



Order of Christian Workers

JOURNEY



We wish to emphasize inclusiveness and kinship...to serve others in common journey... to honor fellow-pilgrims in struggles and hopes...to risk toward the possibility, passion and compassion of community—regardless of religious belief, age, gender, race, economic circumstances, or personal orientation...to include the poor and the outcast...to learn from those who choose to share community with us...to celebrate exuberantly in solidarity.

We welcome you to join us on the journey

February 2007

A NEW ALLIANCE!

The Board of Trustees held its Annual Meeting in early January, and—among the planning topics covered—I initiated a lengthy conversation regarding the various options for our continuation with the **food program**.

This was predicated on our commitment over the past **fourteen years** to be sure that one of our **basic tenets of service** would be to provide food for the hungry, whether homeless individuals, the unemployed, or working families living in poverty—and this has been our practice since the early days of providing sustenance for those living with HIV/AIDS; in recent years, it has focused primarily on **families with children**, and many of those come to us via **two children's medical clinics**.

My intent in much of that conversation centered on **not** duplicating the services of other agencies/ministries, but seeking ways to offer whatever assets we might have to help **expand** the offerings of a local church/agency which is already doing a good job...and, in fact, to also become a presence in that service. The Board members agreed wholeheartedly with this approach.

In my study of various agencies following the Board meeting, I determined that the “**Benevolence Center**” at the West Erwin Church of Christ has probably the best—and most **inclusive**—program in central Tyler. Consequently, I met with **Don Crawford**, the Center’s Coordinator, and he was absolutely delighted with not only the prospects, but also the **greater service** implied in such cooperation. After some good discussion—including our priority of serving the clinics—we decided to proceed.

Basically, the new alliance will mean that:

- ☒ O.C.W. will provide a **substantial financial contribution** each month to the Center’s account at the East Texas Food Bank [they will use those funds, together with their own, to maintain and *increase* their food allocation;
 - ☒ O.C.W. will provide a form to the staffs of the two medical clinics, inviting **client access** to the Center’s weekly food, clothing, and hot supper programs;
 - ☒ O.C.W. will provide **presence and volunteers** for the various programs.
- We are very excited and pleased with this new alliance—and, as always, we offer our thanks to those of **you** who offer the financial donations to keep these hundreds of wonderful children fed and clothed!

NEXT MONTH, we’ll bring you an update on the **AMIGAS** program, which brings new education and hope to community mothers!
[AND DON’T FORGET to put **Saturday, April 7**, on your calendar, when the children will have their annual visit from the **Easter Wabbit!!!**]

Love & Blessings,

Fr. Tom

Office: 903-595-3191

Cell: 903-521-0490 journey-ocwATearthlink.net

A great gift for others (or yourself!):
The poster of “To Follow the Christ”
www.orderofchristianworkers.org/pages/5/index.htm

DID YOU KNOW?

...That **no one** in O.C.W. has ever been paid a salary or “perks” for this work and ministry

...That our only means of gaining financial support has always been **begging**

...That it would be very helpful to us (and to *you*, we hope!) in terms of sending these emails to you if you would include these two OCW mailing addresses in *your* **EMAIL ADDRESS BOOK**: journey-ocw@earthlink.net and ocwjourney@yahoo.com.

...That we would *love* to offer prayers of gratitude on your **birth and/or anniversary dates**; simply email us the specifics

...That you can visit the *entire* **O.C.W. website** by going to: <http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org>

✠ *Your Prayers Are Asked* ✠

✠ For those who struggle through continuing medical, surgical, and spiritual processes: Barb, Wanda, Sam, Ryann, Br. Michael, Maya [6 years old], Norma, Lucy ✠ Those courageously in recovery of addictions ✠ Those living with HIV/AIDS ✠ Those who caretake others ✠ Those adults and children who have no home ✠ Those involved in wars throughout the world ✠ Those struggling to transform their lives within the criminal justice system ✠ Our brothers and sisters at Walker House ✠ The women and children at the Crisis Center ✠ The patients, families, and staff at Women's and Pediatric Clinics ✠ The children who are living in poverty and malnutrition, lacking medical care ✠ Those "undocumented" brothers, sisters, and children who share our work and lives ✠ Those who grieve various losses in their lives ✠ Those who care for the children in families, foster care, and institutions ✠ Those who suffer from fear, hate, and prejudice ✠ The families of those who have died from violence, as well as those who are being executed daily ✠ Those who struggle against the rape of Creation ✠ Servant-Leaders and Companions who live in solidarity with OCW throughout the country ✠ Those who give us continuing models of Christ-work: Andre House (Phoenix), Casa Maria (Tucson), Starcross Community (California), and the many Catholic Worker Houses (both Catholic and Roman Catholic) throughout the US and world ✠ Peacemakers and Holy Fools....



ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE(S)?

Our PHOTO-SHARING WEBSITE [over 200 pictures!]

is *really easy to use*: Just go to www.flickr.com/photos/ocw
take a look...and (we hope) send us photos to **add** to it.

