

## *Heart - to - Heart*

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**North American Bulletin**

April 2009  
Volume 35, no. 2

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*Theme: The Treasure of the Word*

### **God's Word Treasure in our Lives**

Last October some Bishops, Superiors of Religious Communities and Scholars met at Vatican City to discuss "The Scriptures in the Life and Mission of the Church." Pope Benedict XVI chose this topic for the 12th World Synod of Bishops. The Bishops met for most of the month of October and covered many aspects of the topic. One area they discussed was the role and place of the Bible in our prayer life. A few years ago (2005) the Pope noted the importance of Scripture and prayer. "The diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying responds to him with trusting openness of heart...this practice will bring to the Church – I am convinced of it – a new spiritual springtime."

Faith and Sharing, following the example of the Church, treasures God's Word as a community. Every Faith & Sharing Gathering, whether a full 5 day retreat or a Day of Prayer, gives priority to announcing the Word and reflecting on it prayerfully in small groups. (*Practical Guide for Retreats and Other Meetings*, 1988) *The Grace of Faith & Sharing* (1988) reminds us that the role of the animator is to "speak simply and from personal experience of the Gospel in a way that leads to a discovery of God more deeply in our lives. We discover the power of God's Word to heal, strengthen, transform and mission us more deeply in service of others." There is no question that God's Word is one of the foundational elements of Faith & Sharing! Faith & Sharing begins in the encounter with the treasure of God's Word and opens out toward our brothers & sisters in service and self-gift.

Another of the themes of the World Synod was Mary as a model for praying the Word of God. Like Mary we all are called to hear the Word deeply; to be open to receiving God's message; to treasure God's Word in our heart; to ponder its meaning for us at this time; to bear the fruit of the Word to the world; and to give birth to the Word in our lives.

May our Faith & Sharing Communities live with Mary as our model and God's Word as our treasure as we strive for a "new spiritual springtime."

Pat Mueller, North American coordinator

## The Treasure of the Word

The Word is a treasure  
Which we never stop discovering.  
It is more precious than gold.  
It can enlighten and heal us.

It guides the way  
To the love of God and our neighbour.  
With the help of the Holy Spirit  
It frees us from the fear of tomorrow.

It must not be hidden.  
It must be proclaimed  
In this divided world  
That needs so much love, peace and harmony.

Maude Rioux  
Québec, region 2



## May I be the Word

Lord,  
May I be the Word,  
May I be Your Word.  
Word of tenderness  
To encourage, smile and cajole.  
Word of peace  
To welcome, listen and pardon.  
Word of wisdom  
To understand, explain and enlighten.  
Word of consecration  
To intervene, support and persevere.  
Word of prayer  
To discover You, know You and praise You.  
Word of love  
To be Your hands, Your mouth, Your heart.  
Yes Lord,  
May I be the Word,  
May I be Your Word.

Jean Roy  
Sherbrooke, region 3

### Heart-to-Heart

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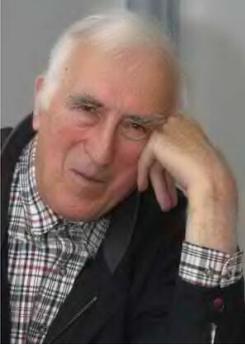
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### Themes of upcoming issues

October 2009 (dead line: Sept. 15, 2009): **Washing of the feet**

April 2010 (dead line: March 15, 2010): **Group Sharing**

## Heart to Heart with Jean Vanier



*During the North American Committee meeting of May 2008, H  l  ne Babin-Otab  , region 2 coordinator, suggested that each Heart to Heart issue reserve room for the writings of Jean Vanier. As you know, Jean inspired the founding of Faith and Sharing forty years ago. Even now, he still is for us an irreplaceable spiritual guide.*

*In this issue, we publish the second and last part of the testimony he presented on Monday, June 16, 2008, at the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec.*

### **The Eucharist: Gift from God Par Excellence (part 2 of 2)**

In chapter 6 of the Gospel of John, Jesus reveals himself not only as the generous and mighty Christ, but as the vulnerable and loving Son of God, who offers us the gift of his friendship. He thirsts to live a communion of hearts with us. This chapter begins with Jesus who is followed by a great crowd of those who had witnessed the healings He had accomplished.

