

the GRAPEVINE

GOOD NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

SUMMER 2003

C O N T E N T S

Rise Up 2002 *Edmonton* 1
Every Member a Missionary 3
Campus Close-Ups 4
Beyond My Wildest Dreams 6
Staff Update 7
The Pope Addresses CCO 8

REACHING FUTURE LEADERS

 TODAY 

 CCO's
15 Year
Anniversary
Celebration
**You're
Invited...**
more information on page 7!

Hundreds of students **RESPOND** *to World Youth Day*

by Gillian Girodat CCO Alumnus

In the third hour of 2003, in a hotel lobby in downtown Edmonton, nearly 200 young people began singing the opening strains of *Amazing Grace*. The voices grew louder as the song progressed and, by the time they had reached "a wretch like me," they had all joined hands and were swaying in the same perfect harmony with which they sang.

Though the group filled most of the lobby, the desk staff seemed unconcerned. The Sheraton Grande Hotel in downtown Edmonton was host to a few parties that night and these guests proved, by far, to be the most respectful. After all, no alcohol flowed through the blood of these partygoers - their hearts pumped fresh the vibrancy of the Holy Spirit!

I stood among them, overwhelmed to be part of New Year's celebrations where the countdown was for a year full of promise and hope and where 2003 was greeted with songs of praise. But by now I should expect nothing less of these people, my friends. Six years ago I signed up for a faith study with CCO and was welcomed, taught, and challenged by the CCO staff and students. But then and there, our work seemed local as we reached out to our campus, classmates, and church community. At CCO's third annual Rise Up

RISE UP 2002 EDMONTON

Christmas Conference, however, nearly 300 young people attending the five-day long event were challenged to something on a much broader scope.

"Our focus for this year's conference is World Youth Day: A Call to Respond," said Jeff Lockert, CCO President. "World Youth Day inspired so many young people to live out their faith. Rise Up will equip and empower these young people to respond by living out that inspiration in their every day lives."

...continued on page 2



Rise Up 2002 Edmonton

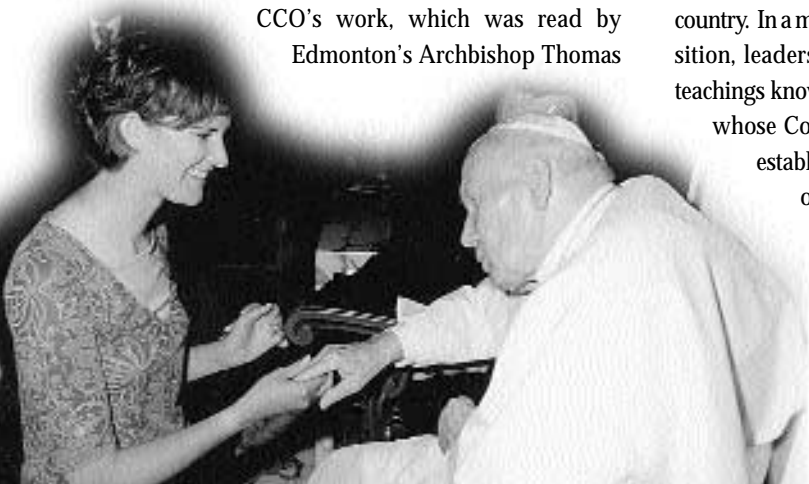
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To set the scene, CCO brought elements of WYD to Edmonton. To start, they invited Fr. Thomas Rosica, WYD national director, to serve as guest speaker. In what he labeled as the first major, national follow-up to WYD, Fr. Rosica commended CCO on the very principle the university movement was built on.

"Whatever is done for youth in the church," Rosica said, "it must be for the young people and by the young people. That is why CCO is so successful."