The **albums** (“sets”) are listed;

once in a “set,” simply put your cursor over a **specific picture**,
and it will show you the **title** of the picture...

if you wish, you can click on a picture to **enlarge** it.

Another great option within an album/“set” is to click on “**view as
slideshow**”...and then you’ll get a **timed sequence** of the photos
in that “set”!

So, please **send us photos!**

For email, send to journey-ocw@earthlink.net;

by postal mail, send to **OCW, P.O. Box 4155, Tyler, TX 75712-4155.**

Prayers of Gratitude

FOR THOSE COMPANIONS WHO HAVE SO KINDLY OFFERED
THEIR SUPPORT (FINANCIAL and/or LABOR) TO THIS WORK AND MINISTRY:

This color denotes new contributors in 2006

TYLER: Sr. Jane & Leo B.—David & Joan H.—Carole C.—Lawrence A.—Judy D.—Liza E.—Elihu E.—Kathy F.—Belinda G.—Louis G.—Br. Robert H.—Michael C.—Edna H.—Ginny H. & Jeff—Sr. Maria & Fr. Tom—Paul K.—R.S. & Carole K.—Sr. Mary Ann—Kimberly M.—Sandy M.—Jim & Charlette M.—Celia P. & Jeff B.—Leon & Cristina R.—Patrick S.—Donna S.—Lou Anne S.—Brenda M.—Sr. Elise & Ken C.—Sherry V.—Karen W.—Kerry S.—Betty R.—St. Dismas Resident-Companions—Claudia & Otis C.—Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church

TEXAS: Katy K. (Arlington)—Andrea & Don C. (Athens)—Br. Charles & Sherry (Austin)—Alice P. (Austin)—Bill S. (Austin)—William W. (Austin)—Journey Faith Community (Austin)—Lucille S. (Big Sandy)—James C. (Boerne)—Cheryl & Wayne C. (Bullard)—Will C. (Dallas)—Les & Susan H. (Dallas)—Terry & Pam C. (Dallas)—Alan & Patsy C. (Dallas)—George & Paige L. (Dallas)—Richard M. (Dallas)—Damon & Jennifer S. (Dallas)—John & Susan B. (Elgin)—Linda W. (Ft. Worth)—Carole J. (Ft. Worth)—Eloise M. (Jacksonville)—George L. (Kingsville)—John & Dirje S. (Larue)—Deana B. (Longview)—Betty W. (Murchison)—Bryant & Dinah S. (Palestine)—Margaret G. (Quitman)—Bud & Carol C. (Troup)—Tina & Brian K. (Whitehouse)—Elizabeth W. (Houston)

NATIONAL: Jerry & Ada G. (AL)—Teri B. (AL)—Renee M. (AL)—Robert S. (AL)—Fredda B. (AL)—Don & Mary Ann F. (AR)—Tom C. (AR)—Peter & Danielle L. (CA)—Marla & Hartshorn M. (CA)—Alice H. (CA)—Ed W. (CA)—Burr C. (CA)—James & Carol B. (CA)—Steve & Karen L. (CO)—Bob B. (CO)—Bill & Mindi G. (D.C.)—John O. (DC)—Pamela G. (DC)—Greg H. (FL)—Jan B. (FL)—Tim H. (FL)—John L. (GA)—Jack S. (GA)—Jack H. (GA)—John W. (GA)—Jeanie R. (GA)—Julian C. (IL)—Tom S. (IL)—Todd C. (IN)—Bill S. (IN)—Tom & Juli S. (IN)—Debbie T. (IN)—Jo & Mark C. (IN)—Tony & Sherrie (IN)—Arnold B. (IN)—Jim & Joanne G. (IN)—Paul & Mary Ellen H. (IN)—Maynard & Barbara R. (IN)—Ed & Suzanne C. (IN)—Carrie & David C. (IN)—Matt C. (IN)—Brian R. (IN)—Peter & Jayne J. (IN)—Amelia J. (IN)—Phil H. (KS)—Will H. (KY)—Dave C. (KY)—Glenn K. (LA)—David L. (MD)—Br.

Michael & Debbie (ME)—Glenn & Diane G. (MI)—First Presbyterian/Elk Rapids (MI)—Judi & Jim Y. (MI)—Lee & John M. (MI)—Bill B. (MI)—Margaret H. (MO)—Richard & Jacque H. (MO)—Dale W. (MO)—Arthur W. (MO)—David & Marcia B. (NC)—Bob & Jane A. (NJ)—Laura C. (NY)—Marli S. (NY)—Neal C. & Roger C. (OH)—Tom & Betty N. (OH)—Mike D. (OH)—Pilgrim Church/Toledo (OH)—Elizabeth S. (OR)—Murphy T. (TN)—Warren & Dorothy M. (VA)—James M. (VA)

FOREIGN: Bill M. (Canada)

Anonymous donors (nationwide) and

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Hmmmm....

