

the GRAPEVINE

GOOD NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

FALL 2005

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REACHING FUTURE LEADERS

 TODAY 



Help ignite the JPII Generation

Thank you for sending in your special donation.

In the *footsteps* of a *Saint*

by JACKIE MURPHY, CCO Ottawa Student

Wife, mother, doctor. Everything I wanted to be, and everything Gianna was. That was all I could think as I found myself hundreds of miles from home in a small Italian town, learning about the woman who was St. Gianna Beretta Molla. We were in the heart of the last part of our World Youth Day pilgrimage, "walking in the footsteps of the Saints". I knew that of the whole mission, it would be the lives of the Saints that would inspire me the most and help me in my own pursuit of holiness. What I did not know was that it would be the life of St. Gianna Molla that would speak to me.

I had heard of St. Gianna before: I knew her as "the Saint who did not have an abortion". However, within a few short hours, Jesus showed me there was much more to this woman that He wanted me to know. I quickly realised how normal she was.

Gianna went about all the normal duties of life as many of us do, but she did them all in light of her immense love for Jesus. I could immediately see the beauty and simplicity of that, but I felt Jesus was calling me even deeper and into a friendship with Gianna.

I was praying in the Basilica Gianna attended regularly, in the pew where she always used to sit, just feet from the confessional she always knelt in. I was trying to take everything in, the beautiful statues, the

Gianna and daughter.



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footsteps...

...continued from page 1

paintings, the altar, but I knew that it was not these things that had made her a Saint. As I prayed that Jesus would help me know Gianna, I tried to put myself in her place, not only physically, but spiritually. Jesus then showed me what it was He wanted me to learn. Before leaving for our pilgrimage, I was discerning my vocation to religious life. I had been discerning for quite some time, but for most of that time, I refused to accept such a vocation because I felt it was too hard for me to give up my dreams of being a wife, mother and doctor. Jesus showed me that, although Gianna experienced those three vocations, she, like myself, was called to offer them back to Jesus. Gianna knew the joy that came from being a wife, a mother, and a doctor, but she knew that there was a greater joy in following the Lord's will and in loving it. That is how she gave her life for the sake of her child's; she gave everything to Jesus without hesitation. I do not know what it



▲ CCO's World Youth Day group in Cologne, Germany.

means to be a wife, mother or doctor. Jesus, in His gentleness, was calling me to give these things to Him, without truly knowing or understanding what they meant. Jesus was asking me to give Him everything, just as Gianna did.

Now I am pursuing my vocation to religious life, and experiencing great joy in it. I am continually inspired by Gianna's love

story as I pursue holiness. She has shown me that the path to Sainthood is simple and easily attainable through love. Gianna loved intensely, but most importantly she loved as Jesus called us to, by laying down our lives for our friends. That is what made her a Saint, and that is what will also make us Saints one day.

St. Gianna Beretta Molla, pray for us. ♦

A Future Full of Hope

CCO brought 95 young people on the mission to World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany this summer. Twenty-six of those young people are discerning religious life, and 4 are already in religious life! (shown below) Please pray for them as they discern God's call for their lives.




CATHOLIC
CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH

24/7

National Intercession
for Campus Evangelization
October 31–November 6, 2005

Watch the
mail...

for the next Grapevine that will feature an update on the fruit of the 24/7 prayer initiative that took place this Fall... and how you can help with the next one! You can also check the website for testimonies at www.cco.ca/24-7.htm.

FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL to *Ottawa*

After more than sixteen fruitful years in Saskatoon, CCO will be moving its national headquarters to Ottawa in August. Following several years of discussion, and after much prayerful discernment, the CCO Board of Directors announced on November 14 its unanimous decision that having the CCO headquarters in Ottawa will better enable us to serve our mission.

Over the past few years CCO has developed a strong national presence. From Saskatchewan, CCO has grown to minister in the Archdioceses of Ottawa, Vancouver, and Halifax. We also serve many students outside of these areas that attend Rise Up Conferences and participate in our summer projects. Over 20 universities were represented on CCO's pilgrimage to World Youth Day this past summer.

This growth, combined with our hopes for the future, prompted the Board of Directors to discern seriously God's plan for the location of the CCO headquarters. Formal discussions began in the spring of 2005 and culminated at the board's annual general meeting in September.

