

*“All glory be to
God on high,
and to the
Earth be peace.”*

It has often been observed that when humankind first saw the photo of the planet Earth taken from space, it transformed the way we saw our world. In viewing the face of the Earth, with the infinite universe in the background, we viewed with awe the planet's amazing beauty and fragility.

This picture also presented the obvious - there are no territorial borders evident from space. We inhabit one place - Mother Earth. And this awareness also pointed toward an emerging reality, namely that our earthly habitat is a fragile eco-system. This ignited a powerful global environmental movement. It also sparked a renewed peace movement, focusing on worldwide efforts to press for new arms control treaties among all nations. Such was the global impact of this picture. It renewed the human spirit and recognized a God-given truth - that all humanity is but one family. This profound awareness was the

dawn of a new grace - I believe a God-given grace, bestowed upon all humankind at a critical moment in human affairs.

Such an moment of grace, displayed to all of humankind at one moment had been experienced before, but in a much more profound and salvific manner. I refer to the moment recorded in the Gospel of Luke when the Angel Gabriel informs Mary that she had found great favor with God and would bear a son named Jesus, and “of his kingdom there will be no end.” With Mary's humble acceptance, Gabriel departs from her and a new dawn of grace is incarnated physically into the world - the very world that we see in this picture from space. And after the arrival of such grace, nothing is ever the same again. To the Earth be peace!

Leo J. Deveau, Editor.

This issue's highlights: Regional Ecclesial Assistant Reflection, p. 4 – Formation Team Update, p. 5 – National CLC invitation, p. 5 - News from CLC Mabou, p. 6 – Advent Reflection: Round-Trip Journey, by C. Russell Elliott, p. 6 - The Call to Responsibility: Prayer and Reflection, by Graydon Nicholas, p. 8 – Book Reviews, p. 12 – 14.

Regional CLC Coordinator News...

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with much peace in my heart that I pen these words to you and to your families. May the Peace that passes all understanding be the center of your hearts and your homes this holiday season.

On behalf of Terri and myself, may we extend our hope and prayers to you for a safe, happy and Holy Christmas. As Advent 'quickly' moves along, as it always seems to, let us remember the great gift that God our Father gave to us. The gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd who leads His flock to the eternal pasture, the great shepherd who knows His sheep and they who know His voice. May we listen closely as He shepherds us in the coming months and years ahead.

As this calendar year draws to a close, I just want to recap with you some of what has taken place in the Atlantic Christian Life Community over the past 12 months:

- February - Atlantic CLC Executive Committee meeting at Shad Bay, N.S.
- Financial support promises to the *Colloquy* newsletter.
- Importance of a 2nd CLC community contact person recognized.
- New Atlantic Regional Secretary commissioned - Ray Myers.

- April - Atlantic Regional CLC Council gathering in Charlottetown P.E.I.
- Group guide workshop survey results revealed.
- Resolution passed to implement an annual \$10.00 member dues.
- The importance of communication stressed.
- September - Atlantic Regional CLC Council gathering in Amherst N.S.
- New Atlantic Regional Treasurer came forth - Claude Jean (Claude will be commissioned at the February/04 Exec. Meeting in Shad Bay, NS).
- Nairobi XIV World CLC report shared by John Sumarah.
- Project 125 revealed.
- 2004 Atlantic Regional Assembly committee named.
- October - New Brunswick hosts a "Come and See" CLC workshop with 35 new attendees. All 35 agree (after prayer and discernment) to a 6 week module. Four potential new CLC communities are now in formation.
- Process started to select a new Atlantic Rep. For the National CLC.
- December - Atlantic CLC Formation Committee gathering in Rothesay N.B.
- News on an 'older' community being drawn closer to the Light.
- Group Guide Teacher's workshop book being developed.
- Discernment process under way to attend the Lethbridge National CLC Conference.

What an amazing and full year!

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In 2004 our hope of course is that our Atlantic and National Assemblies will be well attended. I encourage everyone to please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and start thinking about Lethbridge Alberta, May 27-30, 2004 and Rothesay, New Brunswick, August 27-29, 2004. Both of these Assemblies will be such life giving events. The Atlantic Assembly in New Brunswick will certainly see more of us gathered from the Atlantic but both offer to bring vitality and a sense of the global community to all of us.

2004 will also see the completed Group Guide's Workshop Manual and hopefully see separate workshops in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. New Brunswick may see 6 new CLC communities continue in formation under God's gaze. Most of these folks have taken the Spiritual Exercises and the others will be asked to commit to that end result.