And with the assistance of Fr. Rosica, CCO received a very significant gift. During a meal that Rosica shared with Pope John Paul II late last year as part of wrap-up meetings for WYD, he mentioned CCO and his new year's plans to the Holy Father. The Pope responded with a letter commending CCO's work, which was read by Edmonton's Archbishop Thomas



Collins on the second evening of the conference.

"As members of Catholic Christian Outreach, you are generously responding to that appeal through your courage to be disciples of Jesus, living the life of the Beatitudes on campuses throughout Canada," wrote the Holy Father. "In this way, as you strive to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world for others, you become shining beacons, illuminating the way of the Lord, answering the questions that stirs in the hearts of all young people: 'to whom shall we go?'"

When I sat in a small campus meeting room six years ago, taking a CCO faith study with four other girls, I never imagined the Pope would take note. But I'm sure that this type of gathering is exactly what the Pope wants. The conference brought together young adults from more than 20 universities throughout Canada and included a dynamic schedule of talks, workshops, prayer, music, and liturgy.

"I went from being a lukewarm Catholic, to someone who truly loves her faith, and is eager to share it. What happened at Rise Up? Simply put, I fell in love with the God of the universe!"

At one point hundreds of young people waiting to go to Confession in lines that extended throughout hallways of the hotel. These young people were inspired and empowered to take the call of World Youth Day to heart, and to live a radical life of faith and love.

One young lady commented, "I went from being a lukewarm Catholic, to someone who truly loves her faith, and is eager to share it. What happened at Rise Up? Simply put, I fell in love with the God of the universe!"

Through this enthusiasm and empowerment God is using CCO to transform our country. In a method of proposition, not imposition, leaders are called to make Catholic teachings known and practiced. In a country whose Constitution states Canada was established upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law, the idea of implementing Christian values in decision-making

seems to be one that is rarely played out.

But the participants of Rise Up were challenged to envision such a faith-focused future. In one session Brett Powell, international speaker and CCO Vancouver Director, shared his dreams of the Ten Commandments as a future parliamentary model. For those who think that might be too good to be true, Brett points to the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come... on earth as it is in heaven."

So in planning for the Christmas conference, staff looked beyond the hype and media fascination at WYD to what the outpouring of cheers and cries really meant: a call to live radical lives of holiness, transform our country and culture with the love of Jesus Christ, and to send that message to the ends of the earth.

Recently, I was invited to be part of the Canadian delegation taking the WYD cross back to Rome to hand over to the German team, who will host the next WYD in 2005. I helped to carry the cross into St. Peter's Square on a beauti-



ful Palm Sunday and was greeted by thousands of ▲ Hundreds of students line up to receive the Sacrament of reconciliation

people waving palms and reaching out to touch the rugged wood of the cross. And as we walked toward the Holy Father, under skies of a brilliant blue, all I could think was "How did I get here?" The answer is resoundingly simple: it was a CCO faith study six years ago in a small campus meeting room. There I met friends who taught me and challenged me. But most of all, they encouraged me and helped me find the confidence that says I, in my faith, can change this country and this world. ♦

◀ CCO Alumnus Gillian Girodat meets the Holy Father

Every Member a Missionary

by Jeff Lockert
CCO President

Near the end of my first year of university, just after my conversion and re-awakening of my faith, I felt a strong desire to be a missionary. In fact I was ready to take some time off of university and go overseas to be a missionary in somewhere like Africa. That is what I thought it meant to be a missionary.

However, after talking with some older, wiser friends my zealous naivety was calmed and re-focused. I realized that the mission field was not only overseas but that there was a vast mission field here in our country and on my university campus. This was the first time I personally understood that the call to be a missionary is the call of every baptized Catholic.

"Every member a missionary" - this phrase was coined in the ministry this past year and is an appropriate expression of our hope and goal for all those involved in CCO. It was a major revelation for me when I realized that I didn't need to leave the campus to be a missionary - there were many of my friends and peers who needed the love and friendship of Jesus in their lives. My whole perspective as a student changed. God could use me to impact the lives of others.

