

Resurrection

BULLETIN



RESURRECTION BULLETIN • FALL 2019

Celebration!

The Ordination of Fr. Raphael Ma, CR

By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR

Saturday, June 15th marked a great day of celebration for the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection: Deacon Raphael Ma, CR was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Wesley Śpiewak, the Bishop of Hamilton in Bermuda. The ordination was at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, Church in Kitchener...the same place I was ordained 37 years ago. The ordination stirred those memories within me, but also brought rise to the emotions of pride and joy, seeing a young man whom I helped to shepherd in his seminary formation, come to this point in his spiritual and religious journey.

Fr. Raphael and I lived together in Emmitsburg, Maryland while he studied at Mount St. Mary's Seminary for three years. He graduated with his Masters of Divinity—a standard degree for those graduating from the seminary—but also earned his Masters in Theology, specializing in Systematics. Congratulations are in order here, for there are only a handful of seminarians that are able to successfully complete this degree while working on their Masters of Divinity degree. Raphael's journey to ordination was preceded by a very hectic year and a half. Tragically, in the spring of 2018, Raphael's mother, Alice, died after many years of struggling with cancer. Raphael was able to accompany his father, Paul, as they did their best to be present for and with Alice in this difficult time. May she rest in peace! After his mother's death, Raphael returned to Emmitsburg to complete his final exams and, after a holiday with his father, he completed the 40 day Institute of the Ignatian Exercises. This is a privileged opportunity to spend time in silent prayer, and with excellent spiritual direction, to focus on the Lord in order to see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly. (By the way, these words came from St. Ignatius long before the Fifth Dimension's song "Day by Day!")

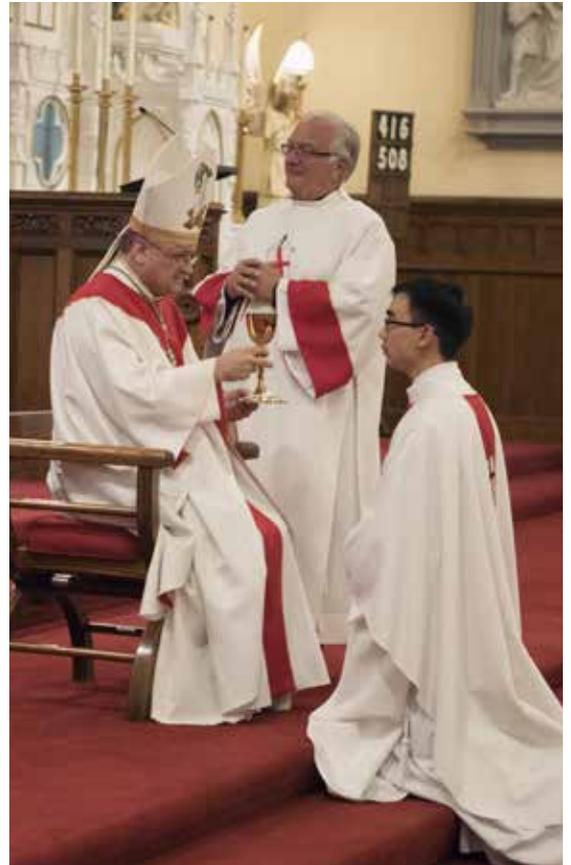
Raphael's journey to his ordination was punctuated with other liturgical celebrations that marked pivotal points in his formation. Fr. Murray McDermott, CR, Provincial Superior, received Raphael's profession of final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at



Raphael makes a Promise of Obedience to Bishop Wesley Śpiewak, CR and the local ordinary as part of the ordination ceremony.

St. Francis Church in Kitchener on November 2, 2018. Once under final vows, Raphael, as a full member of the Resurrectionist Community, could now be called by the Community to Sacred Orders. Hence, after his final profession, he was ordained a transitional deacon on December 1, 2018 at St. Francis Church by Bishop Robert Kurtz, CR, retired Bishop of Hamilton in Bermuda, and a member of the U.S.A. Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection. Canon Law requires that the transitional diaconate last at least six months, and Raphael spent this time completing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and ministering in St. Francis Parish as a deacon.