At the Atlantic Regional Council September gathering in Amherst NS there were 9 communities represented! That is a 70% turnout from the 13 communities presently registered in the Atlantic. One community not present were on a discernment to consider whether to continue as CLC or not. They recently have said yes, the Lord is asking them to continue in formation as a CLC community. Thank you Jesus. Another community is on a year's sabbatical considering their commitment and response to what CLC is all about.

Your Atlantic CLC Executive Committee and the 2004 Atlantic Regional Assembly Committee will jointly meet at Father Charles Pottie's (Paté) sj parish in Shad Bay, February 21-22/04, to finalize the theme and

other details for the Rothesay Assembly. The April Atlantic Regional Council meeting will be held April 24-25/04 in Nova Scotia. The venue will be finalized at the February/04 Executive meeting.

Please continue to voice your concerns and your ideas to me or any other member of our Council. You are the life and the blood of CLC and much of what happens in Atlantic Canada seems to continue across the country. We are very encouraged by the Good News of more folks being drawn to CLC in Atlantic Canada. We are encouraged that our Group Guide Workbook will soon be in print. We are encouraged that so many of you have sent in your \$10.00 dues to help out with the printing of the Colloquy, postage, travel, administration costs etc. Please continue to support us also with your prayers and your ideas. As Jesus continues to be the Group and Individual Guide of each of us, we are drawing on His strength, His mercy and His love. As the Christ child comes into your homes, open wide your hearts to receive all of the gift that He is.

"The true Light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world. To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives power to become children of God."

John 1: 17-18

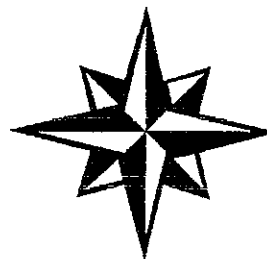
Merry Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,

Peter Chouinard

Atlantic CLC Regional Coordinator

"Peter" <terpet@nbnet.nb.ca>



Regional Ecclesial Assistant Reflection...

Dear members of Atlantic CLC,

This Christmas issue of 'Colloquy' is a fitting time to share a few lines with all of you. I missed the last issue and didn't want to lose the opportunity this time. Besides those of my regular group 'Truth Given', as well as those of the Executive Council meetings last spring and this fall, I have not seen many of you in this past year.

My various commitments of teaching at AST, the parish (3 churches) and spiritual accompaniment of a number of people have not permitted me the time to do the visiting of different groups in the Atlantic Region that I was able to do the year before. I did find those visits with you very energizing and edifying. I hope I can manage some visits next spring or summer.

One of my present joys with the CLC in the Atlantic Region is being part of the giving of the communal Spiritual Exercises with the 'Anawim' group in Kentville. Colleen Sumarah is leading the group in the process and I'm serving as 'mentor' for Colleen as well as being spiritual director for two of the members. It's always a grace to be a part of the work of the Spiritual Exercises, whether in a group or individually. As the heart of the CLC way of life, this way of prayer and discernment that St. Ignatius formulated from his own experience with God has shaped so many men and women over the past 4 or so centuries. I never cease to be amazed at how God still communicates and is revealed through this instrument in the Church. Please pray for those in the midst of of these Exercises and for Colleen and myself to be docile agents in God's hands.

Another gratifying part of my present ministry with CLC is with our group 'Truth Given' as we try to discern our common apostolic action.

Using once again the inspiration of the Exercises and the way of discerning God's will for us, we have been devoting the second part of our regular meetings to this process. It is not a 'quick method' approach, but one in which we keep discovering, step by step, to what service / action / mission we are being called to as an apostolic community. I have been continually touched by the seriousness of this seeking God's desire for us.

At this time, we are all immersed in the 'holiday season' with all its ambiguities - called the "Christmas season" but often having very little to do with the Good News of the coming of "the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11). And yet, somehow this 'wondrous birth' lies hidden at the heart of all the various cultural expressions of this season. The church's worship and prayer guides us during Advent to the deeper meaning of the Light that shines in our darkness.

May all of us come to know more clearly, love more dearly, and follow more nearly the Word of the infinite God who has become human for us, that we might participate in God's own life. The blessings of Christ's peace and joy be with you all.

**Your brother in Christ,
Charles Pottie (Pâté) sj
Atlantic Ecclesial Assistant.**



Formation Team Update...