So here's what I wanted to tell you today: get a life. Get a real life, not a manic pursuit of the next promotion, the bigger paycheck, the larger house. Do you think you'd care so very much about those things if you blew an aneurysm one afternoon, or found a lump in your breast? Get a life, in which you notice the smell of salt water pushing itself on a breeze over Seaside Heights, a life in which you stop and watch how a red-tailed hawk circles over the water gap or the way a baby scowls with concentration when she tries to pick up a Cheerio with her thumb and first finger. Get a life in which you are not alone. Find people you love, and who love you.

I found one of my best teachers on the boardwalk at Coney Island maybe 15 years ago. It was December, and I was doing a story about how the homeless survive in the winter months. He and I sat on the edge of the wooden supports, dangling our feet over the side, and he told me about his schedule, panhandling the boulevard when the summer crowds were gone, sleeping in a church when the temperature went below freezing, hiding from the police amidst the Tilt-a-Whirl and the Cyclone, and some of the other seasonal rides. But he told me that most of the time he stayed on the boardwalk, facing the water, just the way we were sitting now even when it got cold and he had to wear his newspapers after he read them. And I asked him why. Why didn't he go to one of the shelters? Why didn't he check himself into the hospital for detox? And he just stared out at the ocean and said, "Look at the view, young lady. Look at the view." And everyday, in some little way, I try to do what he said. I try to look at the view. And that is the last thing I have to tell you today, words of wisdom from a man with not a dime in his pocket, no place to go, nowhere to be. Look at the view. You'll never be disappointed.

Anna Quindlen

Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.

Oscar Wilde

This is my living faith, an active faith, a faith of verbs: to question, explore, experiment, experience, walk, run, dance, play, eat, love, learn, dare, taste, touch, smell, listen, argue, speak, write, read, draw, provoke, emote, scream, sin, repent, cry, kneel, pray, bow, rise, stand, look, laugh, cajole, create, confront, confound, walk back, walk forward, circle, hide, and seek. To seek: to embrace the questions, be wary of answers.

Terry Tempest Williams

Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled the light.

Albert Schweitzer

Imagine a world in which generations of human beings come to believe that certain films were made by God or that specific software was coded by him. Imagine a future in which millions of our descendants murder each other over rival interpretations of Star Wars or Windows 98. Could anything—*anything*—be more ridiculous? And yet, this would be no more ridiculous than the world we are living in.

Sam Harris

www.CommunityPilgrimage.org

*Have you considered what the possibilities might be
for your
parish or church or community?*

REMINDERS

What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose your *self* in the process? [*Jesus of Nazareth*]

This is the kind of fast I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I am interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.... [*Isaiah 58*]

Ask me not where I live or what I like to eat... Ask me what I'm living for, and what I think is keeping me from living fully for that. [*Thomas Merton*]

Is it your spiritual practice—*each day*—to offer *gratitude* for the blessings of your life?

Information

DONATIONS to the **Order of Christian Workers** are tax-deductible within the law.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4155, Tyler, TX 75712-4155

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: journey-ocw@earthlink.net

OUR INTERNET ADDRESS: www.OrderOfChristianWorkers.org

OFFICE/FR. TOM/SR. MARIA/SANCTUARY: 903-595-3191; fax 903-595-5183

HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUPS meet twice each week. For information, please call the SHRET office at 903-597-7558.

WILDWOOD COFFEEHOUSE (Proceeds to various non-profit organizations) Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship; for schedule/further info:

www.geocities.com/uutvlertx/wildwood.html

BIRTHDAY AND/OR ANNIVERSARY DATES (year not important!): We'd love to offer prayers on those special days. Please send to journey-ocw@earthlink.net, or by postal mail.

PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Further information at 903-330-8901; email address is: pflageasttexas@yahoo.com; mailing address: East Texas PFLAG, P. O. Box 130703, Tyler, TX 75713-0703.

QUICK-LINKS FOR THE O.C.W. WEBSITE

Home Page:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/faqs.html>

O.C.W. history:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/aboutus/ourhistory.html>

Our work and ministry:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/aboutus/agivenday.html>

The Annual Children's Christmas Party [for 400 kids]:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/thechildren.html>

Journey monthly newsletters:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/newsphotos/newsletters.html>

Publications [including some free books!]:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/publications.html>

The “To Follow the Christ” Poster:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/theposter.html>

“Community Pilgrimage” program:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/gatherings.html>

LINKS Page:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/links.html>

Our Prayer List:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/aboutus/prayers.html>

O.C.W. Memorials Page:

<http://www.orderofchristianworkers.org/aboutus/memorials.html>

JOURNEY

is a monthly expression of the ministry, work, and reflections of the
Companions of the

Order of Christian Workers,

an ecumenical, non-denominational and charitable gathering of
God’s children.

Letters or other contributions are always welcome

P.O. Box 4155, Tyler, TX 75712-4155 903-595-3191 (FAX) 595-5183

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- ✘ Fr. Thomas L. Jackson, M.Div., Ph.D., Abbot
- ✘ Sr. Patricia Maria Magdalena ✘ Sr. Jane Frances de Chantal
- ✘ Br. Charles Sezze ✘ Br. Gregory Francis de Sales ✘ Fr. River Damien Sims
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