At the end of the CCO Impact Canada Project in Ottawa last summer, each of the participants was entrusted with this call of mission. To help them with this we gave them a simple practical challenge - lead a Discovery faith study for four or five of your friends or classmates. Michael was one of the CCO students took the challenge to heart. He invited four of

his friends - three of whom were quite inactive in their faith, and one who had not ever been baptized - to join him for a CCO Discovery Small Group. As they met for several weeks sharing, discussing, and learning about being in relationship with Christ, profound changes occurred. As a result of God's grace

working through Michael and the Discovery Study, each of these young people committed and dedicated themselves fully to Christ. In fact, this past Easter his non-Catholic friend was received into the Church. Michael discovered that he too is a missionary.

CCO challenges students to realize that they have a unique God-given mission field and that wherever they find

themselves, they are missionaries - ones sent to bring the Good News. Each day we have the opportunity to share God's love with oth-



ers. As missionaries, we can reach out to others, take a role of leadership, and allow God to use us.

God has called all of us involved with CCO to be missionaries. Each student, staff member, alumni, and supporter has the great opportunity of bringing the Good News to those around us. In the Holy Father's recent letter to CCO, he called for us to realize this missionary duty: "I confidently renew my appeal to you: listen to the voice of Jesus! Let His light shine in your lives, continue steadfastly on the path of holiness, share with everyone 'the good news of a great joy which will come to all the people' (Lk 2:10)."

As we faithfully live out this call, we will multiply our efforts and will see God transform our friendships, our families, our communities, our country, and our world. ♦



CCO missionaries hit the streets on
World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto



CAMPUS CLOSE-UPS

— FROM ACROSS CANADA —

Ottawa

Both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa have certainly had an action packed semester, with lots to be excited about! The students returned from the National Christmas Conference in Edmonton convicted by the challenge to evangelize they received there: “If not now, when? If not you, who?” They went back to their respective campuses ready to do whatever was needed! Throughout the semester we held several events, including our “60 Second Popcorn Survey”, “Ask the Priest” nights, which included a panel of 3 priests and an open mike, and our “Last Call” of the semester. “The Last Call” is an event CCO Ottawa is going to implement annually - a night including the Sacrament of Reconciliation, worship, and our executive elections for the next

year. Four priests were on hand for this very successful event which drew many new students, and ended the semester on a very high note!

To add to the excitement, all the students rallied around Ottawa’s own Amy Peloso as she represented CCO in Rome (see page 6). Many students have worked closely with Amy, either being in a Faith Study with her or working with her on executive, and many of them felt as though Amy brought them along with her to meet the Holy Father!

Ending off our year, CCO Ottawa held its annual Spring Banquet, with special guest speaker Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB. This was particularly significant for both CCO and Fr. Tom, as it was his very last event as CEO of World Youth Day 2003. He shared the following: “When I introduced Amy to the Holy Father, I told His Holiness that she was a member of a premiere young adult ministry in Canada.” André in turn thanked Fr. Tom for helping CCO grow in maturity and international recognition. The evening truly celebrated all the wonderful things that the Lord has done in and through CCO in Ottawa.

Regina & Saskatoon

Students finished out their year on campus strong! As a result of our National Christmas Conference, student involvement increased with over 200 names on our contact list, and 17 weekly small group faith studies.

One of our most successful events in Saskatoon this year was “The Great



*Students at CCO Ottawa ▶
summer “Top Ten” Event*



◀ CCO
Saskatoon
students at
The Great
Couch Relay
with two
local police
officers

Couch Relay". Consisting of 6-8 people and a couch, teams were given a list of landmarks throughout the city and required to take a picture of the couch at that location to gain points. The team with the most points and creativity won. It was a successful event with an amazing turnout, largely due to the students' commitment to praying, promoting and inviting. One whole team was made up of completely new people who'd seen our event poster on campus and decided to register. They really enjoyed themselves, and we hope they will be involved in a Faith Study in the fall semester.