During this lengthy discernment the board looked at many practical issues and consulted founders André and Angèle Regnier, CCO leaders, and staff. As they began to weigh the issues, a strong sense emerged that an Ottawa base would provide two unique and

important opportunities for future growth:

First, it would locate our administration more centrally in Canada and significantly closer to the greatest density of students. There are over 20 universities within a six-hour drive of Ottawa. This centrality will facilitate better training, support, and service of our staff and students throughout Canada.

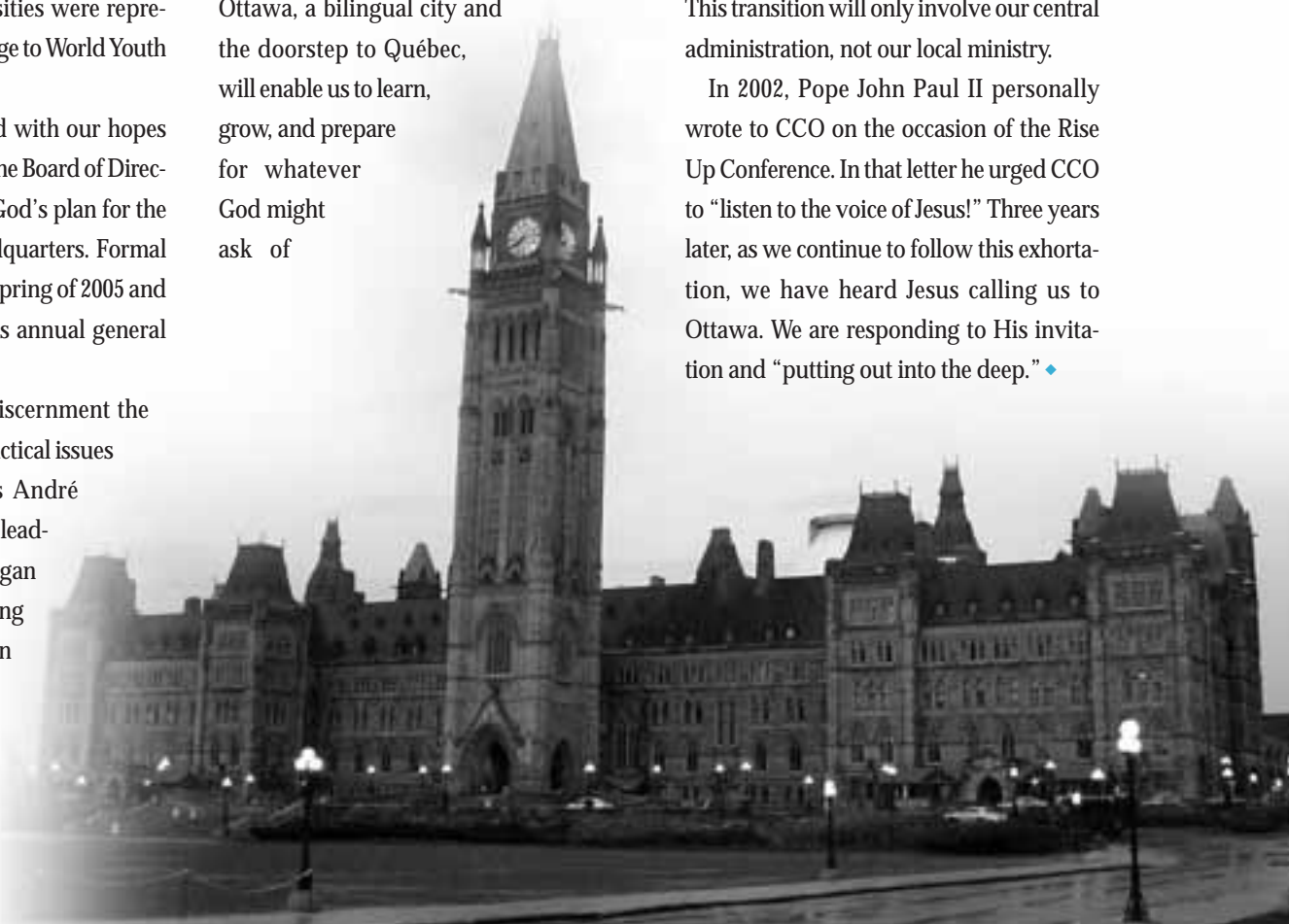
Second, there was a sense that at some point in the future CCO may be called to serve and contribute in Québec. We are already having a sense of this in our ministry at the bilingual University of Ottawa. A number of CCO small group faith studies are being conducted completely in French. Having our national office in Ottawa, a bilingual city and the doorstep to Québec, will enable us to learn, grow, and prepare for whatever God might ask of

us in the future.