The “Big Day” finally arrived and the church was packed! The choirs at St. Mary’s Parish provided beautiful music to add to the celebration. There were so many people at the ordination that we underestimated the amount of food that we needed for the reception. We ordered enough food for about 300 people, but needed about 3 times that amount. Fr. Murray McDermott, our Provincial Superior, turned to me after the ordination and said, “Do you want to try the miracle of the loaves and fish or do you want me to try?” Luckily for us, Conestoga Catering filled the breach with more sandwiches! Many people came from afar for the ordination, including several buses of people



Bishop Wesley presenting the chalice that Raphael will use during the celebration of Mass.



The laying on of hands during the ordination ceremony.



The prayer of ordination.

from Raphael's home parish of St. Francis in Markham. A special moment for me was when I helped Raphael to vest as a priest. I was getting a bit emotional, but Raphael re-centered me, as he reminded me to make sure that the tag of the chasuble was tucked in at the back!

The next day, Fr. Raphael celebrated his first Mass at his home parish in Markham, St. Francis of Assisi.

Fr. Raphael has been assigned to St. Francis Parish in Kitchener as an associate pastor. He will minister with the team at St. Francis, headed up by Fr. Tim Uniak, CR. Fr. Raphael will also be part of a five-year post-ordination program under the supervision of Fr. Paul Szymanowski, CR to ensure that he has the support and guidance to be a good and healthy priest in the Congregation of the Resurrection. All our prayers go with Fr. Raphael as he begins this new chapter in his life of service to the people of God.

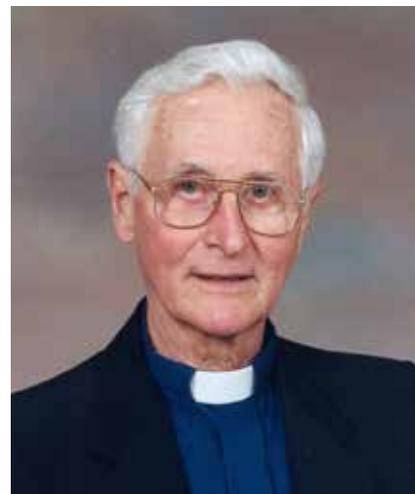


Raphael with Bishop Wes Śpiewak, CR, Fr. Paul Voisin, CR, Deacon Gary Johnson and Fr. Jim Donohue, CR.

In Memoriam

In our last issue, we marked the celebration of the 70th ordination anniversary of Fr. Frank Reitzel, CR. Sadly, Fr. Frank died on April 2 at the age of 95. Fr. Frank had hip surgery in January of this year, and underwent rehabilitation therapy at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Guelph. Because of recurring cancer and other issues, his health began to deteriorate and he died before being able to celebrate his anniversary at the Mass and dinner at which he was to be honoured.

Throughout his 70 years of priesthood, Fr. Frank served as teacher, professor, pastor, counsellor, chaplain, novice master, spiritual guide, mentor and friend. He will be missed by his brothers Mark and Clare (Arlene), nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and members of his religious community. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Kitchener on April 6th. Interment was in Mount Hope Cemetery, Kitchener. May he rest in peace.



Fr. Frank Reitzel, CR

Edward Sikora, CR -- Vows

Ed Sikora renewed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Congregation of the Resurrection on August 14th at St. Mary's Church, Kitchener. The ceremony was held during the 5:00 Mass at the parish, with Superior General, Fr. Paul Voisin, CR, receiving the vows. Congratulations, Ed.

We wish you God's blessings as you continue your religious and spiritual journey.



Edward Sikora, CR with Fr. Paul Voisin, CR and Ed's brother, sister and mother.

Brother Edward Hohenadel, CR Celebrating 40 years of Profession of Perpetual Vows

Forty years ago, in 1979, Brother Edward Hohenadel professed perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Resurrection at Resurrection College in Waterloo. Brother Ed was born in Guelph in 1946, son of Edward and Olive (French) Hohenadel. After attending high school in Guelph, Brother Ed entered the Congregation of the Resurrection at Resurrection College. He professed first vows in the Congregation on September 8, 1974, and perpetual vows five years later.

Brother Ed used his many electrical, electronic and mechanical skills at Scollard Hall in North Bay, heading up the AV department and helping with maintenance. Later, at St. Jerome's High School in Kitchener, Brother Ed did some AV work and was put in charge of the printing department for the teachers. In 1990, he pursued studies at George Brown College and received a certificate in addictions counselling. After moving to Louis Hall in Waterloo, Brother Ed did computer repair work and cooked for the men there. Since 2006, Brother Ed has lived and ministered at Resurrection Manor, serving as bursar for the Resurrection Manor House. He has also helped with maintenance and building repairs.