CCO at the University of Regina also ended their year with a bang! Pavel Reid, Director of the Office of Life and Family for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, gave a powerful talk and witness about The Theology of the Body. It was an amazing outreach, and brought in about 150 people. This event has provided us with many new contacts and follow-up opportunities.

As evidenced by these events above, each gathering this year has been powerful. A second year student expressed how she really enjoyed each event, espe-

cially praise and worship when she said "I just love it all...I love how everyone gets into it and puts everything into it, even if they don't sing they are there giving it all to God. I love seeing that response when I am helping to lead them in worship."

Lives have been changed this past year at both in Saskatoon and Regina, and both the students and staff are full of anticipation for the upcoming year!

Vancouver

The winter semester at SFU was one of great joy and much activity. Our semester began with Jesus Week, where several of the Christian clubs got together and did different activities aimed at making Christ an issue on campus. Once again, our survey was a success. Not only did we run out of snacks 2 hours early, the number of follow ups we received doubled from the previous year! We hosted several other activities, including a debate on "Does God Exist". The week ended in praise and worship and a talk with all the campus Christian clubs.

Jesus Week was a great start to the semester as immediately after, our Faith Studies began and, by the end of the semester, we had 27 studies up and running, most being led by students!

Another event that we saw bear much fruit through out the year was our

monthly Summits. Each evening saw a steady growth in attendance as students devoted their time to Eucharistic Adoration, worship, and intercession.

Our semester ended with our annual Spring Banquet. Our special guest, Archbishop Exner, celebrated Mass for us and honored us for the work that we are doing. He also challenged us to continue to go outside of our comfort zones to share Christ with others.

Finally, both students and staff here in Vancouver are sad to say goodbye to our intern Kris Dmytrenko (see Staff Notes, pg. 7), but are very excited for the Vancouver VINE coming to our city (see Vancouver VINE pg. 6). All in all, we're very grateful for all that the Lord has done in the past semester, and for what He has in store for this upcoming semester! ♦



Show Your Friends



This July... CCO will be featured on pages 154-156 of "Living With Christ", the daily readings booklet, which can be found in your local parish. Show your friends – tell them about the exciting ministry you belong to!

Beyond My Wildest Dreams

by Amy Peloso, CCO Ottawa Student

CCO Student Amy Peloso receives a rosary and blessing from Pope John Paul II.

I have always wanted to be a teacher. It would bring tears to my eyes when I would be tutoring someone, and all of a sudden, things would just “click” for them. I loved seeing people overcome obstacles and begin to understand things.

This was my attitude even before I really

surrendered my life over to Christ. I considered myself a good person, but I wasn't attending Sunday Mass, and my prayer life was essentially non-existent. Having just ended a 6 year relationship in my 2nd year of university, I was searching for something to fill the emptiness I was feeling. While I was taking a CCO Faith Study I realized the only thing that could fill the emptiness and bring direction to my life was a relationship with Jesus Christ. The members of CCO were there to teach me and help me through the obstacles in my spiritual life.

I've discovered that God has a purpose for me beyond my wildest dreams. Recently, CCO was asked to

have a representative on the Canadian delegation to pass over the WYD Cross to the German youth. I pondered with my parents at the dinner table which staff member would go. Would they send the founder, André, or would Jeff, the president, go? Imagine my surprise when I received a call asking me to represent CCO on the Canadian Youth Delegation!

There is so much to recount of my pilgrimage to Rome, including our group having a 40 minute personal audience with Pope John Paul II and personally receiving Christ in the Eucharist from the Vicar of Christ. But if there is one thing I realized in my experience in Rome it is this: There is not an army of people sitting in the Vatican's back yard waiting to be deployed to various parts of the world at the command of the Church. There is an army, and you and I are part of it, and we are being asked to share the faith with all we meet.

