

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>New Ordinations</i>	1
<i>Priestly Life Survives</i>	2
<i>Fr. Cozzens in Rome</i>	2
<i>Fr. Becker a Pastor</i>	2

The Companions of Christ:

Consist of diocesan priests and seminarians living in community;

Were established as a Public Association of the Faithful by Archbishop John Roach in 1993;

Embrace obedience, chastity, and poverty according to their Rule and Statutes;

Invite single Catholic men interested in living diocesan priesthood in community to contact us.

Companions of Christ
2137 Marshall Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 642-5933

TWO COMPANIONS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

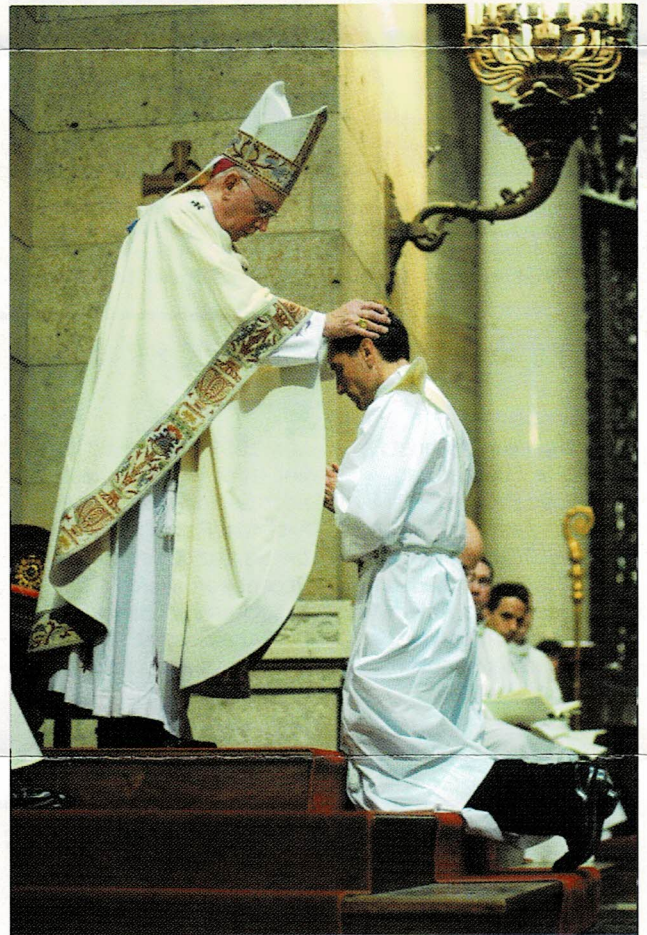
On Saturday May 25, 2002 Archbishop Harry Flynn, DD, ordained to the diocesan priesthood two Companions of Christ, Rev. Michael Keating and Rev. Jay Kythe. They were part of a group of five men ordained this year at the Cathedral of St. Paul to minister in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. They bring the number of Companions of Christ presently serving as priests in the Archdiocese to 11. A couple other Companions are in seminary formation.

Fr. Keating (shown right, at the Imposition of Hands) begins his priestly ministry as Parochial Vicar of St. John the Baptist parish in New Brighton under the Pastorate of Fr. William Murtaugh. He fills the vacancy left by Companion Fr. Michael Becker (see story backpage) and will teach part-time at the University of St. Thomas and oversee students at the formation household on Marshall Avenue in St. Paul.

Fr. Kythe succeeds Companion of Christ Fr. Andrew Cozzens (see back page) as Parochial Vicar of the Catholic Communities of Faribault, pastored by Companion Fr. Kevin Finnegan. Fr. Kythe will live in the Companions household in Faribault with Fr. Finnegan and Fr. Jon VanderPloeg, serving at St. Dominic parish in Northfield.