The formation team met in Saint John on December 5th and 6th to work on the coming group guide manual for future group guide workshops as well as support and resource material for present and future group guides.

We had a productive meeting and will be able to present a draft copy of the manual for the executive CLC meeting in Shad Bay on February 21st. We are gleaning and collating material from the Leader's Manual, the mandate from Nairobi, the feedback from the Moncton group guide workshops and actual experience from present group guides.

Our plan is to present a "white paper" manual to the Regional Assembly in April and begin Workshop I in September of 2004.

This manual will undergo revisions, no doubt, as it is used and re-used. We will welcome such feedback for it will enable this manual to become a realistic aid towards a discerning and productive CLC membership in the region.

At present the formation team has representation from NS and NB and looks forward to a rep from PEI. That person will be much welcomed.

The Formation Team



National CLC News...

Dear CLCers across Canada:

For the World Assembly in Nairobi we brought small amounts of water from our four regions to represent CLC Canada. We chose it as our symbol as a reminder of our baptismal commitment inviting us as representatives for CLC CANADA to discern our common apostolic mission in the name of the Trinity in Kenya.

In our presentation we noted that a large percentage of the earth's fresh water supply is located in Canada and that some members of CLC Canada have already dedicated themselves to the protection of this great gift that belongs to all citizens of the world.

We now would invite all of our communities to participate in a simple apostolic activity. In a recently published letter "Canada's bishops encourage all Canadians to sign the 'Water Declaration' and participate in the action campaigns of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace as a concrete way to advance ecological water concerns." (More information is found at <http://www.devp.org>).

What a wonderful opportunity for CLC Canada to act as one apostolic body!

+ Fr. Earl Smith, SJ
National Ecclesial Assistant,
and
Kati Gumbmann
National Co-President

News from CLC Mabou



Greetings to all CLC members from the Disciples of Light community in Mabou, Nova Scotia. This year our group has been meeting regularly on Monday evenings at the Renewal Centre in Mabou. We are indeed fortunate to have such a peaceful and welcoming location for our weekly meetings.

The highlight of our fall has been a day of retreat held on Saturday, November 1st. We spent several weekly meetings beforehand planning for the day and discussing the future of our group. The departure of two key members, Ray and Joan Rankin, who have sold their home and moved to Dartmouth to be closer to their children, combined with a number of factors that made attendance at meetings difficult for some members, forced us to take a serious look at our future as a group.

In attendance for the morning session of our November retreat day was Fr. Charlie Cameron, parish priest at the nearby parish priest at the nearby parish of Port Hood. Fr. Charlie spoke about Ignatian Spirituality and its application to our daily lives. He also led us in discussion and reflection. Fr. Duncan, who is a member of our group, made a presentation on what is CLC. Our November

day, along with the weeks leading up to that time, forced us to go back to basics and reflect on our roles and our commitment as CLC members. The experience has left us renewed and (re)energized.

As a result of our time spent in discernment, four members of our group who have not yet taken the Spiritual Exercises, have expressed an interest in doing so, on a weekly basis. Plans are being made to begin these sessions in early January. Fr. Cameron, who is also a spiritual director, has been very helpful in this regard.

As we get ready to break for the Christmas holidays we want to wish all of you a peaceful Christmas and a productive New Year.

CLC Mabou



News from Our Lady's Circle CLC



Our Lady's Circle CLC in Nackawic co-sponsored with Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Youth Group an Advent Baby Shower for "Birthright" on Gaudet Sunday, December 14th. Celebrating Advent with Expectant Hope and Joy are: Back Row: Sandy Wright, CLC; Heather Fox, Youth Group (YG); Francois Thebeau, CLC; Alicia McGuire, YG; Front Row: Anita Fox, YG; Marilyn Munn, Birthright; Deborah Albert, Parish Pastoral Council; Pat Lawson, CLC.



Advent Reflection: Round-Trip Journey

by C.Russell Elliott,

Advent is a time of solemnity and prayer. We may take liberty in our meditations to include much more than the traditional Four Last Things: death, judgment, heaven, hell.

I am not suggesting that we ignore these four things, but that we concentrate on the journey to them more than on being there, more on the way than on the destination. In other words, let's look on our life as a journey, birth to death, and now we should stop during this Advent lay-by to check our progress. A simple way of doing this is threefold: circum-spection (looking all around), intro-spection (looking within oneself) and ex-pectation (looking out and forward).