I have decided to respond to God's call in my life by serving in full time ministry with CCO this fall. My passion for teaching hasn't changed but it has been intensified with the curriculum - the Good News of Jesus Christ. ♦



Vancouver V.I.N.E.

Take a handful of young Catholics from across Canada for one year, mix them in a community setting, add a good dose of leadership and evangelization training, and pour them into the local university to spread the

faith. This is the successful recipe for CCO's new initiative: Vancouver VINE.

Over the past two years, the original VINE program (Volunteers In the New Evangelization) has been a way for students to experience full time missionary work with a short-term commitment. The Vancouver VINE project, beginning this fall with CCO Vancouver, has taken this idea to the next level.

Although the idea for having a household of full time staff has been in the back of the staff's minds for the past few years, the time to put it into action seemed right for this year. CCO Vancouver Director Brett Powell explains, “We had a sense of God's call for the ministry to start this initiative. With the blessing of Archbishop Exner and the financial support of the Archdiocese, we knew that now the time was right. The Vancouver area has over 100,000 university and college students, many of whom attend institutions with no Catholic presence. With World Youth Day grace still moving among the young people,

the opportunity has never been greater.”

Coming from as far away as Ottawa, 5 young men and women will receive CCO staff training and will put these skills into practice on the local campuses. But evangelization will not be the only benefit of the program. CCO's experience from past missions shows that the faith growth and leadership development of the participants, even on short-term missions, is equal to that of several years of CCO experience on campus. Powell continues, “On top of being the hub of activity for the Catholic student community, the VINE community house will be a ‘spiritual greenhouse’ for the members of the program. The concentrated training and experience they will receive will be unparalleled. We like to think of it as an extended mission.”

Jeremy Lobo, a biopharmaceutical science student at the University of Ottawa, is taking a year off from his studies to give this next year in service with the VINE Project. “This year is going to be full of opportunities for the Lord to work in my life, and I'm so pumped to touch many peoples lives with the Gospel.”

While this is the pilot year for the project, Powell is confident that the fruit from this year will have a lasting effect, not only on Vancouver, but also across the country. “We will be raising up leaders of the New Evangelization.” ♦

YOU'RE INVITED... to CCO's 15 Year Anniversary Celebration!

New Year's Eve, December 31st, 2003 • Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon

Join hundreds of students from the Rise Up Conference

- to celebrate Mass with Bishop LeGat at St. Paul's Cathedral at 4 pm
- enjoy a first class banquet and dance at the Delta Bessborough at 6 pm
- rejoice in what the Lord has done in the last 15 years of CCO

Banquet, program and dance tickets\$40 each
Accommodations for the Delta Bessborough for Dec. 31st\$80 each
(prices subject to change depending on availability)

To reserve tickets or for more information please contact the head office @ (306) 652-5100 or hq@cco.ca

Mark Your Calendars...

Rise Up
CCO's 15th anniversary

2003 NATIONAL Christmas Conference

Next Generation Leaders: A Vision for Your World
December 28, 2003 – January 1, 2004
Delta Bessborough, 681 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon

Don't miss out...
• Annual Mass & Worship
• Leadership topics, presented by top names in business, Major Non-Government Leaders, plus many more
• Daily breakfast
• Dynamic Workshops on Apologetics, Leadership, Spiritual Life
• New Year's Eve Masses and Bonfire Celebration of 15 years (same format annual)

Join us to celebrate CCO's 15th Anniversary!

After several years of hard work, young Catholics in a little under 15 years ago at the age of 5, they grew to become a worldwide movement that has inspired thousands of lives in Canada and around the world.

Rise Up 2003 will celebrate the founding vision of CCO and will inspire you to become one and witness of prayer and action as you see the incredible potential that they desire you.

So mark your calendars now and join us in Saskatoon at the "Unleash the Power" for Rise Up 2003!

Special guest speakers include...