Neither Fr. Keating nor Fr. Kythe is a Minnesota native. Fr. Keating grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and served in the United States and oversees invarious evangelistic and missionary organizations, through which he became familiar with the Companions of Christ. He completed seminary at the North American College in Rome and holds a PhD. in Church History from Notre Dame University.

Fr. Kythe's parents are natives of India, though he grew up in New Orleans. He was raised Hindu and became a Catholic in college where he found out about the Companions of Christ. Fr. Kythe graduated from the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul and also holds an MA in Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Please pray for the Companions' newest priests. *Ad multos annos!*



"Our desire is to be anchored in Christ and to continue to do each day what we as priests are called to do: selflessly love and serve the people of God"

PRIESTHOOD REMAINS STEADFAST AMIDST TROUBLED TIMES

By Fr. Jeff Huard, Moderator



Some Companions at the recent ordinations. Back row, from left: Fr. Bill Baer; Fr. Michael Keating; Fr. Michael Becker; Fr. Tom Margevicius. Middle: Archbishop Harry Flynn; Fr. Jay Kythe; Fr. Andrew Cozzens. Front: Mr. David Blume; Fr. Jim McConville; Mr. Michael Rudolph.

I have much appreciated Archbishop Flynn's response to the current scandal in the Church. He has simply but powerfully stated, "The light is good." While painful to experience, the fruit is purification and an ordering that will have lasting value. John 3:21 says: "The man of God loves the light that his deeds might be seen as true."

No priests remain unaffected by the scandal and this is certainly true for the Companions of Christ. Our desire is to be anchored in Christ and to continue to do each day what we as priests are called to do: selflessly love and serve the people of God.

Because of the priestly scandals in our country a symbol of sacred trust has been damaged. It is very similar to abuse in family life where full trust is meant to be expected. Our response must be the pursuit of holiness sourced in God and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Trust can be and will be restored. This wound can be healed by sacrificial love. Please pray that each Companion might play his part in the healing process. With great appreciation for you all, we assure you that you are in the prayers of the Companions of Christ.

FR. MICHAEL BECKER NAMED PASTOR

Companion of Christ Fr. Michael Becker was named Pastor of St. Michael parish in St. Michael, Minnesota July 1, 2002. He succeeded Fr. Leonard Siebenaler who retired after serving St. Michael for almost nine years.

Fr. Becker was ordained

May 1999 and served his first three years of priesthood as Parochial Vicar (= Assistant Pastor) at St. John the Baptist of New Brighton. Recently ordained Fr. Michael Keating has taken Fr. Becker's place at St. John's (see front page).

St. Michael parish was founded by German Catholics in 1856 and the pre-

sent church was built in 1892. The parish has about 1600 households, a grade school of 275 children, and is growing rapidly.

Fr. Becker lives in the Companions household in Dayton, MN with Frs. Peter Richards and Tom Margevicius.



The handsome gothic interior of St. Michael's Church

FR. COZZENS TO BEGIN STUDIES IN ROME

At the request of Archbishop Harry Flynn Companion of Christ Fr. Andrew Cozzens will begin studying in Rome, Italy this Fall. His area of concentration will be Sacramental Theology, which he will likely eventually teach at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Fr. Cozzens was ordained May 1997 and spent his first three years of priesthood as Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of

St. Paul. He was then transferred to Faribault and joined Fr. Kevin Finnegan in helping establish the Companions of Christ household there. After two years serving the Catholic Community of Faribault he was replaced by newly-ordained Companion Fr. Jay Kythe.

For his MA thesis Fr. Cozzens examined the Eucharistic theology of Henri de Lubac. He can read theology in French

and has celebrated the Sacraments in Spanish for Faribault's Hispanic Catholics. To add Italian to his mastery of Romance languages he will spend six weeks in Sienna, Italy this autumn.

Fr. Cozzens is not the first Companion of Christ to study in Italy. Newly-ordained Fr. Michael Keating completed his priestly formation at the North American College in Rome.