Several years ago our family took a round trip from Halifax-Montreal-Quebec-Gaspe-New Brunswick and back to Halifax again, not too exciting or prolonged or expensive, but with lots of sight-seeing, history, culture and geography added in. Halifax was only the end-point but when we arrived back we were all different, improved, better persons. One's life is such a journey, a round trip out from and back to God - and everything that happens along the way, absolutely everything, shapes what one will be, will have become, by the end of the journey. We are already putting pieces into place for the end, the time of death, judgment, heaven or hell.

Our journey had a starting point. When God created us like Himself He put us on the earth, setting us a little apart from Himself, giving us freedom to choose and act and be responsible. He never let go entirely because
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in our baptism we became the Spirit-filled child of God. Lo, I am with you always. At the end we will return to Him again. Now, part way along our life journey, Advent becomes a brief lay-by. How fortunate that we have a 'moment' to circum-spect and intro-spect; we can keep on the way, change directions, take detours, even do a little back-tracking. Then we can expect by correcting directions. Our life is what we make it; Advent helps.

What God expects of us is really very simple and frank: get your life back to the moral cleanliness that it was like when you were created. That may be simple but it's not easy!

Every day of our life we make thousands of decisions, some right and good some wrong and bad, some out of very bad habits such as losing our temper, snubbing some people, being self-centered. Advent is a good time to check habits. It really is possible to be perfect and we should never settle for anything less.

Yet we live in a sinful world, in a very secular society, and a Christian must have courage to walk his or her journey without drifting into worldly ways. Three examples may help to recognize the difficulty. **a.** Our market system and its advertising try to turn us into consumers, bent on acquiring things honestly or dishonestly, wasting things, throwing them away, so that we are destroying our environment. We must resolutely resist all this waste and destruction. **b.** God made us male and female, so that the union of the two provides a wonderfully fulfilling and enriching life for each when the two become one. Faithfulness to the divine purpose of marriage avoids damage to family life, abuse and injury of children, young girls and other innocent people. Whatever our hungers or inclinations or orientations may be, Christians are expected to harness and control them so that we, and all whose lives we touch,

may grow and flourish as true humans.

c. Both consumer hungers and sexual hungers in our society are being hyped to such a pitch that all sorts of gross violence are daily occurrences - and killing people is a common way of solving differences. We can set an example for all around us.

Think on these things so that at the end of our journey, when our Lord comes to us or we come to Him, we may rejoice - because, for one thing, we will then have no more decisions to make!

C. Russell Elliott is a member of Truth Given CLC in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

NOTICE TO ALL CLC COMMUNITIES:

NATIONAL CLC ASSEMBLY

May 27th - 30th

Lethbridge Community College,
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Theme: *"One Apostolic Community: Our Way of Life"*

Every CLC community is being asked to discern to send one delegate.

Expected cost per delegate is \$735.
(includes travel, meals and accommodations for Assembly) - Payable to CLC Canada (National Assembly 2004) and send to:

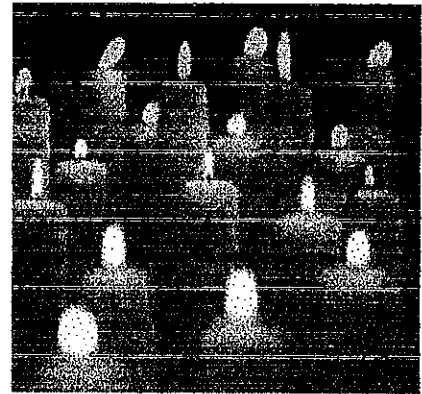
**Lin Blackmore,
CLC National Coordinator,
5 Blackmore Court, South Esk,
New Brunswick. E1V 4P9.**

The Call to Responsibility

by Graydon Nicholas
River of Life CLC

GRACE

That I/We may not be deaf to the CALL of our ELDER BROTHER, JESUS, but to listen to HIM with an open and true Heart, so that I/We can be willing Member(s) of HIS Family and to follow HIS Teachings and Ways which are SACRED.



PRAYER

HOLY CREATOR, FATHER of all that YOU have created.
YOU KNOW US.

YOU created all for a purpose.

ALL OF CREATION IS ALIVE!

WE PRAY, in a special way, to our COUSIN, MARY, who is the Mother of JESUS, our ELDER BROTHER.

WE also pray to those who have committed themselves, as Followers of JESUS, our Relatives, to inspire us and to encourage us to remove the Wrongs, the Abuses and the Poverty in Body and Spirit.