Brother Edward Hohenadel, CR

Brother Ed is an avid fisherman and photographer and enjoys spending time at the community's cottage in North Bay.

On the occasion of his Fortieth Jubilee, Brother Ed remarked: "Through other people God has shown His Love for me. I am very thankful for all the Lord has done. I came to the same conclusion that Mary did when she said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour for He has looked with favour on His lowly servant.'"

Congratulations, Brother Ed, on your fortieth anniversary of profession of perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Resurrection. Thank you for your dedicated commitment and service to your religious community.

Father Stanisław Zaryczny, CR Celebrating 25 Years of Ordained Priesthood

On September 27th, 1966, in Łososina Dolna, Poland, Fr. Stanislaw first came into the world, the second child of Stanisław and Genowefa (nee Kumor) Zaryczny. He was blessed with one older sister, three younger sisters and one younger brother. The family that he was brought up in was a very religious family. The life they lived, filled with hope and faith has always been a primary example for him.

After completing primary school, Fr. Stan chose a trade school that specialized in Automation; however, deep down inside, he felt that this was not his true vocation. Soon after he decided to join the Minor Seminary in Poznan, which was led by the priests of the Congregation of the Resurrection. This allowed him to get to know many great priests who sensed his calling by noticing his attitude towards life as well as his commitment.

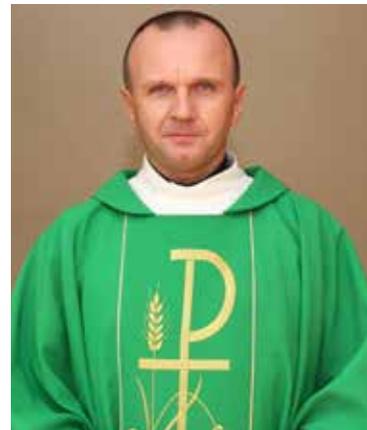
After completing high school, Fr. Stan entered the CR Novitiate in Radziwiłłów Mazowiecki, and professed his first vows there on August 15th, 1988. He professed perpetual vows on September 15, 1993 at the Seminary of the Resurrectionists in Krakow, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 12, 1994 in Krakow.

Fr. Stan was assigned to parishes in Bytom and Warsaw, organizing pastoral work and teaching religion in the school. In 1999, he was offered an assignment in Canada, which he accepted. As he waited for his assignment to begin, he spent time working as a prison chaplain. His first months in Canada were spent learning English, and helping out at St. Mary's and St. Francis Parishes. He was then assigned as Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, and served as Superior of St. Mary's House for three years.

After the sad and sudden death of Pastor Fr. Eugene Pietrasik, CR, Fr. Stan became Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, and was later named Pastor of the parish, a role in which he continues to serve.

In reflecting on the 25 years of his priesthood, Fr. Stan said: "I would like to thank God for this vocation to the priesthood, for His protection and His assistance in overcoming difficulties. I continue to entrust my journey through life to Mary, the Mother of Christ, who helps me every day as I mature in my walk with Christ".

Congratulations, Fr. Stan, on your 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. May God continue to bless your life and ministry.



Fr. Stan Zaryczny, CR



Fr. Stan with guests at the Resurrectionist Jubilee celebration.



*Fr. Andrzej Duda, CR with
Yohana Kachwele*

Joyful News from Tanzania

Fr. Murray McDermott, CR, Provincial Superior, received the following note from Fr. Andrzej Duda, CR, Rector of the Seminary in Morogoro.

Dear Father,

I write to you to express our gratitude for granting yet again the financial support to our students.

Also, I would like to share with you our recent joyful celebration, as another of our seminarians, Yohana Kachwele received the ministry of acolyte. It happened May 1st, 2019.

God shows us His goodness through good and generous people who are praying for our mission and are supporting us materially. All we can do is to say thank you and assure you of our prayers.

I greet you in our Risen Lord. May the joy and power of His resurrection fill your heart and life.