Jesus, full of love and compassion, is moved by this crowd of poor tired and hungry people. He invites them to sit and multiplies the bread and the fish. All are delighted, have satisfied their hunger and are rested. They want to make Jesus their King and we can understand them. But Jesus escapes, because He doesn't want to be simply the Messiah who does good. He wants to lead his disciples further. He wants to make them discover the profound meaning, not only of his life and the mystery of the incarnation, but also of their lives, of our lives.

After this multiplication of the bread, He reveals that He has not only come to bring an earthly bread, but also to give bread from heaven, a bread that gives Eternal Life. That bread is not only the Bread of the Word of God, it is himself as a person, his body and blood: the gift of God par excellence. Jesus reveals that those who "eat his body and drink his blood abide in Him and He abides in them".

The disciples are shocked. They want a generous Jesus who performs miracles, but they are not prepared to welcome a Jesus who wants to live in them and to whom it is necessary to give a bigger and bigger place in their heart. Saint Thomas defines friendship by saying that two friends live in one another. The key word of friendship is "living". The two friends then have the same desires, the same thoughts, the same hope; they are one, one within the other.

To eat the body of Jesus, to drink his blood at the Eucharist, is not only a grace for the moment of communion. It is the sign that Jesus calls us to a communion of hearts. He wishes to be a friend to everyone, to live in each one of us. That friendship is offered to all, the least one or the mightiest one, children as well as those with severe handicaps.

Therefore in becoming a friend of Jesus we are beginning to get a glimpse of the mystery. A mystery cannot be perfectly understood - we get a glimpse of it, we sense it, we get close to it,

we touch it with a certain awe. The eucharistic body and blood of Jesus is the real presence of Jesus; we eat him and drink him to become ourselves the temple of God, the home of God, the friend of God. Jesus said: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them".

It is for that reason that eucharistic communion - sign of the communion of our hearts with the heart of Jesus - is a gift from God par excellence. We find its continuation and its accomplishment in our desire to live a real presence with our brothers and sisters and especially the poorest and the most rejected. The mission of Jesus to announce the Good News to the poor and to live in communion with them is also the mission of all the friends of Jesus. And Jesus reveals to us in Matt. 25 that we really meet Him when we open our hearts to those who are hungry and thirsty, who are strangers, who are in prison or sick, who are naked. Jesus leads us to them and they lead us to Jesus.

People who are vulnerable therefore become source of unity. They call us to work together. Allow me to quote a letter written by some Taize brothers who have organized an interreligious pilgrimage mainly for people with a handicap: "Those who are rejected by society because of their weakness and their apparent uselessness are a presence of God. If we welcome them, they guide us progressively out of this world of competition and need to do great things, towards a world of communion of hearts, a simple and joyful life, where we do little things with love. The service to our weak and vulnerable brothers and sisters means that we must open a path to peace and unity. To welcome each other in a rich diversity of religions and cultures, to serve the poor together, prepare a future of peace."

Dare we hope that one of the fruits of this eucharistic congress will be that we all discover the profound gift of friendship of Jesus in his real presence in the Eucharist - and that we all seek to live a real presence with weak and rejected people?

Paul writes (1 Cor 12) that the weakest people in the Church, those who are least presentable and that we hide, are essential to the Church and should be honored. Becoming a friend to the poor is therefore not an option, be it preferential; it is the true meaning of the Church. The poor with their cry for relationships disturb and upset us. If we listen to them, they awaken our hearts and minds so that together we form the Church, the body of Christ, source of compassion, of kindness and of forgiveness for all human beings.



And I dare to touch on another hope: that the body and blood of Jesus really present in the Eucharist be source, not of division among all those baptised, but of unity among them, so that the world can believe in a love of Jesus that sets us free.

Jean Vanier

## The Treasure of the Word

Faith and Sharing has very important pillars on which rests the spirit of all its encounters: greeting, sharing (meals), sharing (teams-prayer), the Eucharist and the Word.

In his book "*La communauté lieu du pardon et de la fête*" ("*Community and Growth*"), Jean Vanier gives us his reflections on the Word. The following remarks are the fruit of my reading and the pages noted at the end of the paragraph can help to find them in their context (in the French version).