Throughout the discussions, discernment and consultations, the Spirit formed a real consensus and unity. In prior years this clarity was not present, but it became very evident during this process that the Spirit was calling us to move to the nation's capital.

Still, the decision was not simple or easy. CCO has a strong sense of its roots in Saskatchewan. Prairie values of hard work, dedication, family, and faith have empowered the entire movement from its origins and as it grew. Our campus work in Saskatchewan will continue as it always has—there is a very strong campus team based in Saskatoon who will continue to serve university students in Saskatchewan. This transition will only involve our central administration, not our local ministry.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II personally wrote to CCO on the occasion of the Rise Up Conference. In that letter he urged CCO to "listen to the voice of Jesus!" Three years later, as we continue to follow this exhortation, we have heard Jesus calling us to Ottawa. We are responding to His invitation and "putting out into the deep." ♦





CAMPUS

C L O S E - U P S

FROM ACROSS CANADA

Ottawa

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

God's goodness prevailed this Fall at Carleton University in spite of a bit of a rocky start. Our student leaders quickly learned the ropes and have organized themselves into an efficient, dedicated force. The Lord blessed our hard work – and even our mistakes.

Our Progressive Supper was a resounding success. Many new students reported having an amazing experience, both socially and spiritually. Another highlight of the semester was our weekly Sunday Mass on campus. Carleton has not celebrated weekly Eucharist in years, so the community needed to be built from scratch. But after only a few months, God called forth from the residence dorms a vibrant community. Many of these students, who would not have been at Mass normally, are now contributing their talents every Sunday.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

CCO Ottawa has had an explosive first semester. After the summer mission trip staff and students met with over 100 students after a very successful popcorn survey. From these meetings over 30 faith studies have formed and have met each week on campus. Several of these studies are in the Faculty of Catholic Education, where CCO is helping to form future teachers. Our events have been gaining great momentum: in prayer, as more than 50 students came to our Summit Eucharistic Adoration to pray for our country; and socials, as more than 60 people participated in our Progressive Supper event. We thank God and look forward to even more growth next semester.



Girl's Night in Ottawa! ▶

Saskatoon

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

It is hard to believe that it has only been a couple of months since CCO Saskatoon returned from WYD. This was an incredible experience of the Universal Church for the youth who attended.

Already, it has been an unbelievably busy, faith-filled semester. We began by outreaching to new students by conducting our 60-second survey, handing out Freezies to over 500 students at the U of S. Our kick-off social event was the Amazing Race (Saskatoon style) which saw 30 students run, dance and act their way to the big prize-Freezies galore! Next was Ballroom Dancing, where 40 elegant women and 30 handsome men learned to dance from a professional instructor, and then showed off their moves. Our final social event to date was the Kaiser and Games night. The Saskatchewan crowd gathered to teach the Alberta and BC contingent how to play this wholly Saskatchewan game, wearing bunny hugs no less!

Many students are involved in our various faith-centered events through which we also build community. Our first GAP (Glorry, Adoration and Praise) was a beautiful and powerful testament to our faith, and our Cornerstone was a wonderful teaching opportunity to hear a talk on Vatican II. We have been blessed with an extraordinary number of new students who have signed up to take faith studies. There are currently 13 women's studies and 7 men's studies running every week. We trust in God's grace in all that we do and count on the Churches' prayers.



▲ *Some CCO Saskatoon students and staff.*

Halifax

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

The newest CCO region is gaining momentum.

September's fall retreat saw many of the student leaders of the past year recommit themselves to the vision of CCO and to Christ. The weekend was full of talks, fellowship, and prayer with the pinnacle of the retreat coming in Adoration. André Regnier, founder of CCO, gave a powerful reflection during this time of prayer, helping students to be open to what God wants to do in their lives. What a powerful weekend!

This term, the bi-weekly outreach events focus on the questions some students ask. 'Where is God?', 'How is He relevant?' and 'What is the Point?' - all headlined by posters and flyers which helped to lead into a sharing of the Gospel, and an opportunity to respond in prayer. On alternate weeks, students rally together to claim the campus for Christ through prayer and intercession.

God is moving powerfully in Halifax and CCO is blessed to play a part in it!

CCO Halifax at their first annual Fall Retreat.



Vancouver

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SFU is becoming less of a "commuter campus", as it builds its community life. CCO is taking advantage of this by holding more events on campus, such as a "Residence Coffee House" and campus training events. Close to 60 students will be taking faith studies this semester, with many showing leadership potential. One such student is Brian Bird. Brian signed up at our Snack Food Survey last spring and after taking the Discovery study has joined the student executive and leads weekly prayer and worship.



