

Greetings in the Risen Lord!



**FROM
THE
MONKS
AT
Holy
CROSS
PRIORY**

*Mary
Magdalene
went and
announced to
the disciples,*

“I have seen the Lord!”

The story in John’s Gospel of Mary Magdalene’s encounter with Jesus is one of the most vivid and moving images of the resurrection. The risen Lord responds to Mary in her grief as she stands in the garden near the empty tomb. It is a story about an experience of life, and of love. At Easter Christians gather in response to Mary Magdalene’s proclamation, “I have seen the Lord”. We gather in a festive spirit with flowers, lovely music and alleluias to affirm and celebrate the resurrection; to affirm and celebrate life, love, joy, and hope.

Easter is a challenging feast day to talk about. There is so much darkness and pain in our world that we have no trouble understanding the crucifixion, but the miracle of the resurrection is harder for our modern minds to come to terms with. Like Mary Magdalene, we often miss main point. When Mary finds that the tomb is empty, she is sure someone has stolen the body. Because she believes she has found the answer to something she doesn’t understand, she can’t see the real answer even when it is standing right in front of her. It is only when Jesus calls her name that she realizes who he is.

We are a bit like this as we try to interpret the Easter stories. We ask ourselves, “What was going on?” it’s not the kind of thing we are familiar with. We want to know what was really happening but the fact of the matter is that there is no way we can know exactly. The more we focus on issues of how the tomb was empty, how did Jesus appear, how could he be alive and so on, the more we are likely to fail to see the miracle that is right before our eyes and about which we can be entirely certain.

Easter is a festival of transformation and not just the transformation of the natural world in spring, but the transformation of our lives. The stories which tell of the resurrection and of the response to the resurrection by the first followers of Jesus are about transformation. When we can turn our focus away from asking “how did he do that?” we can see the true miracle of transformation which took place. After the crucifixion the disciples were terrified, demoralized and mourning the loss of their leader, Jesus the Messiah, the one sent by God. We can never know for sure exactly what happened to transform these disciples, but we can be absolutely sure that something very important and powerful occurred.

The resurrection experience, however it happened, transformed these men and women. It was so powerful that they became absolutely convinced that Jesus who was dead was now alive. This belief was so powerful that they burst through the locked doors of their hiding places and ran out into the world shouting "Christ is risen!" This belief was so powerful that people were willing to suffer hardships, persecution and even death in order to spread the good news. That is the Easter miracle: the response of the disciples to the mystery of the resurrection, the transformation of the disciples.

The transformation we celebrate at Easter did not just happen on the third day of the week in the first century. At Eastertide through the ages and again in 2013 we celebrate the transforming power of life, love and hope in our own lives. Like Mary Magdalene we are often sad, perplexed and looking for answers in the wrong place. There is so much pain and suffering in the world that it is easy to despair, to lose hope. The risen Christ calls each of us by name and asks us to respond to him in love. He asks us to open our lives to the Easter experience of life, love and hope. Then, like Mary Magdalene, we are called to go out into the world proclaiming the resurrection. With Christians down through the ages: we say, "I have seen the Lord" and our lives are transformed. Alleluia!

+ ANN ELIZABETH TOTTENHAM, COMPANION/OHC

The Order is grateful to the hundreds of people in Canada and elsewhere who have supported us through their friendship, prayers and gifts over the years. In special cases we try to recognize this by asking that person to become a "Companion" of the Order; traditionally there are only twelve at any one time. We are privileged to have two of them in Canada: Bishop Ann herself, and Mrs. Patricia Brown. Many thanks to them and to all of you for many years of gracious service.



Around the Community



Epiphany and an early Lent make for a busy time. Our anchor is our commitment to prayer and the daily offering of the Divine Office. In mid-February, we all went to the Convent of St. John the Divine (SSJD) for worship and fellowship with other Religious. Participants included the SSJD sisters, the Sisters of the Church, us, and the Xavières, a Roman Catholic community near us. On another date, the whole community went to see Stephen Spielberg's movie, *Lincoln*. Consensus: Great! Individually, **Br. David** continues his ministry at St. Stephen's in the Fields, and assists at St Barnabas and St. James' Cathedral. Together with Br. Christian he attended a *Conference on Urban Monasticism* at St. Michael's College. More recently Br. David led a Lenten Retreat for the Sisters of the Church. **Br. Christian** remains a pillar of his Alzheimers Support Group, and attends the Church of St. John next door where he was once Rector. He and a friend are devoted fans of the local theatre and go regularly to plays. Christian also maintains a ministry of supportive friendship with a number of people he helped in the past. **Br. Leonard** is in