**The Word is a treasure** because it is a powerful medium out of which a new hope flows. It is a food that gives force and energy (as much as the body and blood of the Eucharist); but not just any word. The treasure of the true Word is the word that touches the heart. The word that nourishes comes from the mouths of those who let God speak through their lips. (p. 141)

*There are people who talk of what they do, but they are little of what they speak.* (p. 204)

*In his long life experience in a community, Jean Vanier witnesses the existence of the fragile person who constantly has to face more challenges and who seems to be a catalyst for the aggressiveness of others. It is always this person that we blame, that we criticize. We forget or try to ignore that, deep down, we have feelings of frustration, sometimes of guilt, some uneasiness perhaps unconscious, and anguish, that make us so uncomfortable. We therefore project our own limits or cowardice on someone weaker. We find a scapegoat for our personal and collective anxieties. We stir up ill-feeling, thinking that the other one is responsible for it. Then someone else, more detached from the situation and moved by the Holy Spirit, speaks the Word of peace. (p. 90) **The treasure of the Word** is that it unites and reconciles.*



*The community has to be a sign of resurrection. A divided community where each one goes his or her own way concerned only with self satisfaction and personal goals, without tenderness for others, doesn't bear witness to love. All resentment, bitterness, sadness, rivalry, divisions, rejection of others, all this ill-feeling and unfaithfulness to giving and grace (of Faith and Sharing), hinder greatly its true growth in love. (p. 162)*

**The treasure of the Word** is about not being afraid to love and to tell people that we **love** them; it is the greatest personal renewal and the true treasure of the true Word. (p. 150) To be a treasure, the Word has to spring up from silence and peace, and bring silence and peace. Consequently, the Word gives the heart and the spirit the true goal of the community in its essence. (p. 141)

**“Consider your own poverty,  
Welcome it,  
Cherish it,  
Do not fear it,  
Share your death,  
For thus will you share  
Your love, your life.”** (p. 123)

*The Word of God, the word of the gospels, the words of Jesus are bread of life (The bread of God, as Gilles B. used to say) that we should eat, eat, eat. These words take us to what is essential. (p. 142)*

Texts collected by Michelle Desmeules  
Québec, region 2

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*Theme: The Treasure of the Word*

## **The Word of God: a Treasure**

My understanding is that the Word of God is a Treasure because it is a Word of Love, since God is Love (1 John 4,16). A Treasure because I, Michel, am in deep need of love.

During a recent retreat, Father André Daigneault told us that the Bible is made up of cries for love. He also added that the greatest sin is to refuse to believe in God's love. The Word of God is a Treasure "*For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword*" (Hebrews 4,12). It is living because the Holy Spirit has been given to us. The Word of God teaches me how to love; it says something about me. During this retreat at Foyer de Charité in Sutton, QC, Father Daigneault commented with such insight on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. He shared with us so many profound and wonderful things; among others, that we carry within us both the lost son and his older brother. Yes it was good to hear how the Word of God is inexhaustible and the Holy Spirit the source of fruitfulness...

Yes Lord, grant me your grace, that I may love your Word evermore, meditate on it, ponder over it, and enjoy its flavour. Let it penetrate my heart. O Lord, grant that I might believe in your Word, in your Love and accept being loved, for I cannot access the mystery of giving without your help. It is receiving Your Word with an open heart that can lead me to offer my own life.

In our modern world, the prevalent claim is that there is no need for God nor for His Word. The world often praises values such as justice, kindness, respect, fraternity, and openness, even offering courses in ethics. However, I feel that it is most important to bridge the gap between the Word of God and one's actions. Action is great but action alone, without contemplation, is empty of meaning. It is so important that the Word be integrated into our day-to-day life. Pope Benedict stresses this as being central. He encourages us to root our lives in the Word of God for there is The Treasure. The Word is so rich that it has not ceased to astonish us throughout history. I have in mind Holy Thérèse de Lisieux who was far from being recognized as a saint during her lifetime. Yet, how fruitful the Word in her life.

Thank you Lord for telling us that your Word remains a Treasure in this day and age. Your Love is the exact answer to the profound longing of our hearts.

