

Companions of Christ

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September, 1992 Newsletter

Praised be Jesus Christ! We pray that everyone has had a very blessed Summer. We hope that you enjoyed the SPOTlight you received in August as a substitute for the monthly Companion's Newsletter.

July and August were times of great and exciting things for the Companions of Christ. As you may remember, the Companions have been in dialogue with Archbishop John Roach of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese to discuss the future of the Companions of Christ. This dialogue has led to the establishment of the Companions of Christ as a Public Association of the Faithful. In short, what this means is that the Companions of Christ will continue to live their common life together while some members study at the St. Paul Seminary toward the priesthood. This Fall, four of us will be studying full time at SPS: Kevin Finnegan (our Superior) and Bill Baer will be in Theology I; Jeff Huard and Will Pelant will be in Theology III. Those of us studying will receive spiritual direction and pastoral formation from the Seminary. Upon ordination to the priesthood, we will be incardinated into the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and will serve, as any other diocesan priest, in the various priestly ministries of the Archdiocese. One difference is that we will continue to live a common life together. All these wonderful events could not have happened without your prayerful support. Thank you very much, and please continue!

In addition to moving ahead with studies toward priesthood, the Companions have found our living quarters on Grand Avenue to be a bit too small. Earlier in the Summer, we searched the neighboring area for a home to rent, but were not successful. We then considered purchasing a home. Through prayerful discernment and divine providence, we found a home on Marshall Avenue here in St. Paul which we bought in mid-August. It is within walking distance of the Seminary and large enough for several Companions! We hope to move into our new home in mid-October or early November. In the meantime, the Companions of Christ have taken up temporary residence (two months) at the rectory of the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Maplewood, MN (this address and phone number is on the heading of this newsletter). Although our temporary home is a twenty-minute drive to the Seminary, it is more than adequate to meet our needs. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for His many provisions for us!

Amidst all this excitement this summer, the Companions did manage to take some time away to relax. For two weeks in August, we backpacked and camped in the breathtaking Canadian Rockies at Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada. This is truly God's Country. We were blessed with perfect weather. To sit in the quiet and view the awesome Mountains and Lakes certainly enriched our prayer times. To think that this tremendous beauty is merely a reflection of God Himself!

September promises to be a very special and event-filled time for the Companions. On September 4th, we will begin our orientation and studies at the St. Paul Seminary.

On September 13th (vigil of the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross) the Companions will make temporary commitments to the Companions of Christ in a private ceremony at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Carlson, Auxiliary Bishop for the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese.

To celebrate this festive occasion, on the following Sunday, September 20th, the Companions of Christ will have an Open House to which you all are invited. Please note the details carefully:

What: Open House and Mass

Where: Presentation of the B.V.M. Catholic Church

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When: Sunday, September 20th

4:00 pm Mass in the Church

Open House to follow at the Rectory.

If you have any questions, please call us. Hopefully, this Open House will give you the opportunity to find out more about who we are and what we're about. We would especially like for you to meet our newest members Jeff, Bill and Drew.

Again, we are deeply grateful to the Lord for His many provisions for us. You are the many instruments of God's graciousness. We thank you and ask for your continued support through prayers and donations. We look forward to seeing all who can make it to our Open House. God's richest blessings upon you all!

Your Companions in Christ,
Kevin, Tom, Will, Jeff, Bill and Drew.

