



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

April 2007

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What's Going On

Saturday, April 21, 6:00 p.m.—A **feast** at St. Dorothy Day House (1601 N. Bois d'Arc, Tyler); Gabriela & Carlos are cookin'...and Fr. Tom's providing the food! Come eat, laugh, etc.

Saturday, April 28, 2:00 p.m.—The Community is going to **baptize** 3 children [at least!] at Hosanna House [Sanctuary]; the children—3, 5,

and 10—are recent “additions” to the Community...so come be a part of the sacred event...followed by a **party!**

Every Week—in alliance with the Benevolence Center, food and clothing is offered openly to those who need it; O.C.W. is presently providing [at least] **2,900 pounds of food** per month!

AMIGAS continues to offer **English education** to mothers of young children...and will continue through the summer.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was its usual chaos, joy, and endless candy/prizes for lots of kids...and even with the chilly weather couldn't deter the Wabbit from her famous yearly presence; **pictures** are available at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ocw>

The Children's Christmas Party [for 400 kids] is always a year-long effort, and we just did a **big organization** of the toys/clothes that we've already purchased for December, 2007. We're on our way....

ALL OF THIS
is possible because of
your tax-deductible donations
to our work and ministry...
THANKS!

A Farewell

[which we hope is an *au revoir*]

Although we were not surprised by the news, it became public in March that the Rev. **Tom Steffen & Juli Steffen** have decided to leave their posts at the Culver Academies in Indiana, after 21 years of service.

Tom has been the Dean of the Chapel [who guides the religious and spiritual life on campus] and Juli has been a profoundly dedicated counselor to students.

It would take a long time to delineate what the two of them have offered of their hearts and souls during those years...but it's very clear to us that they've had a *wondrous impact* on the **O.C.W. Children's Christmas Party** here in Tyler for the past six years, not only in encouraging participation by Culver students, but also being “cheerleaders” for the raising of funds. While we certainly share their joy on the anticipated move to Seattle in June or July, we confess to some real sadness that they will leave our many, wonderful times together.

We hope that you will include them in your daily prayers...not only for their new life, but in **gratitude** for what they have so immensely offered us as a

Community.

Love & Blessings,

Fr. Tom

✠ *Your Prayers Are Asked* ✠

✠ For those who struggle through continuing medical, surgical, and spiritual processes: Barb, Wanda, Dinah, Sam, 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....

Hmmm....

...If [religion] teaches compassion and how to manifest it; if it demands holiness and points the way toward it, then it is good. But if it holds its truth to be the only truth; if it insists that its followers alone are holy; if it offers salvation at the edge of a sword; if it promotes self without teaching selflessness; if its love of God excuses hatred of others and betrayal of Creation, then it is an evil and dangerous faith.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

I loathe the expression "What makes him tick." It is the American mind, looking for simple and singular solution, that uses the foolish expression. A person not only ticks, he also chimes and strikes the hour, falls and breaks and has to be put together again, and sometimes stops

like an electric clock in a thunderstorm.

James Thurber

Each of us has things that keep us strong. It's very important that we know what they are and that we make a daily practice of using them. People use all kinds of different things to keep themselves strong. Some people use running and swimming. Some people use playing bridge or playing chess. Some people use particular friendships or going to movies, going for walks. There are all different kinds of things we can use to stay strong.

You can use just about anything you want to give you joy and strength, but it should have two qualities to it. First it should be cleansing. Whatever it is you are using as a regular practice to stay strong must relieve you from you the burdens of that day. You need to let things go, to set aside the work of the day. This is absolutely vital.

Also, your practice must increase your capacity for concentration. As we become tired in the face of life's wounds, one of the first things that will be taken from us is our capacity to discriminate and deliberate and focus. It's absolutely vital that you increase your capacity for concentration so you can tell when things are not going well, so that you can tell the difference between your stuff and someone else's stuff, and so you know whether or not you're dealing with an actual crisis or just fear.

John Calvi

Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.

Danny Kaye

What would it be like if you lived each day, each breath, as a work of art in progress? Imagine that you are a masterpiece unfolding every second of every day, a work of art taking form with every breath.

Thomas Crum

AND OUR REMINDERS

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

Put greed out of your lives and be content with whatever you have.
[*Hebrews 13*]

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?

Announcements/Info/Quick Links

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\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:journey-ocw@earthlink.net) and [ocwjourney\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto: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>

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\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto: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/uutylertx/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\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto: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\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:pflageasttexas(at)yahoo.com); mailing address: East Texas PFLAG, P. O. Box 130703, Tyler, TX 75713-0703.

A great gift for others (or yourself!):

The poster of
"To Follow the Christ"

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



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.**

www.CommunityPilgrimage.org

*Have you considered what the possibilities might be
for your*

parish or church or community?

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

[journey-ocw\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:journey-ocw(at)earthlink.net)

www.OrderOfChristianWorkers.org

- ✘ 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
- ✘ Br. Tobias Joseph ✘ Br. Michael Simon Dwinell ✘ Sr. Carla Therese Lisieux
- ✘ Sr. Mary Joseph ✘ Sr. Elise Marguerite ✘ Sr. Laurie Louise de Marillac
- ✘ Br. Robert Sergius ✘ Sr. Erika Clare
- ✘ Sr. Cindy Angela de Foligno (1956-2004) ✘ Br. O'Neal Joseph Turner (1954-2005)
- ✘ Blessed Companions, Worldwide ✘

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