



Ministry Programs News & Views SPRING 2006

The **News & Views Newsletter** will advise of upcoming events, new courses, and policy changes pertaining to StFX Ministry Programs. The *Diploma/Certificate in Ministry Program* are offered in a distance education (print based) format to adults across Canada. Recently we have added a *Certificate in Spirituality* and additional courses in a CD-based distance education format. The *Diploma/Certificate in Ministry Program* is designed for personal faith growth, for ongoing formation to work in paid or unpaid lay ministry and as professional development for deacons and teachers/chaplains in the Catholic School system. The **News & Views Newsletter** is issued three times a year, winter, spring, and fall. **We encourage you to send along information of interest, (e.g. upcoming conferences, ministry experiences, resource materials, job postings, etc.).**

Program Office Staff: Mary MacInnis, Coordinator of Ministry Programs; Cindy MacEachern, Programs Assistant

Hello folks:

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the rich blessings of Easter. I'm sure the participants in our various programs are delighted to have required readings and assignments completed for a few months and we wish you an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Before you pack away all thoughts of your studies for the next few months, please take a few moments to complete your course registration for the fall term. Contact us if you did not receive a form. This does not apply to the participants in the **Antigonish Lay Formation Program** as we have reserved space for you in MNST130 *Biblical Foundations* based on a request from your program director, **Father Doucette**.

Several participants in the Diploma in Ministry program have chosen the option of receiving a **Certificate in Lay Ministry**. As announced in the last newsletter, people enrolled in the diploma program are eligible to receive a *Certificate in Lay Ministry* upon completion of four courses, (MNST110 *Ministry in the Christian Community* and any three others, except the practicum and self-directed study). Receiving the certificate does not preclude anyone from going on to receive the diploma, provided they are within the five-year limit from time of application. Please contact us for additional information.

We will offer two courses in the fall term for the **Certificate in Spirituality** series: SPRT110 *On the Road to Emmaus: Spirituality in the Christian Tradition* and SPRT130 *Spirituality of Family and Relationships* (new this fall). The courses are available on an individual basis starting September 18th or as part of the certificate program. Response in the evaluations has been exceptional for the first two courses in this series and we have every confidence that participants will find the upcoming courses transformational in their spiritual journey (details, p. 2).

Registration opened April 1 for all courses offered by the Ministry Programs Office for the fall term. Please contact the program office if you have not received a registration form. Courses are filled on a first come/first served basis as enrollment is limited.

The development of our new diploma program is underway. The program has been renamed as the **Diploma in Assisted Living: Human Care and Community** and the first course will be available in February 2007. Please see page 3 for details.

We are disappointed to announce that the three courses in the **Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry** have been cancelled for 2006 due to low enrollment. We will be conducting a full evaluation of the program before the fall to determine whether or not we will continue as a sponsoring site for the program in the future. We will attempt to contact everyone who has taken part in the courses through StFX in the past, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators, and other diocesan personnel for their input to the evaluation. If you have any thoughts, comments or suggestions that you want to have included in our decision making, please email them to me @ mlmacinn@stfx.ca.

We will be offering our course in liturgical foundations again this fall. **Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations** was very well received by the participants. A few people were frustrated by minor computer problems but these were resolved with the very capable assistance of Cindy and Raymond (our technician). Overall evaluation was excellent and we thank those who took the time to complete the survey. We expect another high enrollment for this course in the upcoming term as word spreads about the excellent course content, resources and student support.

DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE IN LAY MINISTRY

Courses offered in the fall term (beginning the week of **September 4**) include:

MNST110 *Ministry in the Christian Community*

MNST130 *Biblical Foundations*

MNST160 *Self-directed Study* (prerequisite MNST120, open access)

MNST170 *Practicum* (for diploma participants only, prerequisite MNST120, open access)

NOTE that the second elective normally offered in the fall term, **MNST150 *Contemporary Catholic Issues***, is being revised and updated and will be offered in the winter term for this year only.