Brotherly yours,
Andrzej, CR

Ontario-Kentucky Province Retreat Resurrection College, Waterloo

By Fr. Paul S. Voisin, CR, Superior General

From June 3-7, the week prior to the Ontario-Kentucky Provincial Chapter, the members of the Province gathered at Resurrection College in Waterloo for the annual retreat. This year our retreat director was Father David Perrin, Theology Professor at St. Jerome's University. He led us in a reflection on Pope Francis' document, *Amoris Laetitia – The Joy of Love*. To Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Persons, Christian Married Couples, and all the Lay Faithful on *Love in the Family*, issued on March 19, 2016. This was the third in a series of Retreats on documents of Pope Francis; *Laudato Si -- On Care for our Common Home.*, issued on May 24, 2015, and *Evangelii Gaudium To the Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World.*, issued November 24, 2013 were two previous retreat themes.

I think many of us were unsure how Father Perrin would present this document, as it was mostly thought of as one directed to married couples (although it was directed to a wider group). We were happy and impressed with his presentations on the document, showing us how it applied to us as consecrated persons – members of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection. He highlighted one theme in each of his eight presentations:

“See and Listen”: Gather Yourself Together

“Love”: The Ordinary of Our Lives

“Community”: Trinitarian Life

“Body”: We are God's Flesh

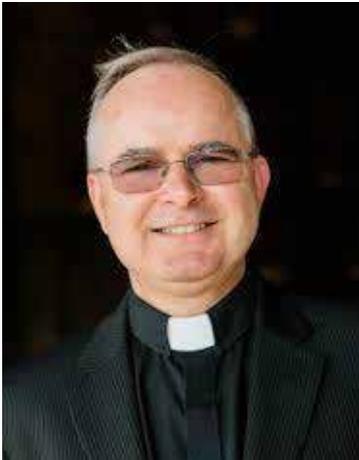
“Desire”: Asceticism

“Leadership”: Making an Impact

“Blessing”: Bless One Another as God Has Done

“Hope”: Diminishment and Loss as Gospel Values

We were challenged by the words of Pope Francis, and the way Father Perrin presented them to us, by ‘straight to the point’ questions for prayerful reflection, and by the many Scripture passages associated with each theme. There was ample time for personal reflection, and there were also times for group sharing. Fr. Perrin was also our celebrant and homilist at each of the daily Eucharists.



Fr. David Perrin

During the Retreat there was also the celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at one Eucharist, a Penitential Celebration one evening, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament another evening.

Of particular importance to me, were the Holy Father’s words in Article 137: “Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say. It requires the self-discipline of not speaking until the time is right. Instead of offering opinions or advice, we need to be sure that we have heard everything the other person has to say.” He continues in paragraph 138: “Develop the habit of giving real importance to the other person. This means appreciating them and recognizing their right to exist, to think as they do and to be happy. Never downplay what they say or think, even if you need to express your own point of view. Everyone has something to contribute, because they have their life experiences, they look at things from a different standpoint and they have their own concerns, abilities and insights. We ought to be able to acknowledge the other person’s truth, the value of his deepest concerns, and what it is they are trying to communicate, however aggressively. We have to put ourselves in their shoes and try to peer into their hearts, to perceive their deepest concerns and to take them as a point of departure for further dialogue.”

These words are important for our Community life, and our ministries. The true ‘joy of love’ is born of such patient and compassionate listening, whether we are hearing words of stress and struggle, or of success and victory. These same sentiments of the Holy Father were given to us on June 24, 2017, when the members of the General Chapter met with him in the Vatican. He stressed that we are “gifts” to one another in Community.

Our Retreats and Chapters, and other opportunities when we gather together as a Province are opportunities to deepen our lives together through that listening, appreciating one another, and regarding each other as a gift of God, contributing to our personal sanctification, and to working together for the resurrection of society.

Roman Renewal Program

By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR

This year’s Roman Renewal Program in June was primarily for Resurrectionists who are involved in formation ministry. I have served on our Ontario-Kentucky formation committee for many years and I served as rector of students for Fr. Raphael Ma over the last 4 years. The renewal program was an ideal opportunity for me to prepare further for my formation role in Tanzania beginning in August. It was an incredible gift to have Fr. Andrzej Duda, CR from Tanzania in Rome for the renewal program. We



Resurrectionists renewing vows in the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, the site where the founders professed their vows on Easter Sunday morning, 1842.

had many conversations about Tanzania and what I might expect. Fr. Andrzej has a great deal of experience both in formation and in Tanzania. He can speak Polish, Italian, English, and Swahili—and maybe other languages as well! I am really looking forward to collaborating with him in Tanzania.