▲ *CCO Vancouver staff member Rob Kraemer with students*

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

On a community college campus there are challenges and opportunities. One challenge is the high turnover in the student body. This makes leadership development difficult but not impossible. The Ministry Leaders Training, or MLT has been a success. Many new students are taking up leadership in the movement of CCO. There are many opportunities for evangelization at Douglas College because of the young student population. Most students are getting their first dose of college life, and many are

looking for direction, belonging and purpose. They are asking difficult, but important life changing questions. They are being answered in the 15 CCO Faith Studies being led by our staff, Rob Kraemer and Theresa Mendler, as well as our student leaders. The studies give students the avenue to discover God's great plan for their life. Pray that they will discover God's

love in a new and exciting way. ♦

Living WATERS

by SARAH LOFTSON, CCO Student at Dalhousie University

I impulsively decided to move to Halifax from Winnipeg to tackle a one-year journalism program. When I arrived in Halifax I had no place to live, nor did I know a single soul. The journalism program was not what I expected it to be, my boyfriend broke up with me, and my friends did not call. I spent most nights restlessly planning my return home hoping that when I woke up the next morning this abrupt decision would turn out to be a horrible nightmare.

About one month into the program my journalism instructor asked me to report on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi at the local Catholic Church. The parish priest invited me to come back for mass on Sunday; I took him up on the offer since he seemed like a pretty cool guy. I sat inside the pew Sunday morning feeling a strange mix of familiarity and disorientation. Mass felt strange with people sitting, standing, kneeling in unison

but it also felt like home, a familiar routine. I suddenly realized that now that I was living away from home, attending Mass had become a choice and not something my parents were forcing me to do. I needed to decide if I was going to take out a membership card. The difficulty was reading over the fine print.

I had lost most of my Catholic IQ post grade six Catechism. And mainstream media had become my Catholic connection. The picture the media was painting was not pretty. At one point I called into CBC radio explaining the only reason I was staying in the Catholic Church was to set the Church straight!

I did not know the Catholic Church was built on a foundation of love until Catholic Christian Outreach opened its arms and hugged me at a time when I was most in need. I met a CCO staff member after Mass several months after I had been going to church. As any good journalist would—I asked a gazillion questions. She invited me to join a CCO faith study to find out the answers. I agreed, but my intentions were purely journalistic. I thought this would be a good opportunity to ask how love could bore the ugliness that I saw in the media.

Once I completed the faith study at the end of the school semester I told the staff member that I was disappointed that had not found all the answers I was looking for; I wanted to continue with the series. Her solution would change the course of my life—an invitation to World Youth Day with CCO. After a long and hard deliberation I decided to forego my journalism career for

the summer. In turn, I hoped this trip would give me a better understanding of the Church and life direction.

Journalists are trained to be critical and skeptical about the world around them and my approach to faith was no different. I prepared for WYD, gobbling up every book and article about the Catholic faith, dialoguing with all sorts of people in the diocese, and writing articles for the local Catholic paper. I was not sure what direction my life would take post-WYD the only thing I could guarantee was that I would embark on an honest search for the Truth.

Once I returned to Canada I realized that I had found convincing answers to most of my questions—but the one area I still had trouble with was faith, a surrendering of self.

I attended CCO's fall retreat in September. CCO founder André Regnier invited us to begin a personal relationship with Christ. During adoration my desire to receive Jesus' warm embrace finally struck down my skepticism like a bolt of lightning.

On the outside my life looks pretty much the same as it did one year ago, but now I am filled with the desire to tell people about the 'living waters' I have encountered through CCO. Recently, I called CBC again but this time with a story idea. I am currently working on a piece for CBC radio about World Youth Day. I wanted to report on what happens to young people once they return from World Youth Day. Is it just a fun trip or are lives changed?

Speaking from experience, I know mine has. ♦



Commissioning in communion

by JEFF LOCKERT, CCO President

October 18th has always been a special day for those involved with CCO. It was on October 18th, 1988 that André held the first CCO small group faith study at the University of Saskatchewan. Since then, we have recognized this day as our "Foundation Day" – the anniversary of CCO's beginning.

