

THE COMPANIONS OF CHRIST

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1998



The Companions of Christ after **Father Peter Richards'** Ordination. Left to right: Michael Becker, Fr. Kevin Finnegan, Thomas Margevicius, Fr. Jeffrey Huard, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Fr. Andrew Cozzens, Fr. Peter Richards, Jay Kytke, Jon Vander Ploeg, Michael Keating. Not pictured: Fr. William Baer, Fr. William Pelant, Fr. James McConville.

Father Peter Richards ordained to the Priesthood

On May 30th, Fr. Peter Richards became the seventh member of The Companions of Christ to be ordained to the priesthood. During the ordination ceremony, Archbishop Harry Flynn exhorted the *ordinandi* to be generous in serving the people of God and sharing the special grace given them in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

One of the four men ordained

this year for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Fr. Peter will serve as Associate Pastor of Mary Mother of the Church in Burnsville, Minnesota. Originally from the Iron Range in northern Minnesota, Fr. Peter was a member of St. Paul's Outreach and The Community of Christ the Redeemer before joining The Companions of Christ in 1994.

Fr. Peter brings to ministry a

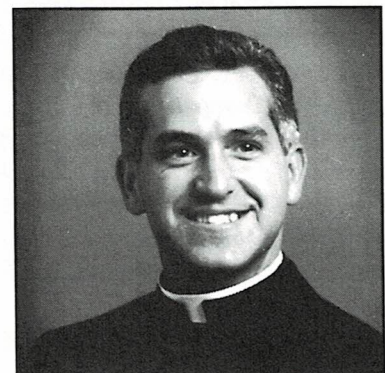
deeply authentic love for Christ and desire to serve as a priest. "I was delighted to be assigned to Mary Mother of the Church, especially since it is a parish dedicated to our Lady," said Fr. Peter. "Mary was obviously deeply devoted to our Lord and this is what I have found here: people with a deep and loving devotion to Jesus her son."

Father Will Pelant appointed Vocations Director

Archbishop Flynn appointed Fr. Will Pelant of The Companions of Christ to be the new Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Fr. Will was ordained in 1994 and has served for the past four years as the Associate Pastor of Mary Mother of the Church in Burnsville.

"I am deeply humbled by the Archbishop's appointment. It is an enormous task. However, I am also

aware that God will provide the gifts and colleagues I need to carry out this important service for the Archdiocese," said Fr. Will. "As we prepare for the new millennium I am confident that God will honor our prayers in a special and dramatic way and raise up gifted young men to serve him as priests in the Church." Please pray for this new and important ministry that Fr. Will is undertaking.



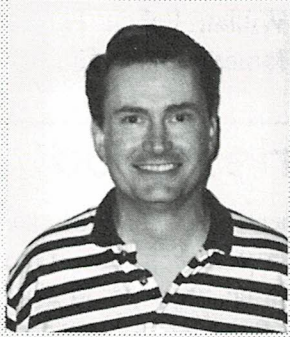
Father Will Pelant



Companions of Christ and SPO Summer Household

The men pictured here comprise The Companions of Christ and St. Paul's Outreach (SPO) 1998 joint Summer Household program. St. Paul's Outreach, a college and young adult ministry, has four women's and four men's households. Two of the latter are directed by The Companions of Christ to help young men discern a call to the priesthood. They are some of about 20 men who attend Companions of Christ-sponsored bi-weekly discernment evenings. These include evening prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and talks on the priesthood.

Two New Members of The Companions of Christ



David Bloom

David Bloom is originally from Herman, Minnesota, but has lived in the Twin Cities for several years. He became active in the Catholic charismatic renewal during high school and later joined the People of Praise Community. David graduated in 1983 with a B.S. in Business from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. He recently completed fourteen years with Alliant Techsystems in various finance positions. For the past two years he studied at Bethel College and graduated in May 1998 with an M.A. in Counseling Psychology. This summer he is completing clinical work at Eden Prairie Psychological Resources.

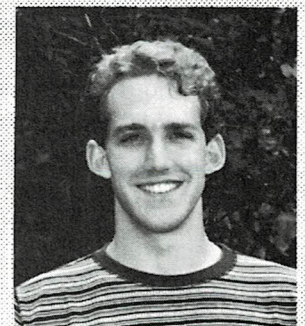
In December 1996 David attended Archbishop Flynn's Vocations Retreat and began to consider whether God may be calling him to the priesthood. "I arrived in fear of what I might hear God say, but I left with a great deal of peace regarding whatever His call on my life may include." He has lived many years in various community settings. "I believe the support of a community is very important in the life of all Christians, and it is something I want as a priest," said David. He was immediately attracted to The

Companions of Christ. "And besides, the food is good and everyone laughs at my jokes, so I think I'll stay."

Joseph Lichty grew up in Woodbury, Minnesota. He moved to St. Paul six years ago as an undergrad at The University of St. Thomas, where he studied Theology and Psychology. After graduating in 1997, he evangelized university students and young adults as a Saint Paul's Outreach staff worker. He also spent a summer with inner-city youth in Detroit doing youth ministry, racial reconciliation, leadership formation, and spiritual renewal.

This fall Joseph will begin a year of formation with The Companions of Christ and ongoing coursework at the seminary. Joseph was drawn to join The Companions of Christ because of a wholehearted love for the Lord, His Church, and priestly ministry. "When discerning The Companions of Christ, I saw the strength of the community life as a great benefit for my own continual conversion and growth in holiness," said Joseph. "I hope that this upcoming year will be one of growing in my consecration to Christ." Joseph is excited about the possibility of serving God as a priest, bringing Christ's gift of reconciliation in His Word and Sacrament to the people of God.

Please pray for David and Joseph as they discern and respond to God's call.



Joseph Lichty