We had some very good and well qualified speakers during the program. Our first sessions were led by Joān Braz Cardinal De Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, who spoke on “Witnesses of the Presence of the Risen Lord as Consecrated Persons in Today’s Church and World.” The next day, our own Fr. Andrzej Gieniusz, CR spoke about “Vocation Formation in the Light of the New Testament.” Fr. Eamonn McLaughlin from the Congregation of the Clergy spoke to us about “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation: Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis” on the third day.

On the fourth day, Fr. Zbigniew Sushecki, O.F.M. Conv. spoke to us about “Initial Formation: Some Legal Aspects.” That afternoon, we made a trip to Tivoli under the guidance of Fr. Krystof Mietka, who is the pastor of a parish in Tivoli. While we were there, we visited the Tivoli water gardens. There were hundreds of fountains and they were incredible!

Talks and discussions during the second week of the program were led by Mons. Robert Oliver, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, and Fr. Artur Kardaś, CR, who spoke on “Bogdan Jański: Formator of the First Resurrectionists” and “Fr. Smolikowski’s Principles of Formation as a Reflection of Bogdan Jański’s Theory and Practice.” We also welcomed Philip Towner, Dean of the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the American Bible Society, who spoke on “Christian Formation in 1 Peter,” and Fr. Zdzislaw Kijas, OFM Conv., who spoke on “Religious Vows Today.”

Fr. Paul Szymanowski is a member of the Ontario-Kentucky Province who is living in Rome studying moral theology, but also acting as our archivist. He gave us a tour of the archives and the newly renovated museum. We all put on white gloves so that we could handle some of the archival material, including the original letters and journals of our founder, Bogdan Jański.

I think the highlight of the renewal was the retreat led by Fr. Paul Voisin, our Superior General. The retreat focused on the resurrection of Jesus and it covered three aspects: searching for the Risen Lord, encountering the Risen Lord, and being sent out by the Risen Lord.

After the conclusion of a busy and motivating two week renewal program, I continued my preparations for life in Tanzania.



Participants of the Roman Renewal Program: Br. Nucinaldo de Arruda (S. American Region), Frs. Evandro Rosa (Vicar General, South American Region), Jim Gibson (U.S.A. Province), Jim Donohue (O-K Province), Krzysztof Miętka (Italy, Polish Province), Paul Voisin (Superior General), Andrzej Gieniusz (Postulator General, Polish Province), Andrzej Duda (Tanzania, Polish Province), Wojciech Mleczek (Polish Province), Dan Lobsinger (O-K Province), and Jacek Praski (Secretary General, U.S.A. Province)

Water for Butiama

The Resurrectionist parish in Butiama, Tanzania, is growing and thriving under the direction of Fr. Daniel Hinc, CR, pastor of the parish; however, there is a serious ongoing problem – water. The only water that can be used for drinking is rain, and there hasn't been any way to collect it. Fr. Daniel has begun the construction of a water-harvesting tank to collect rain water to serve the needs of Our Lady of Precious Blood of Jesus Parish in Butiama.



Digging the hole for the new water tank by hand.



Making progress.

Also included in the project is a line connection to the Parish House. The water will be collected from the roof of the church. Some of the funding for this project has been promised by the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection.

Fr. Daniel helping with the digging.

New Focus on Outreach at St. Mary's Parish

By Rianna Rops

St. Mary's parish in downtown Kitchener is taking Christ's call to serve the poor to a new level. In May of this year, St. Mary's hired me as a full-time Outreach Coordinator whose role is to determine how the parish can be a support to the poor and vulnerable in their community, and to make that happen.

Since then, there has been a flurry of newly-emerging activity and life at St. Mary's! Behind the scenes, the parish has connected with over 25 local non-profits, businesses, schools, and churches to build relationship and learn where they fit into the existing network of social services and local needs. Initiatives such as our new Community Garden and our recent Clothing Swap & Giveaway have brought together parishioners, students, local nonprofits, and members of our downtown community from all walks of life. Our latest project is fundraising to renovate our parish kitchen which will open up even more opportunities for outreach.