Ghana teaching at *St. Nicholas' Anglican Seminary* in Cape Coast. The accompanying picture shows him and some of his students on a field trip. Over the Christmas holiday he was able to visit our former mission at Bolahun, Liberia. We look forward to his return to Canada in late May. **Br. Reginald** just completed a year and a

half as Administrative Interim of the parish of Epiphany-St Mark's here in Toronto. His job was to start a parish "reboot" process, which culminated recently in the appointment of a new priest-in-charge. He works as a consultant to the Toronto College of Bishops, as a Diocesan Volunteer, as a *Natural Church Development* coach, and as a Parish Selection Committee consultant. On a more personal note he continues advanced spiritual direction training at the *Haden Institute*. He is learning more about the life of prayer, and is getting to meet lots of interesting people from the different religious traditions in North America. Finally, he remains an honorary assistant at the parish of St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale, where **Br. Brian Youngward, OHC** is the incumbent. **Br. Richard** is pursuing his ministry of teaching, writing, and research in the Faculty of Divinity

at Trinity College. He is not offering a course this term, but is directing three doctoral theses, and working on a couple of articles and one woefully overdue book. He preached at a Mennonite Retirement Community, and in January was invited by St. Matthew's parish, Ottawa to preach and help lead a programme on the *Benedictine Heritage of Anglicanism*. He was there for a delightful three days and also met with members of the theological faculty of St. Paul's University. The only mishap was the result of a dispute between the Métis and the government of Canada. The Métis are a recognized Aboriginal People, and decided to draw attention to their cause by blocking the railroad tracks between Ottawa and Toronto; Richard and the other passengers finally had to continue by bus! To learn about the exciting things in store for **Br. Randy**, see the next article.



From Br. Randy

Well, after a process of almost three years, two events of great transition and celebration are coming up for me this Spring. On **Sunday May 5th at 4:30 p.m.** I will, God willing, be ordained a Deacon along with three others in the Cathedral Church of St. James here in Toronto. Eight days later on **Monday May 13th at 7:30 p.m.**, I will graduate from Wycliffe College with a Master of Divinity degree. My first thought is gratitude to the wonderful community that has supported my discernment process and my seminary education. While each of us is called to walk the path of our unique calling, we are never asked to do this alone. I have been surrounded by prayer, encouragement, wisdom, and listening ears all along the way to these moments. I will, with God's help, carry their insights, love, and presence with me into parish ministry and continued life in the Order of the Holy Cross. I covet your presence and prayers at these events. It borders on cliché, but monastic life as a witness to the Gospel in the Church is more important now than ever. As questions about our future, God's mission in and through us, and the search to be attractive while rooted in our tradition abound, monks and nuns are called to search along with all the faithful, but hopefully with a perspective grounded in prayer and community that brings creativity, energy, hope, and life. We all appreciate your support as we strive to be faithful during these interesting times which call forth our best energies and devotion.



RANDY GREVE, OHC

The MONKS OF HOLY CROSS PRIORY invite you to help us celebrate Br. Randy's ordination. Join us at the Priory on Tuesday May 7th for VESPERS AND A BARBECUE (Vespers at 5 p.m., Barbecue at 6 p.m.). Come to either or both, but if you plan to come, please let us know in advance so we have enough food. Call 416-767-9081, ext. 24 or send an email to davidboh@ohc-canada.org

A Quiet Day in Eastertide:

RESURRECTION, CREATION, & NEW CREATION

Saturday, April 13, 2013, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

at St. John's Anglican Church

288 Humberside Avenue, Toronto

(next door to the Priory)

Leader: The Right Rev. Mark MacDonald

National Indigenous Bishop

(Fee: \$10, Lunch provided)

To Register: 416-763-2393 or pastor@sjwt.ca

Sponsored by OHC, St. John's, & St. Martin-in-the-Fields

Easter: Lost ... and Found

In 2006, while clearing out his mother's attic a British man found an old, water-stained violin. It had last been heard on April 15, 1912 by those lucky enough to leave *RMS Titanic* alive. Its owner, Bandmaster Wallace Hartley, was one of the 1,517 people who did not. The violin was found strapped to his body by a rescue vessel and returned to his fiancée. When last seen, he had been playing it to give others courage. Hartley, Jesus, and every human ever born stand on one side of a door marked "resurrection" and must decide how to respond. Hartley, like Jesus, was presumably terrified—his courage was in his actions. Easter is God's answer to all such actions, and so, in a small way, is Hartley's violin. It was *found*, and so too shall we be. Happy Easter!



RICHARD PAUL VAGGIONE, OHC

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