- Bishop Albert LeGat, Bishop of Saskatoon
- Msgr. Gregory Smith, Chairman, Saskatchewan Council of Bishops
- Rev. Peter Hill, CCO President
- Dr. Clark Warren, CCO Executive Director
- Jeff Lowler, CCO Treasurer
- André & Angèle Royer, Parents of CCO
- CCO Staff

Package A - 260
Includes:
• Accommodation for 2 nights in a double room
• Breakfast
• Banquet
• Mass
• Free bus transportation to and from the hotel

Package B - 780
Includes:
• Accommodation and meals for 3 nights
• Daily breakfast
• Banquet
• Mass
• Free bus transportation to and from the hotel

www.cco.ca/riseup

STAFF Update

- ◆ CCO staff is saying good-bye to long time staff member, Pierre O'Reilly. Pierre joined staff in 1997, after being involved as a student in Saskatoon. He served as Director of CCO Regina with his wife Laura before being moved to national head office in 2001 to serve as Director of Operations. His service, hard work and wit will be greatly missed, and we wish him well as he continues to use his gifts in a Catholic family ministry in Regina.
- ◆ We congratulate P.J. Lewis on his marriage to Pamela Wheeldon this summer. P.J. and Pam will be living in Saskatoon where P.J. is currently CCO Saskatoon Director.

- ◆ This fall CCO is excited to welcome 11 new members to our full time staff, internship and VINE programs.

- Our new full-time staff will include last years interns Caitlin Currie and Kris Dmytrenko who will both be serving in Ottawa; and Kelly Boyko, Nicole DeRoo, and Michelle Perrault who will be in our national head office in Saskatoon.

- Our campus interns include Amy Peloso at the University of Ottawa, Michael Hall at Simon Fraser University, and Sister Mary Jane Beavis (of the Sisters of the Presentation) at the University of Saskatchewan.

- The Vancouver VINE will include 5 new staff members from across the country, including Ottawa, Calgary, Regina and Vancouver.

- ◆ And finally, some CCO staff are expecting some special additions! Angele & Andre Regnier, Denise & Matthew Toeckes, and Andrea and Brett Powell are all expecting babies this fall and early winter. Congratulations to all our expectant staff families!

We thank each one of you for all your encouragement and support, and ask that you continue keep our staff in your prayers.

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

The Pope Addresses CCO

The staff of CCO would like to thank you for your continued support. The following text from the Holy Father is to ALL members of CCO, which includes you. It's our hope that you as well would be encouraged for your contribution to the ministry.



From the Vatican, December 28, 2002

It is a great joy for me to greet you on the occasion of your National Christmas Conference. The memory of my meeting with you and so many other young people from around the world in July of this year remains vividly etched in my mind.

At the World Youth Day Prayer Vigil held in Downsview Park on Saturday, the evening of July 27, I called for a new generation of builders to respond to the aspiration of humanity for a civilization of love marked by freedom and peace. Indeed I entrusted this hope of mine specifically to you, my dear young people. As members of the Catholic Christian Outreach you are generously responding to that appeal through your courage to be disciples of Jesus, living the life of the Beatitudes on campuses throughout Canada. In this way, as you strive to be the salt of the earth and light of the world for others, you become shining beacons illuminating the way of the Lord, answering the question that stirs in the hearts of all young people: "to whom shall we go?" (Jn 6:68).

Yes, Jesus Christ is the sure foundation of your hope and joy. Immersed in him and his paschal mystery your own lives will grow in holiness, which is the authentic path of true witness to the light of his loving presence in our world. And so I confidently renew my appeal to you: listen to the voice of Jesus! Let His light shine in your lives, continue steadfastly on the path of holiness, share with everyone "the good news of a great joy which will come to all the people" (Lk 2:10).

Invoking upon all of you the joy and peace that the birth of our Savior brings, I cordially impart to you and your families my Apostolic Blessing.

JOANNES PAULUS PP. II

**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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Publication Mail Agreement No.
1870955