Michel Denis  
Sherbrooke, region 3

## **The Word of God, a Treasure**

I am always amazed how words escape me when I try to express my thoughts on the Word of God. Something like the syndrome of the blank page. Yet, my ears have heard the Word for years now. There is a saying that the longest road runs from the mind to the heart. In my case it is usually quite long indeed; for the Word is easily at home in my mind where it has a tendency to stick. Even if Jesus spoke in parables to make himself understood, it is not easy for me, even today.



I have to admit that Faith and Sharing has often been instrumental in helping me discover the Treasure of the Word. I started out on my journey by becoming conscious of how privileged I was to feel the thirst and join others who felt that same thirst. Every month, we met to share a reading from the Word of God chosen by someone who agreed to bear witness. At times, the chosen quotation would not echo at all, but in every instance I ended up experiencing its richness. As they scrutinized the reading, my brothers and sisters gave me access to the Treasure. I began grasping a little better every time. So, I was given a chance to discover the depth of the meaning and I could not help but feel enriched and rejoiced. Several excerpts became more valuable to me as they revealed, thanks to the sharing, something new that I had never noticed before.

What abundant and extraordinary nourishment. The Word has awakened me little by little to the Love of God for me. The first fruit of this revelation was gratitude. During the meetings I kept silently thinking of the beginnings, in the first communities, during the time of Jesus, how believers regularly attended the teachings of the Apostles, faithful to brotherly communion, prayer and the breaking of the bread.

I think of myself as foolish when I realize that I have never read the whole Bible. Yet, I remain convinced that if I had to choose one single book among others, I would choose the Bible. I intend to read it entirely one day but I am afraid the sharings I have experienced with my brothers and sisters will never be matched...

I must add that Faith and Sharing has not been my only teacher. There are other sharing groups in the Church who offer teachings more or less regularly. Whatever the group however, I feel a constant reality: The Holy Spirit is at the heart of our gatherings for the Spirit alone can enlighten.

A last word to thank all who, often without knowing, have helped me to come a little closer to the Mystery of the Love of God for each and everyone of us.

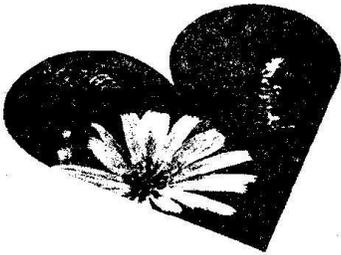
Andrée Vigneault  
Chicoutimi, region 2

Theme: *The Treasure of the Word*

## The Living Word

A very good friend of mine has been invited to preach the Gospel to anyone who wants to listen in a shopping centre in Quebec City.

My friend Louise is not a theologian but she is filled with love and faith, which she has shared with others for a number of years. She has always been close to "little" people so her Word is nourished by her real experiences with people to whom she has added dignity and self esteem. Her stories come from simple (some might even consider it poor) daily living with human beings who are marginalized by society. But Louise sees the gifts and strengths of these individuals because she loves them.



Louise does not take the Word she delivers directly from the Bible, but rather from the hearts of those she has journeyed with. So people hear concrete examples of the Bible message. They understand once again that love offered freely without expecting any return comes from the Lord.

Thank you, dear friend, for always clothing me in dignity in spite of my differences.

Lise Morin  
Sherbrooke, region 3

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Theme: *The Treasure of the Word*

## The Treasure of the Word

*Note of the translator: "Recitatif biblique" or biblical recitative is a discipline that unites the physical and spiritual dimension of the person and takes root in the oral tradition of the Bible. When we enter into that discipline, we learn the art of letting ourselves move inwardly as well as outwardly by the living breath of the Sacred Word which spans through the ages. A "recitatif biblique" is a complete biblical passage that is inscribed in our heart through the rhythm, the melody and the movement.*

When someone suggested I should write a reflection on the theme: "The Treasure of the Word", I accepted, thinking: it is a gift; I cannot let it pass. And time has passed; it is now time, guided by the Holy Spirit, to convey my thoughts to you.

Yes it is a gift (one more in my life) and a thanksgiving to the Lord to have visited me and chosen me to follow Him and to serve Him through the Word in Song with the Faith and Sharing community, for over 30 years.