Effective immediately, participants taking the *Diploma in Ministry Program* have the option of choosing to receive a *Certificate in Lay Ministry* for completion of MNST110 plus any three other courses in the diploma program, except the practicum.

In addition, courses not requiring a prerequisite are now offered on an individual basis. People who wish to take one or two courses can do so provided they have an academic grade XII or its equivalent, or they may apply as a mature student. Contact the Program Office for details. **(Toll free 1-877-867-5562)**

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUALITY

This series is an exploration of personal spirituality relating to faith, personal growth and relationships, and spiritual writers. The courses are offered individually, however those completing any four in the series will receive a ***Certificate in Spirituality***. Each 10 week course is offered through **distance education** (CD-based) and participants must have a minimum operating system of Windows 2000 or XP, or Macintosh OSX 10.3 or newer & latest updates. Access to the internet is required if you want to take part in the Blackboard weekly discussions with fellow participants. This is highly recommended but not required. For some it adds a wonderful dimension to their learning by providing an opportunity for discussion at a time convenient to the participant. Others find it adds stress due to personal time constraints & chose to take part occasionally or not at all.

Courses can be taken **independently** or as part of the ***Certificate in Spirituality***. The CD format provides course content and various web links and resources. Tuition is \$500 for Canadian Residents (tax deductible) and \$600 for Continental USA. Textbooks and course packs extra. Two courses are available for the fall term beginning the week of **September 18**:

SPRT110 On the road to Emmaus: Spirituality in the Christian tradition

Walking with Christ and breaking bread together is the foundation for Christian spirituality and discipleship. This course provides an overview of spirituality with a focus on Christian traditions. The course reflects on the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus and how that experience of walking with Christ and breaking bread together is foundational for Christian spirituality and discipleship. In this course, participants

- explore the meaning of spirituality
- examine the Christian belief in a Triune God and the impact this belief has on spirituality
- look at the Word of God in Liturgy and in our individual lives as foundational for Christian spirituality
- reflect on the role of community in Christian spirituality

SPRT140 Spirituality of family and relationships

Family is what we are born into. As we gather experience and form memories, our fashioned perceptions get carried into years of living. As children we were very good perceivers. However, because we had limited experience of breaking open what we took in as children, we were poor interpreters of reality and needed adults around who could help us translate what was immediately before us. So, before we were conscious, we made decisions about what events or people meant. As adults we have the opportunity to reframe some of our early perceptions and experiences, discover how these experiences and perceptions impacted our present relationships, and generate different choices for our future. From our beginnings there was also some form of spirituality present. Some of this came out of religious teachings, other forms came through the presence of nature that held our wonder and awe or fashioned our fears, while other forms we picked up out of stories told, from culture, and from the society we grew in. Spirituality is different from religion even though religion can be a container for the expression of spirituality. In this course on the spirituality of family and relationships participants:

- learn about the presence of spirituality in all aspects of life
- learn about the formation of their perception of the world, themselves and relationships by exploring the life lived in their family of origin, and/or intentional families of choice
- learn how to move beyond what they have learned by deciding what to keep and what to relinquish
- learn that there is a power and presence in the Universe that desires only good
- have the opportunity to integrate their findings and generate choices from a deeper consciousness of themselves, family, relationships and spirituality

For details, go to <http://www.stfx.ca/continuinged/Ministry-Spirituality.html> or call/write for an information package.

DIPLOMA IN ASSISTED LIVING: HUMAN CARE AND COMMUNITY

This is a professional development opportunity for individuals who have some training and/or experience working or living with people who have a developmental

disability. This program will build on the knowledge and skills participants already possess regarding community living and human care.

The focus of this 5-course, distance education, professional development program is a holistic approach to the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. The emphasis is on building community, fostering spirituality, and celebrating individual giftedness.

Each 12-week course is offered in the winter term (February – April) and fall term (September – December) on a cyclical schedule beginning in February 2007. The program will take 2.5 years to complete.