THIS IS THE PATH OF RESPONSIBILITY.

THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES

My Desire, Brother Jesus, is to walk "hand-in -hand" with BETH, my loving wife and companion, which began before we celebrated our Sacrament of Matrimony, Your Gift to us.

PRAYER

I ASK YOU, Brother Jesus, to invite me to a greater awareness and knowledge of why I was created.

I ASK YOU, Brother Jesus, to walk with me, so that I can invite BETH to come along with US.

THIS LOVE and INTIMACY between BETH and I will transform "us" to walk with YOU, Brother Jesus, so that OUR LOVE will flourish.

THEN, we will be able to RESPOND to YOUR INVITATION to be YOUR loving companions, along with Your Mother and Friends.

THE CALL TO RESPONSIBILITY

Prayer: I ask that my Creator God grant me meaning to my life so that I can fulfill my purpose and respond in a loving way to serve others as determined by the will of my Creator God.

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First Prelude: Jesus, my Elder Brother, has come to visit my Community. It is the time of the year when a Gathering is taking place to renew Relationships and to celebrate. Jesus has come to participate and to share His Teachings. This is an Aboriginal Gathering where music, feasts, prayer and story telling are taking place.

Second Prelude: I pray for the grace as modified: "That I may not be deaf to the Call of our Elder Brother, Jesus, but to listen to him with an open and true heart so that I may be a willing member of His family and to follow His Teachings and Ways which are Sacred".

First Part

First Point: Our Tribal Society is both individual and communal. This is a gift from our Creator. Our Creator has helped our Elders (men/women) to select a Chief as our Leader. These responsibilities have evolved over time. Much prayer, discussion and consensus have taken place among all our people. The Elders have led us in prayer. The men, women and children have and continue to participate. We all walk the Path of Responsibility for one another and for all of Creation. Our Creator has guided our people. Being selected as a Chief is to accept to be a humble and wise servant of the people. The concerns and wishes of all members have been listened to and accepted. Reaching consensus is difficult but worthwhile because the individual and community's needs are both important and equal.

Second point: Our Elder Brother, Jesus, is listening to our Chief:

"You have appointed me to be responsible for you and our Community (Tribe). This cannot be done by one person. I need your prayers, voices, ears, love and energy. I am not alone. Others have done their share and duty. We must be as one Family, helping each other, teaching one another and taking care of those who have the greatest needs. We will eat and quench our thirst. One will not eat at the expense of someone else doing without. We will drink from the same water that is pure, healing and life-giving. We will hunt and gather food for all of us. We will walk together. We will move Camp as the seasons have determined. We will strive for each other's better way of life. We will care for the sick, elderly, young and our spiritual leaders. We are on this journey together. It will not be easy. We can do it together. We will survive together. We will be in harmony with the other forms of creation on our Mother Earth. All of life is a gift from our Creator. I am grateful of your confidence in me. Our Creator is good. Let us continue on this adventure together guided by our Creator."

Those in the Gathering know that their ideas and concerns have been taken into consideration to reach the decision. The decision was made over a period of time to allow for prayer, reflection, discussion and openness. No one was forced to accept. The freedom to participate, to express differences and to ask for accountability were ever present. Those who did not wholeheartedly agree or accept are also part of the community. No one

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was ridiculed, alienated or told to leave. There were no ultimatums. There was only joy that someone had the courage and strength to disagree. This was the reason for both the individual and the community. The next Chief may be the very one, who expressed in a courageous way, a conflicting point of view. It was time to celebrate the decisions of the community and the acceptance of responsibility by the Chief. After the celebrations and prayers, it was Time to move since the reason and purpose of the Gathering had been achieved.

Second Part

First Point: The survival of each person and the community depended upon responsible leaders. Our Creator has been generous and provided for all of our needs. Jesus, our Elder Brother, is also part of our family. This was Jesus' response when he heard the speech of the Chief:

" What your Chief and my younger brother has told you is true. Our Creator, who is my Father, has sent me to remind you that life is not easy. There are too many people who are suffering, who are hungry and are poor. They are hungry, suffering and poor because there are persons who think only of themselves. There is evil in their hearts and minds. They have strayed away from the Sacred Teachings as taught to us by our Elders. The Elders have passed down these Teachings from time immemorial since the first ones were taught by our Creator, our Father.