Like many of us I have been struck by the famous verse of Isaiah

*"You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you." (Isa 43, 4)*

followed by: *"Speak, Lord for your servant is listening." (1 Sam 3, 10)*

and: *"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." (Pet 5, 7)*

The Treasure of the Word, I saw it written on posters that lit up the cement walls in the basement at St. Roch Church and it touched my heart. I discovered that the Word was like someone calling, attracting me like a magnet; it was the Presence of the Living God manifested in Jesus, Word made flesh.

Then the Word was revealed to me through the "Recitatif biblique" to receive it in my whole being: heart, body, spirit, sensitivity to let myself be nourished, formed, enlightened, transformed, to be espoused by the Living God who dwells in me so as to radiate Him through love, light, peace and joy on my journey.

(I insist: it is to inscribe the Word in oneself before conveying it that the "Recitatifs" are given to us as a Gift from God to the Church.)



*"Indeed the Word of God is living and active,  
sharper than any two-edged sword,  
piercing until it divides soul from spirit,  
joints from marrow; it is able to judge  
the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb 4, 12)*

To conclude, I make mine a passage from the book of Andre Gouzes, Dominican ("A Church condemned to be reborn, p. 159"):

*"For the Word is tasted, savored, and the famished devour it.  
It fills the mouth, it speaks  
It is sung and recited  
It becomes rhythm of the being  
It becomes dance to make us enter  
In a hand to hand with the VERB.*

*It becomes a kind of breath,  
An accompaniment, a Happiness  
Simply to hear the Word of God  
In my life  
And to make my life enter that Word!!"*

Yes the Word of God  
A treasure to discover  
Day after day on my journey!!

Thank you, Lord, for your divine presence in my humanity.

Claire Delisle Léger  
Québec, region 2

*Theme: The Treasure of the Word*

## **The Treasure: The Word of God**



Every morning, the WORD OF GOD is my breakfast companion and has been for many years. It feeds my heart and soul just as my coffee and toast feed my body.

My subscription to PRIONS EN EGLISE keeps me in communion with the faithful who attend mass daily. The book "Parole de Dieu pour chaque jour" (The Word of God for Every Day) by Noël Quesson is the perfect companion to the daily readings. It makes the Word of God more understandable and helps me grasp the depth of its meaning.

Let us remain united in prayer.

Hélène Verret  
Québec, region 2

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*Theme: The Treasure of the Word*

## **Word of God, Word of Salvation**

Since the beginning, God wants us to enter in His Love. He wants us in Him. Him in us and we in Him. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1,1) The Word, the most important word in the sentence. The word that gives meaning. The meaning of the sentence. The Word has always been in God. God himself. The Word says God. Eternally. And behold, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." (Jn 1,14 ) The Word became man. The Word, forever in God, becomes one of us. Like us in every way except sin. The Word comes to reveal God to us. The Son comes to reveal Father to us. In Jesus God is revealed. Depth of the knowledge of God! Mystery of an invasive Presence within us and in our midst.

The Words of the Son were written by witnesses who saw Him, heard or experienced Him. The Bible: the written Word. The Word that accomplishes what it says. Always. Every time. As soon as it is said and proclaimed, something new happens within us and transforms us from within. A Word with an extraordinary power of transformation. The Word of God active here and now. It changes us. Purifies us. Saves us.

To keep my Bible in my apartment, in my room, in my house. To read it. To re-read it. To deepen it. meditate, breathe its pages. To transform the reading into prayer and in a testimony of life. To create silence so as to effectively listen to the Word the Lord. To maintain silence after listening to it, for the Word continues to stay, to live and to speak to me. To shout out the Word at the beginning of the day so God hears my first word and to let the Word resound within me in the evening so that my night is completely in Him. To let the Word abide in me to make its dwelling. To make the Word my nest. To let myself be nourished by that Word. To let it seduce me over and over. To let myself be saturated by the Word. To let it open in me a gap from which love will outpour. It is the whole meaning of the Liturgy of the Hours: morning, noon, evening, bed-time.

In Jesus the Word becomes Person. Eternal novelty of God! To look at Jesus is to see the Word. To celebrate the Eucharist is to listen and to receive the Word. It is to be in communion with the Word. To become one with It. To let It nourish and to fill us completely. The "Eucharistic Word" enables me to accomplish things I am incapable of doing alone. To love my enemies. To present the right cheek when someone has struck the left one. To give my tunic when they ask for my coat. To give what is necessary for me. To welcome the stranger. To take the first step. To forgive the one who has offended me and who has started.



