, “Prayer”?
6. In the section “Heart to Heart Bulletin”, since what year are the bulletins available?
7. Which local community has the most photos?
8. Where do we find a pamphlet describing the three movements created by Jean Vanier?
9. Can we use the Web Site to contact the coordinators?
10. What is the last section added to the Web Site?

### Answers:

1. [www.faihandsharing.net](http://www.faihandsharing.net) is the Web Site of the Faith and Sharing Federation, which is also named North American Faith and Sharing. Jean Roy is the Webmaster. He brings up to date the information provided by the North American committee and the local coordinators.
2. The English site was launched in the beginning of 2011, but the French version [www.foietpartage.net](http://www.foietpartage.net) was launched a few months before.
3. Each local community of Faith and Sharing has their own page, at least those who are linked with the Federation. There are 6 French communities and 7 English communities.
4. The site of the Quebec group: [www.foietpartage.org](http://www.foietpartage.org). The Jacksonville group has its own page in the diocesan site: [http://dosacamps.com/default2.asp?active\\_page\\_id=1094](http://dosacamps.com/default2.asp?active_page_id=1094)
5. There is no historical section, at least not yet. In the meantime, Marc Rioux gives us a summary of the beginnings, especially for the City of Quebec, in the French “Documents” section: <http://foietpartage.net/pdf/marcrioux.pdf> (no translation yet).
6. All the [bulletins](#) since April 2008 are on the Web Site.
7. The [Sherbrooke](#) community has the most photos, at least one for each monthly meeting and many others for the retreats. All the groups may add photos to their page. Simply send them to the webmaster: [jea\\_r@videotron.ca](mailto:jea_r@videotron.ca)
8. In the “[Documents](#)” section, you will find a [pamphlet](#) showing the three groups founded by Jean Vanier. This pamphlet was prepared around 1990 and brought up to date in 2013. In that section, there are also basic documents dealing with Faith and Sharing.
9. There is a link for communicating through email with the members of the North American committee in the “[Contacts](#)” section. There is also a link for the local coordinators on each community’s page.
10. For the French, one section “[Retraite 2016](#)” has been added concerning the French North American Retreat of June 2016. For the English, the last section is “[Heart-to-Heart Express](#)”. 💜



## Meetings, 2015-2016 Season English speaking groups

Group	Location	Dates	Time	Theme for the year	Person to contact	Remarks	2016 Retreat
<b>Cleveland</b> (Ohio)	2186 E. 35th Street, Cleveland	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month	5:30 pm		Michelle Rodio 216-407-6977 <a href="mailto:mrodio@hotmail.com">mrodio@hotmail.com</a> Bob Kloos 216-932-1733 <a href="mailto:bkloos@sbcglobal.net">bkloos@sbcglobal.net</a>		<b>July 7 - 10</b>
<b>Detroit</b> (Michigan)	Corpus Christi Parish, Detroit	September 27 December 6 March 13	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm		Pat Mueller: <a href="mailto:paulmueller1@juno.com">paulmueller1@juno.com</a> John Fitzpatrick: <a href="mailto:jmfitzpatrick@msn.com">jmfitzpatrick@msn.com</a> Vivian Spence: <a href="mailto:viviespence@hotmail.com">viviespence@hotmail.com</a>	The December Meeting is our annual Advent/Christmas Mass & Potluck	<b>August 6</b>  Day of Reflection
<b>Jacksonville</b> (Florida)					Rebecca Aleman 904-230-7447 <a href="mailto:r Aleman@ccbjax.org">r Aleman@ccbjax.org</a> <a href="http://dosacamps.com/">http://dosacamps.com/</a>		<b>To come</b>
<b>Halifax</b> (Nova Scotia)	Glasgow House, Parkland Estates, Baker's Dr., Dartmouth	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month	7:00 pm		Terry Wigle 902-465-6890		<b>To come</b>
<b>Toronto</b> (Ontario)	Tobias House, Downtown Toronto	Days of prayer: - Advent: December 5 - Lent: to come			Monica Donovan 416-425-9944 Patrick Treacy <a href="mailto:patrickthink@yahoo.com">patrickthink@yahoo.com</a>	Advent and Lenten Day of Prayer	<b>To come</b>
<b>Vancouver Island</b> (British Columbia)	Bethlehem Retreat Center, Nanaimo (BC)				Claire Donovan 250-898-8322 <a href="mailto:merryfish@shaw.ca">merryfish@shaw.ca</a>		<b>August 7 - 12</b>
<b>Yarmouth</b> (Nova Scotia)	Villa St. Joseph Nursing Home, Dayton, NS	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month	1:30 pm		Marilyn Moore: 902-881-2107 <a href="mailto:marilyn_moore@eastlink.ca">marilyn_moore@eastlink.ca</a>		<b>To come</b>

## Meetings, 2015-2016 Season French speaking groups

Group	Location	Dates	Time	Theme for the year	Person to contact	Remarks	2016 Retreat
<b>French speaking groups</b>	Centre de Spiritualité des Ursulines, <b>Québec</b>	June 19 to 25		Daring the Encounter	Isabelle Frappier (613) 741-8769 <a href="mailto:isabelle_f@hotmail.com">isabelle_f@hotmail.com</a>	For everyone	<b>June 19 to 25</b> French North American retreat
<b>Montréal QC</b>	Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Church 5320 Côte-des-Neiges	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, every second month	9:30 am to 4:00 pm	The mercy of God	Monique Maltais (514) 723-0200 <a href="mailto:moniquemaltais@live.ca">moniquemaltais@live.ca</a>	Bring your lunch	<b>July 12 - 14</b> Open retreat
<b>Ottawa ON</b>					Isabelle Frappier Robert Cronier (613) 741-8769		
<b>Québec QC</b>	I.R.D.P.Q. Centre François-Charron, 525 Wilfrid-Hamel	Last Saturday of the month, except: - December 19 - March 19 - June 18	10:00 am to 3:45 pm	The New Law!	Jean-Claude Lizotte (418) 831-0125 <a href="mailto:jlizotte@gmail.com">jlizotte@gmail.com</a> Web site (French only): <a href="http://www.foietpartage.org">www.foietpartage.org</a>	Bring your lunch	<b>To come</b> Open retreat
<b>Rouyn-Noranda QC</b>					Gisèle and Émilien Labelle (819) 762-2515 Guylaine Boisvert (819) 764-4660 <a href="mailto:guylaine.boisvert@hotmail.com">guylaine.boisvert@hotmail.com</a>		<b>To come</b> Open retreat
<b>Sherbrooke QC</b>	Précieux-Sang Church Except : March 13 : Maison Les Béatitudes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, except - October 18 - May 22 - June (to come)	1:30 pm to 6 :45 pm	If you knew the gift of God	Lise Morin <a href="mailto:lise.morin52@videotron.ca">lise.morin52@videotron.ca</a>	Shared Meal	No retreat in 2016
<b>Valleyfield QC</b>	Salle des Oeuvres 66, rue du Marché	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, except : - December 7 - June 6	6 :45 pm to 9:15 pm	I love my family	Julie Prigent (450) 373-1956 <a href="mailto:pregent.julie@bell.net">pregent.julie@bell.net</a>		<b>June 6</b> One day retreat