

Companions of Christ

2084 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
Phone: (612) 698-3564

JULY, 1992 NEWSLETTER

Praised be Jesus Christ! The gala events of graduations, weddings, anniversaries, church festivals, etc. that crown the summer months make summer pass by so swiftly. Here we are in July already! The month of June kept the Companions of Christ rather busy, yet very refreshed. At the very outset of June, the Companions travelled down to New Melleray Trappist Monastery near Dubuque, IA for very refreshing week of retreating. I greatly enjoyed the silence, prayer, and relaxation. We joined the monks for prayer at least thrice daily. This was a great way to kick off the summer.

The weekend we returned from New Melleray was Pentecost Sunday. On this Sunday, The Companions travelled down to Hazelwood, MN to celebrate the 40th Wedding Anniversary of my parents with the family. The Companions led the music at the Mass. The day was very blessed with beautiful blue skies, a worship-filled Mass, and a wonderful reception with family and friends.

The week of June 14th, the Companions travelled to Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH to attend a seminar for priests, deacons, and seminarians. We were accompanied by Fr. Michael Skluzacek, pastor at St. Michael's in Stillwater, MN. I came to the seminar not really knowing what to expect, and was pleasantly surprised. The seminar was more like a retreat and was very upbuilding for all who attended. There was a seminar on celibacy for the seminarians which focused upon celibacy as a precious gift of God. I was very edified by this seminar. Other seminars focused on prayer and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The camaraderie amongst all gathered was awe inspiring. I felt very welcomed and cared for. One of the highlights of this retreat for me was the times we gathered for corporate prayer in the Chapel. To see 420 priests, seminarians and deacons gathered to worship the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament was incredibly beautiful. I went away from this retreat feeling very renewed in my own call to the celibate life and my pursuit of priesthood.

Upon our return from Steubenville, the Companions, along with several young men from St. Paul's Outreach, travelled down to my folk's farm for a work day on Saturday, the 20th. We helped my dad put a new roof on his garage. My eldest brother Chuck guided us in the work while Dad put on his foreman's hat and supervised. Some ladies from St. Paul's Outreach also came down to enjoy a day in the country. In the Evening, we set our work aside, cleaned up, and entered into the Sabbath rest with songs, prayer, and a magnificent meal, prepared country-style by my mom and the ladies. For the evening celebrations we were joined by several of my family members and Fr. James Holl, pastor at Annunciation Church in Hazelwood, MN. At dusk, we lit a small bonfire down by the creek where we sang songs and enjoyed one another's company. It was a great honor to serve my folks in this way, yet the return of hospitality far outweighed the small amount of labour we did.

This last week of June has been a very exciting one for the Companions. Three new men who are to join us in mid-August were visiting us: Jeff Huard and Bill Baer from Ann Arbor, MI and Drew Cozzens

from Denver, CO. Jeff is a native of Duluth, MN. Bill is originally from Baltimore, MD. Drew has just completed a year of youth evangelization with a travelling team called 'National Evangelization Teams' or N^ET. These three men are here to meet the St. Paul Seminary faculty and others in order to start the process of application for the seminary. As many of you already know, the Companions of Christ have been in a series of dialogues with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to discuss our establishment as a Public Association whereby we will study for the priesthood and be ordained to serve in this archdiocese. Please continue to pray for us in this matter.

With three men joining us, our house on Grand Avenue is just too tight to accomodate us well for our studies, formation and brotherhood life. Thus, we are looking intently in the area for a larger home to rent. We desire a house within walking distance of St. Paul Seminary. Please pray for us in this matter as well.

For the month of July, I will continue my work with St. Paul's Outreach. One of my duties this month will include supervising a men's household located next to ours. There are seven men living in this house. They choose to live together to build one another up in Christian virtue and living. It's always inspiring to see these men grow and it is an honor for me to serve them.

Until next month, may the Lord bless you and your summer. May your Fourth of July celebrations fill you with much gratitude for all the Lord has provided you and this country.

Your Companion in Christ,

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