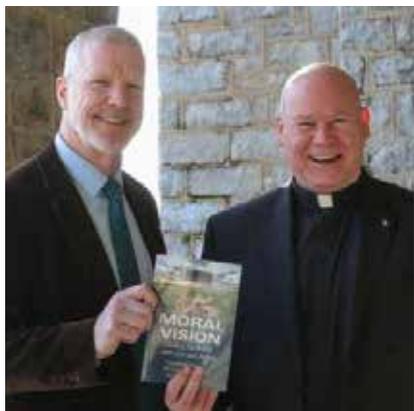
A special thanks to Fr. Toby Collins, CR, Fr. Dan Lobsinger, CR and Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, CR who brought their passion for outreach to this downtown parish and advocated to the Diocese of Hamilton to make this position a reality!

Volunteers watering the new community garden at St. Mary's Parish.

Moral Vision

Congratulations to Fr. Jim Donohue, CR, professor of Theology and Director of Pastoral Ministry Education at Mount St. Mary's University, on the publication of his latest book. *Moral Vision: Seeing the World with Love and Justice* is a new book on moral theology by Fr. Jim and coauthor David M. McCarthy, Professor of Theology and Associate Provost at the Mount.

The university's newsletter, Musings, states that Moral Vision "is not simply another text on the topic of moral theology. It is the fruit of years of collaboration and friendship between McCarthy and Donohue. It approaches moral theology in a deep, unconventional yet practical way. In the book, McCarthy and Donohue set out to cultivate a theological vision with the aid of philosophical questions to challenge the reader to consider how one's view of the world shapes the moral choices one makes and the person one becomes."



Fr. Jim Donohue, CR with co-author David McCarthy.



Rianna Rops, the new Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener.

Spiritual BENEFITS



Donors to the Congregation share in the following Spiritual Benefits:

1. Daily prayers said in all the houses of the Congregation of the Resurrection for living and deceased benefactors.
2. One Mass said each month in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the living benefactors.
3. One Mass said each month in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the deceased benefactors.
4. One Mass said annually in November in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the deceased benefactors.

“If the faithful help even one candidate for the priesthood, they will fully share in all the future masses and in all the fruits of sanctity and apostolic works that will be his.” Pope Pius XII.

Contributions to the Congregation may be sent to:

Congregation of the Resurrection
Provincial Office, Treasurer
Resurrection College
265 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7

Charitable receipts for income tax purposes will be issued to all donors.

Eric: My Friend in Community

By Fr. Toby Collins, CR

I'm not much of a writer but I felt compelled to write an article about a recent visit to see my friend Eric (Fr. Eric Wagner, CR) at his new teaching post at the Josephinum seminary in Columbia, OH. As someone who got to know him while on novitiate with the Congregation of the Resurrection almost 17 years ago, I have been blessed to see and experience with him so much personal growth and life in Christ. Through the usual ups and downs of settling into a religious community we quickly learned to appreciate our respective cultures (American for him, Canadian for me) while celebrating the faith we have in common. It was remarkable to see how someone from different part of the continent could have a calling to religious life and the priesthood so similar to mine. We came from good Catholic families, tried our best to both practice our faith and search for truth and purpose. We loved to laugh and play (mostly over a meal of playing sports such as baseball and basketball). We both had more than a couple of brothers and sisters and soon more nieces and nephews than we had time to share stories about. And perhaps the most remarkable thing was that we both could share in the sacred conversations of knowing we were both called to celebrate chastity. A vow that started off with plenty of personal and cultural resistance, but ended up bringing a sense of gratitude and purpose so deep we struggle to find words to describe it.

Many years later, as Resurrectionists fully committed to bringing Christ's life and love to those in despair, Eric and I have been assigned new ministries. Eric is a professor of sacred scripture in the United States and I'm a pastor in Canada. The sharing of our lives and families continues to this very day. Mostly about relationships with other members of our community and the family members we have grown to love in both of our families - I'm not sure whose parents



adopted who first! What I value most in our friendship is knowing that neither of us is alone in our response to the call to religious life and the priesthood. We have many unforgettable stories about how we both have learned about ourselves and what God is asking of us over the years. And we encourage each other to persevere while maintaining a healthy sense of humour when encountering the inevitable hiccups along the way. And by sharing our shortcomings with each other and other members of our community we have gained a humility that brings us down to earth and a sense of humour about ourselves that allows us to better relate with the people we minister to and with. It seems it is this “down to earth” disposition that I am most grateful for every time I get to visit Eric. My friendship with him is a constant reminder that God is still calling us and others to religious life and providing us all with friendships so we don’t “go it alone.” Friendships that reveal to us in a profound way that we are both loved and understood. And that through our common call and response to this precious and rare vocation we are all growing closer together as one community united by Christ’s enduring love for us all.