"The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe." (Deut. 30,14 ).The Word calls for an answer on my part. I listen to It to put It into practice. The Word wants me to apply It into my daily life. The Word makes me a witness. A witness that makes no difference among people. A Word that doesn't ignore the difference but welcomes it and invites me to look beyond the difference. A Word of hope. Of Comfort. The Word never goes without witness. To be witness to what I have heard or read. To be witness for others to a Love which will never pass. Stronger than death. To be witness that nothing here is lived for no reason and that everything happens for the good of those God loves. To bear witness that nothing will ever separate us from the love of God manifested in Our Lord, Jesus Christ. To bear witness that love gets through all resistance. To be witness that life is but a passage towards eternity.

The Word frees within me the word of comfort. Of compassion. Of tenderness. Of generosity. Of freedom. The Word is a bridge between the given word and the received word. It opens the door on all possibilities. It makes us see the visible in the invisible. The grand in the tiny. The consolation in the tears. The supernatural in the natural. Life in death. Always. The Word is source of freedom here and now. It makes more bearable the unbearable. It dresses the wound and makes the cross easier to carry. It is source of consolation in my daily life. The Word gives rebirth to my life. The Word opens a passage to the Presence. The Word reminds me I am a child of God. The Word brings me back when I lose my way. It is a beacon in the night. A compass that always points North to the Resurrection. The Word quenches my thirst. Nourishes me when I'm hungry. Heals when I'm sick. Dresses my wounds when I'm hurt. Resurrects when I'm dead. The Word is my survival. My lifebuoy.

I wish you a wonderful journey towards Easter. May the Word conceive within you the words of eternal Life. Rise to the Light that never grows dim. Passage of the divine in the human. Daybreak of a world to come! Eternity of the Presence! Happy Easter!

Fr. Luc Simard  
Québec, region 2



## Dear Pascal

*Pascal Daigle, from the Valleyfield community, passed away on February 13th, 2009, at the age of 30. Here is a eulogy given at his death.*



Dear Pascal,

You have spent over ten years with us, your friends from Faith and Sharing, with whom you were always eager to be united at our meetings. You often told me: "Ah! How I have missed you!"

Very sociable, you had the gift of going towards others no matter what their handicap or social rank may be. It was very easy for you to welcome new people who arrived in our community and quickly you made friends of them.

Curious, you asked questions pertaining to what we would live at our meetings or also to clarify what you didn't understand about a gospel passage or after a talk.

Open, you were joyfully interested in the life of each member of Faith and Sharing. You also liked to receive news from the other communities. I can compare you to a window opened on the world. By your sensitivity, you were easily in communion with human misery in general as well as to all events throughout the world.

During group sharing, you liked to be with "Soeur Therese" as you called her. Through your simplicity, your sense of humour and your joy of living, it was great to share with you.

Very active in Faith and Sharing, you liked to portray Jesus in mimes of the gospels, one of which was during a retreat with Jean Vanier at Chateauguay in 2005.

It was with us that you were confirmed in February 2002. It was a gift from God for the community to live that great moment with you.

And what can I say about those moments of retreat spent with you? You were always eager for the Faith and Sharing retreats, whether they were regional or North American.

You were fond of the times for the Word and when they were taped, you always hurried, after each talk, to reserve your tape so you would listen to it again at home.

At the Celebration of Life, you really liked to get together and prepare something to present to the group. I remember one retreat where you made us laugh a lot with your stories which I had translated in English.

For several weeks I cherished the dream of taking you with us for the retreat in Bromptonville... From up there you will be with us, that is certain.

I also recall your friendly and heart-warming presence at group activities of JMJ, to which I belonged. You came with us for the walk of forgiveness and you carried the cross. Your perseverance is an example each one of us can follow. You were never afraid to try to attain your objectives or to be understood.

I remember a talk that you gave with Benoit at St. Augustin church on the theme: "We want to see Jesus". You spoke to us of your faith and your relationship with Jesus.