Upon completion of the five courses, participants receive a professional development diploma from StFX University: *Diploma in Assisted Living: Human Care and Community*.

Courses

Course 1: Foundations of Disability & Caregiving (February)

Course 2: A Holistic Approach to Human Care (Sept)

Course 3: Human Development (February)

Course 4: Building Community (Sept)

Course 5: Practicum (Open Access)

Key features of the program include:

Course Materials – at the beginning of each course participants will receive a CD which contains the course information and a suggested study schedule. Course materials are designed so that modules can be read from the computer screen or printed for portability.

Course Instructors – Access to course instructors is an important feature of the program. You may call (toll free) or e-mail your instructor with questions or concerns. The instructor also provides feedback on assignments.

Group Discussion – an opportunity to participate, on line, in ongoing discussion addressing questions or comments posted by your instructor or assigned groups.

Who should enroll? This professional development diploma program is for people who have experience working and/or living with individuals who are developmentally challenged.

MARKETING

We are in the process of planning several information sessions to be held in parishes across Canada. I hope you will be able to join us for any sessions held in your area. Thank you to the members of the Toronto group who have arranged informal sessions in their parishes. They asked permission from their parish priest to set up a table at the back of the church(s), have an announcement made for two weeks leading up to the chosen date, and they will to have a student/graduate of the program available with some course manuals, textbooks and brochures to answer questions from anyone interested. If you're interested in following their lead I would be happy

to send you some brochures. If you prefer to approach people individually, that's great too. We appreciate all the help we can get in spreading the word!

COME LET US WORSHIP: A COURSE IN LITURGICAL FOUNDATIONS

is offered in the fall term beginning at the end of September. This 14-week course will benefit everyone interested in learning about the most central aspect of our Catholic faith. It is a foundational course which speaks to the needs of the average person in the pew and those involved in church ministry.

- Lay presiders must understand the structure of the prayer and the way in which the community enters the prayer in order to lead effectively.
- Musicians need a good appreciation of how song is a partner in the prayer of the whole community, so as to be faithful ministers as well as competent performers.
- Catechists need a strong sense of the liturgical year in order to draw the learners into the life of Christ.
- Parish administrators rely on a basic understanding of the principles of liturgy so they can be helpful guides to the community in its planning and programming.
- Ongoing formation for deacons and lay ministers.

Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations is a compliment to the curriculum in the Diploma and Certificate in Ministry Programs. It is offered to adults across Canada by distance education (**CD format**) as an alternative for those unable to attend residential summer school programs offered elsewhere. Contact the Program Office for further information.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Recommended by **Bert Monster**, Local Advisor (and DMP grad), St. Catharines, ON: **The Tablet**, a UK based and respected world wide Catholic news magazine, www.thetablet.co.uk/. Its online edition is free and published weekly.

Congratulations to **Bernadette Gasslein**, Editor of "**Celebrate! The Journal That Makes Liturgy Come Alive!**", and the rest of her team, on receiving the following awards at the Canadian Church Press Conference Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, May 5: First place, General Excellence, Specialized Magazines (3rd year in a row) Second place, best theological reflection, for "The priesthood we all share" by Roger Keeler (Jan-Feb, 2005. Second place, best editorial, for "The wedding season" (July-August 2005). Celebrate! is published six times a year by Novalis Press. To subscribe, call 1-800-387-7164 in Canada or US (except Toronto area – call 416-363-3303).

The Social Edge, www.TheSocialEdge.com, is a very interesting and informative online magazine focusing on social justice issues.

Available from **St. Anthony Messenger Press** "Patti Normile has written a wonderful book for those who minister to the sick. It is appropriately called ***Visiting the Sick: A Guide for Parish Ministers***. For further details go to: <http://prc.americancatholic.org/product.aspx?prodid=B16150&pcat=58> ISBN-10: 0-86716-150-7

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Ontario Liturgical Conference Summer School for Musicians 2006, Aug 7-11, 2006.