Message from the Provincial

The Beauty of Faith from Our Benevolent God

How do we speak about the power and wonder of Faith that God has given to us? How do we speak about the incredible and awesome generosity of God in His gracing Faith into our hearts and our lives? We begin by reflecting upon how Faith is all about the mystery of the heart and life of God deeply touching the mystery of our hearts and our lives.

Faith is about not being alone. Remember the song, NO MAN IS AN ISLAND, NO MAN STANDS ALONE, EACH MAN’S JOY IS JOY TO ME, EACH MAN’S FEARS ARE MY OWN. WE NEED ONE ANOTHER AND SO I WILL DEFEND EACH MAN AS MY BROTHER AND EACH MAN AS MY FRIEND. Faith is about being on a never-ending journey of seeking union and communion with the hearts of one another as we know and discover ourselves as family, community, the people of God, the Body of Christ and as Church.

Our Journey of Faith is about the ongoing journey of Exodus in our lives as we seek to find an ever-deepening way, the place of home and belonging for our bodies and our hearts and our souls. Faith is about the belief in the promises of God who never breaks or wounds Her or His Promises. Faith is about the trust we see in the hearts of the Israelites

delivered from bondage into freedom. Faith teaches us that the places of bondage in our lives become the opportunity for God to touch us, heal us, liberate us and free us from the chains that bind us.

Whenever we stand before Faith, we stand before doubt; we stand before millions of unanswered questions; we stand before disillusionment; we stand before fear. This is the flesh of the human experience. These are the realities that challenge us and tempt us and seek to seduce us into disbelief. Faith demands risk; faith demands surrendering; faith demands letting go. Faith demands unconditional trust and confidence in God. Faith demands action and does not tolerate inaction. Faith demands betting your whole life upon God.

Fr. Murray McDermott, CR
Provincial Superior



*Fr. Murray McDermott, CR,
Provincial Superior*

The Spiritual Legacy of Bogdan Jański Founder of the Congregation of the Resurrection

Following is the conclusion of Fr. Ernie Varosi's article on the Spiritual Legacy of Bogdan Jański, Founder of the Congregation of the Resurrection. Our last issue looked at the new Jański as he began to emerge. Now, the Vision of Jański and his Spiritual Legacy. Thank you to Fr. Ernie Varosi, CR for allowing us to share his article on the life and legacy of Jański.

The Vision of Jański

Having experienced a significant transformation, actually, a resurrection, Bogdan turned his attention to his co-nationalists to convince them that true patriotism could not be separated from religious faith. He realized that if Poland and the Polish exiles were to achieve their goals it would have to be by way of conversion to gospel values and an authentic Catholicism”.

Here is how he described his mission (1834):

"My social work among my countrymen must begin after my first confession" And so, 1) I have to think of organizing a community of common prayer with a commitment of living a practical Christianity; 2) I have to plan to organize, in the name of Christ, some sort of Brotherhood, which will define the faith of our nation....Today I had the idea that our goal in the immigration and in our country should be to strive to be an example of Christian living in all our thoughts, words, and deeds."

Through personal zeal and urging Bogdan was able to convince Peter Semenenko and Jerome Kajsiewicz of his ideas and convert them to change their values and theological horizon and return to the practice of the Catholic faith. Peter and Jerome, having gone through their own personal

rebirth, embraced Bogdan as their leader, teacher and adviser. Collectively they began to consider how they could promote a Christian Social vision of society founded on the unconditional love of God solidly grounded in steadfast hope.