Lord, we thank you for Pascal and for his love that he personally showed us during all these years. Thank you for your life and for all the good and beautiful moments lived in your pleasant company.

By your life you have been a sower of hope and a witness of the Love of Jesus for all of us!

Dear Pascal, all the community of Faith and Sharing unites with me to tell you that you have been a wonderful friend, a ray of sunshine, a brother in Jesus. We wish you "Bon Voyage" to that Jesus to whom you prayed so much.

Thank you for watching over us and for placing beautiful and good people on the path of Faith and Sharing. You will forever remain engraved in our hearts. "You are precious in our sight and we love you".

Your Faith and Sharing Family  
Julie Prigent, coordinator  
Valleyfield, region 3

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## You're Invited... Please Come

The Annual North American Business Meeting (General Assembly) of Faith & Sharing meets on:

**Saturday May 2, 2009**

1:30 pm Meeting

3:00 pm Mass

Ermitage Sainte-Croix

21 269, boul. Gouin Ouest

Pierrefonds, QC

H9K 1C1

514-626-6379

<http://www.soeursdesaintecroix.org/fr/activites/ermitage.html>



As an organization incorporated in Canada, Faith & Sharing is expected to have an annual business meeting for the purpose of receiving reports on the activities, finances, and governance of the organization.

All members are welcome!! Please let us know if you plan to attend.

(Jean - [jea\\_r@videotron.ca](mailto:jea_r@videotron.ca) or Pat - [paulmueller1@juno.com](mailto:paulmueller1@juno.com))

## North American Committee

Your North American Committee will be meeting from 2 pm Friday May 1 through 1 pm Sunday May 3 at the Ermitage Sainte-Croix (Montreal). Please pray for us as we come together in prayer to give direction to Faith & Sharing. If we can be of service to you, please let us know.

Pat Mueller	English Coordinator	<a href="mailto:paulmueller1@juno.com">paulmueller1@juno.com</a>
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## 2009 Retreats

R	Location	Dates	Theme	Animator	Person to contact	Remarks
1	St Ambrose Parish Center <b>Yarmouth</b> (NS)	August 27-30	Meeting Jesus in our own uniqueness	Fr. Jim O'Donnell	Raymonde Doucet (902) 742-2822 raydoucet7@hotmail.com	
3	St. Augustin Church <b>Valleyfield</b> (Qc)	June 17  10:00 -16:00	"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me" Jn 7, 37	Fr. Robert Lebel	Julie Prigent (450) 373-1956 julie.pregent@sympatico.ca	Shared meal
3	N.-D.-des-Neiges Church <b>Montréal</b> (Qc)	July 20-22  9:30 – 16:00	A Word of hope in a desperate world.	Marc Rioux	Mary Munroe (514) 481-1387	Open retreat  Bring your lunch
3	Camp Fatima <b>Rouyn-Noranda</b> (Qc)	July 27 - 30	Saint Paul	Fr. Pierre Larivière	Gisèle or Émilien Labelle (819) 762-2515	Family Camp
3	Bromptonville College <b>Sherbrooke</b> (Qc)	August 16-20	Jesus, man of relationships...	Fr. Jacques Pelletier	Maison Béatitudes (819) 563-7609 Lise Morin (819) 565-0307	Regional retreat
4	Mary Lake <b>Toronto</b> (Ontario)	August 14-16 August 16-21			Monica Donovan (416) 425-9944	
6	Bethlehem Retreat Center <b>Nanaimo</b> (BC)	August 9-14	Our Journey as the Beloved	Michael Hryniuk	André & Mary Catherine Ruel (250) 338-9072 amcruel@shaw.bc.ca	With children and youth programs
7	Camp St. John <b>Jacksonville</b> (Florida)	June 1 - 5		Fr. Ron Camarda Sr. Maureen Kelley	Andy Duran (904) 356-0810 aduran@ccbjax.org	
7	Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, near <b>Cleveland</b> (Ohio)	July 9 – 12	Table of Plenty	Dr. Dick Fratianne	Chris Alvarado faithandsharing@gmail.com	
7	St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center <b>Detroit</b> (Michigan)	July 30 - August 2	" I Surrender All "	Fr. Joe Esper and Maureen O'Reilly	Rita Neal beatzelb@lycos.com	