E-mail nblanchard@diocesecentre.com for details.

The Archdiocese of Halifax will host the **Atlantic Liturgy Congress** Oct. 13-15, 2006 @ St. Peter's Parish in Dartmouth. The theme is "Called to Worship, Sent to Proclaim".

YOUR NEWS & VIEWS [You are invited to share your personal ministry experience in this section. Please email to mlmacinn@stfx.ca.]

The following is from **Wayne MacDonald** who has completed four courses in the **Diploma in Ministry Program**. Thank you, Wayne, for this heartfelt description of your current ministry.

"The Lord leads in mysterious ways ...

If you'd told me three or four years ago when I was sitting in my comfortable home in Woodstock, New Brunswick, diligently studying my courses for the Diploma in Ministry that someday I would be working in the inner city of Edmonton, I'd have told you that you were crazier than a bag of hammers! And yet, that's what I've been doing for the last six months.

It helps, I guess, that I'm studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Antigonish at St. Joseph's Seminary here in Edmonton. That's what got me here. My work is a pastoral assignment that I requested last year after I'd arrived. It gives me a chance on a regular basis to spend time with the stones that the builders have rejected – the alcoholics, the drug abusers, the prostitutes, the mentally challenged, the physically disabled, the pushers, the pimps – almost all of them share one thing in common. They're among the more than two thousand people in this city of riches who have no home. Most of them live on the street, in what Gordon Lightfoot calls "the forest".

I work with a 30-year old ecumenical ministry called the Inner City Pastoral Ministry. We have no church and we use borrowed space for our church service and the office where we provide temporal and spiritual services to the members of our "church". On Sunday mornings, we have a church service followed by lunch. Sometimes as many as 400 men, women and children show up to be nourished both by the Bread of Life and by the sandwiches and coffee we offer after church. What we offer is a non-judgmental opportunity to come and pray for awhile. We often have the drunk or the stoned in church and sometimes they get a little noisy but no one gets upset, because they are part of the family and like any family, we look out for one another.

I thank God every day for the chance given me to learn and to grow in ways that I never expected. I have been gifted. I am grateful." -Wayne Macdonald, Diocese of Antigonish, St. Joseph's Seminary, Edmonton, AB street_minister@yahoo.ca

Congratulations to Stephen Bourque, Yarmouth Diocese, NS who was ordained a Permanent Deacon on April 30th, 2006. Stephen asks for prayers that he will have the strength to fulfill this most important role as a servant to the people (especially those on the margins of society).

Contact the program office for an application form for the following bursaries, or visit our website @ www.stfx.ca/continuinged/Ministry.html. Application deadline **August 15**.

- **Diploma in Ministry Endowment Bursary** for new students
- The **John J. & Catherine (MacDonald) Chisholm Bursary** for new students
- The **Dan & Margaret O'Brien Memorial Bursary Fund** for returning students.

Donations of any amount to our endowment bursary fund are gratefully accepted on behalf of those seeking faith formation but experiencing economic hardship. Contact us for details on how to make a donation.

This and past issues of News & Views is available on-line @ www.stfx.ca/continuinged/Ministry.html. Please let us know if you prefer to receive your copy by email attachment.

MINISTRY PROGRAMS OFFICE
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www.stfx.ca/continuinged/ministry.html

CREATIVE FACILITATION

St. Francis Xavier University, in partnership with Peak Experiences is pleased to offer a professional development course. In a supportive learning environment, you shall work with ways to release your potential in your classrooms, boardrooms, and meeting rooms, so you can experience more initiative, purpose, confidence, and fun in your facilitation work. The focus is on group processes, trust, relationship building, and task accomplishment.

Course Times: July 4th to July 7th, 2006
Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Registration Fee: \$475.00 + HST (\$546.25). Registration deadline is June 9th, 2006. For more information contact:

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