Those aspirations began to take shape in 1836 when they decided to come together and form a brotherhood for the purpose of preserving and enhancing their religious conversion in order to promote a vision of a renewed society. In a letter to Wielogłowski written in 1836 Jański clearly states the underlying reasons for establishing the brotherhood:

"From the very beginning we were convinced that, if our own personal conversion and that of other brothers who were on the way to closer union with God were to be effective, it was proper and necessary that we withdraw from the social circles in which we lived and gather together to form a community. This was to be a community, in which each member would support the others, strengthening them in spirit through common exercises -- a community in which members would be led to the way of truth, recognizing their serious obligations to themselves, to God and to people. Thus we decided to begin a common life, and founded a small house at the beginning of 1836." (Bogdan Jański to V. Wielogłowski)

In August of 1839, the year before he died, Jański rhetorically asked in his personal notes: "[Perhaps] the time has come to work directly toward uniting all humanity in one family?" Since Jański died in 1840 he did not live to see the full flowering of this venture, yet, his insights and vision were sufficient to sustain his followers as they worked to complete the project which came to fruition on Easter Sunday, in 1842, when six men made their first vows and formed the Brothers of the Resurrection.

Through his human struggle to find meaning and purpose coupled with his personal battle to overcome the sins of the flesh Jański discovered



the merciful and compassionate God who loves each one unconditionally. Because of his own personal struggles for wholeness Bogdan was firmly convinced that an individual cannot save himself/herself without the unmerited gift of God's redeeming grace. Moreover, human beings left to themselves can only produce misery and suffering and that what is most important and significant for people, that which defines them, is the call to self-transcendence (going beyond themselves, Christian altruism). Thus, as St. Augustine discovered, so also Jański, that the human being can find its fullest self-identity only in the heart of God. Consequently, the person's intellectual, moral, and religious horizon is now defined by the transcendent God and God's unconditional love.

What then is the Spiritual Legacy of Bogdan Jański?

Jański, as the visionary and founding spirit of the Congregation of the Resurrection, inspired his followers with three important spiritual insights which continue to animate the membership today.

The fundamental truth which shaped Jański's search for meaning was the insight that the cornerstone of genuine conversion was to embrace fully and surrender oneself to the merciful and unconditional love of God; and at the same time to acknowledge our nothingness, misery, and corruption. These are the two indispensable pillars for a personal relationship with God for Jański; from this awareness arises the gift of hope.

The second truth which shaped Jański's spiritual development and which he passed on was the insight derived from his interaction with the social movements of the age. These aspired to address the social ills of the world by proposing a more just and equitable social order. Though Jański identified with the spirit of these movements he felt that no society or national movement which ignored the spiritual dimension could adequately meet the aspirations of its members.

As the vision of a renewed Christian society began to evolve and attract others, Jański was convinced of a third truth, namely, that it was necessary to form a community or brotherhood in which members would reinforce each other in their determination to live a life of closer union with



Bogdan Jański

God and through positive example promote the renewal or resurrection of society in general. Thus, living a common life whereby members offer each other mutual support is a fundamental keystone of community life and proclaim Christian hope to the world. That spirit continues to animate and inspire the members of the Congregation today as the Charism statement (1981) declares:

"We believe that God's love for us is merciful and unfailing. We believe that God calls us to work together for the resurrection of society, bringing his life and love to all.... This also requires that we build, and teach others to build, a Christian community in which all can experience the hope, joy and peace of Christ's Resurrection."



Where are They Now?

Fr. Jim Donohue, CR

Fr. Jim is on a sabbatical leave from his teaching position at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland. He will use this opportunity to take over the duties of Fr. Andrzej Duda as Rector of the Resurrectionist Seminary in Morogoro, Tanzania. This will free Fr. Duda to become the Novice Director. Fr. Jim arrived in Tanzania to a warm welcome on August 6.



Fr. Harry Reitzel, CR

On June 26th, Fr. Harry Reitzel underwent surgery for a knee replacement. The surgery went well, and Fr. Harry is recuperating and working hard with his rehabilitation at Resurrection Manor.

How You Can Help the Missions

Donations in aid of Resurrectionists working in the missions (Brazil and Tanzania) will be gratefully received. It would be helpful if funds were not designated for a particular project or area; this would give the Congregation flexibility to use the money where it is most needed.

Please make all cheques payable to Resurrectionist Missions and forward to:

**Congregation of the Resurrection,
265 Westmount Road North,
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G7**

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Editorial team for The Resurrection Bulletin:

Fr. Sudie MacDonald, CR
Fr. Phil Reilly, CR
Ms. Patti Tusch
Fr. Jim Valk, CR
Fr. Paul Voisin, CR

Please check out the Ontario-Kentucky Province's website at:

www.resurrectionists.ca

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