This year it was an extra-special day as the celebration of our anniversary was combined with a commissioning liturgy in each of the Dioceses in which we serve. The liturgy combined many elements which were significant for our movement and had historical meaning. A number of Scripture passages were chosen (1 Tim 4:11-16, Psalm 40:7-11, Matt 28:18-20), a Litany of the Saints proclaimed, and specific intentions prayed for.

In each Diocese, our staff gathered together with their families and friends to

participate in this special anniversary event. This liturgy was also an opportunity for the local Bishop, or his appointed representative, to officially commission our staff for service in the various Dioceses. Celebrating with us were Fr. Mark Schwab, Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Vancouver; Bishop Albert LeGatt of Saskatoon; Archbishop Marcel Gervais of Ottawa; and Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J. of Halifax. Each of them prayed individually for each staff member using the following words:

"In the power of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of charity, I commission you to serve the university students of this diocese by proclaiming Jesus with boldness, clarity and courage through the apostolate of CCO. I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



▲ HQ and CCO Saskatoon staff and students from the core team with Bishop Albert and Fr. Marc Mireau at Commissioning Mass in Saskatoon.

It was an extremely meaningful experience to know that on the very same day, the anniversary of CCO's foundation, all the CCO staff were being commissioned in communion with each other. Equally meaningful was the knowledge that through the Bishops, we were being commissioned for service of the Church in communion with the great multitude of faithful people throughout the world and history of the Church. With this empowerment, we are now strengthened to go forth to fulfil our mission and calling. ♦



CCO Intern on International Liturgy Committee for WYD 2005

By MICHELLE BUISSÉE, Intern in Ottawa

This summer I had the privilege to represent Catholic Christian Outreach on the International Liturgy Group (ILG) for World Youth Day in Germany. The group was composed of 179 youth from 74 different countries and movements from around the world. We all stayed together in a youth retreat center and enjoyed training and social programs together during the few days leading up to World Youth Day. My experience at World Youth Day as a member of the International Liturgy Group is not one I will soon forget. I truly celebrated my faith and my love for God in solidarity with the nations of the world.

As a member of the ILG, I was assigned the task of reading the first intention at the opening Mass in Cologne on August 16. The energy in the stadium that day was incredible. I was overcome with joy at the reality before me: fifty thousand young people gathered together, worshipping our Lord and celebrating their faith. We were responded to Pope John Paul II's call to come worship Jesus in the Eucharist.

The days following this great opening Mass were wonderful. Not only was I able to sit up on the stage at Marienfeld with the Pope during the Vigil and the final Mass, but I was blessed also by the opportunity of being on the boat with the Pope when he arrived in Cologne! This was probably my favorite moment of my whole World Youth Day experience. I saw at least 1 million people that day on the banks of the Rhine and in the city. What a statement.

I saw many people that day from the boat and read many signs greeting the Holy Father, but as we floated near a large field flooded with people, a unique sign held up by youth wearing orange T-shirts caught my eye. It read "J-E-S-U-S". I cannot express in words the joy I felt when I saw CCO from the Pope's boat! I was so proud of CCO in that moment and I was able to tell EVERYONE on the boat that that was my family! I am certain that the Pope saw it too and it probably brought him just as much joy as it did to me!



Staff Updates

Johnny Hickey



is an intern serving on the U of S campus.

Joanna Jablonski



serves on the Vancouver VINE program

Eric Myatt



is a new intern at Dalhousie University.

Cheryl-Lynn Lina



serves on the Vancouver VINE program.

Theresa Mendler



serves on the Vancouver VINE program.

Holly Chevalier



is an intern at the University of Ottawa.

Michelle Buissé



is an intern at the University of Ottawa.

Matthew Farnand



is an intern at the University of Ottawa.

Christy Gaudet



serves as an intern at the U of S campus. She replaced Erin Hickey who was transferred into the National Headquarter office.

Noli Mababangloob



is CCO's new Information Technologist. He serves in the National Headquarter office.

In Other News...

- Michael and Amy Hall were married this summer.
- After many years of faithful service, PJ Lewis and Nicole DeRoo are no longer working with CCO.
- Brett and Andrea Powell welcomed their 6th little baby, Sarah Monica, in September.
- Jeff and Renée Lockert are expecting their 4th child.
- Rob and Jen Kraemer welcomed their 3rd child, Caleb Paul, this December.
- André and Angèle Regnier are expecting their 5th child.
- Tom and Erin Hickey are adopting from Ethiopia.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CANADA

Catholic Christian Outreach is a university student movement dedicated to evangelization. We challenge young adults to live in the fullness of the Catholic faith, with a strong emphasis on becoming leaders in the renewal of the world.

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