"So, I not only remind you of these Sacred Teachings, but I ask you to help me in my work. I was, also, sent here by our Creator, my Father, to come here and change the hearts of stone and coldness. We know that a stone can be heated and once warm, can provide us with warmth and happiness. We know that our stones are called our Grandfathers. Help me to warm up those stones so that our community will all have joy, hope and warmth. This will be of great benefit to all of us. I need you because I can only do so much. Your reward will be great because you have changed the footsteps of one of your own. You may also need that same love, care and affection in the future. We do not walk alone. I do not walk alone. Let us walk together. Let it be as our Creator God, my Father and your Father, told our Elders of long ago: 'WE ARE ONE FAMILY'."

Second Point: This is a very gracious moment in our lives. Someone, who is so special and sincere as our Elder Brother, Jesus, has come to visit and invite us to walk with Him. He came to all of us, men, women, children, the lame, the sick, the dying and of all ages. So, let us respond in a loving way. We can do it.

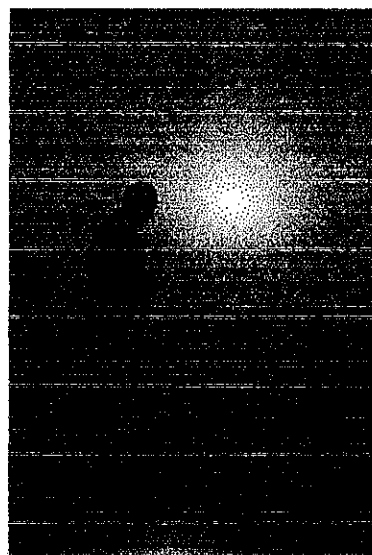
Third Point: This quest, this journey, in responding to the invitation of our Elder Brother, Jesus, is meant for all of us. It will not easy. But together, we can do it. We can encourage each other, listen to one another and pray for one another for strength, courage and determination. We need to warm up our hearts and minds and surrender our weaknesses and evil thoughts to Jesus. We need to be cleansed and we can do it together.

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HOLY CREATOR, FATHER
of all that You created.
YOU KNOW US.
YOU created all for a purpose.
ALL OF CREATION IS ALIVE!
WE PRAY, in a special way, to our
Cousin, Mary, who is the Mother of Jesus,
our Elder Brother.
WE, also, pray to those who have committed
themselves, as Followers of Jesus, our Relatives,
to inspire us and to encourage us to remove the
Wrongs, the Abuses and
the Poverty in Body and Spirit.
THIS IS THE PATH OF RESPONSIBILITY.

**This prayer and reflections was part of
Graydon's eight day Retreat at the Villa Madonna
in Saint John, N.B., in August 2002.**

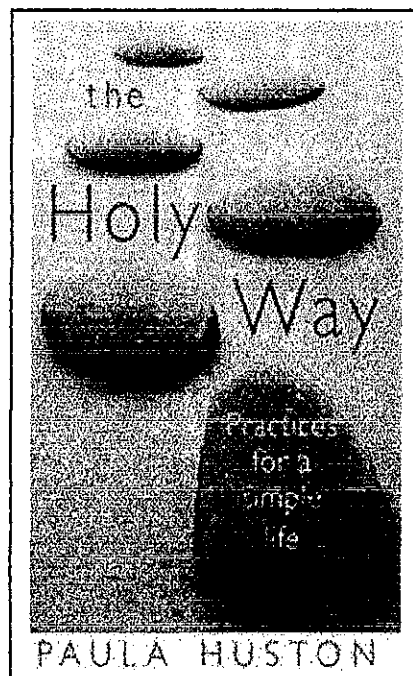


Book Reviews

The Holy Way

by Paula Huston

The clutter of our everyday life, the cacophony assaulting our senses on a daily basis, spiritual aridity if not vacuity are reasons enough to buy and read this new book. *The Holy Way* is a solid, engaging, practical and motivating book that provides specific means--applicable for all of us--to simplifying our life, or, as the author puts it, striving for a life of "holy simplicity." The book has five parts: Withdrawing and Taking Stock; Cleansing and Finding Strength; Discovering a New Community; Facing the Demons; and Returning to The world. Huston, a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellow, has published both fiction and essays for 20 years. She is also a wife and mother. And she has walked the walk to a more simple life in relation with God. This included stays with Camaldolese monks. In 10 chapters, she moves from learning to let go (of bad



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habits, among others), the role of solitude and silence in achieving self-awareness, forgoing self-pleasing behavior, tranquility and drawing strength and purification through disciplines. She stresses the change must come from within: "the path to simplicity runs right through the middle of *me*."

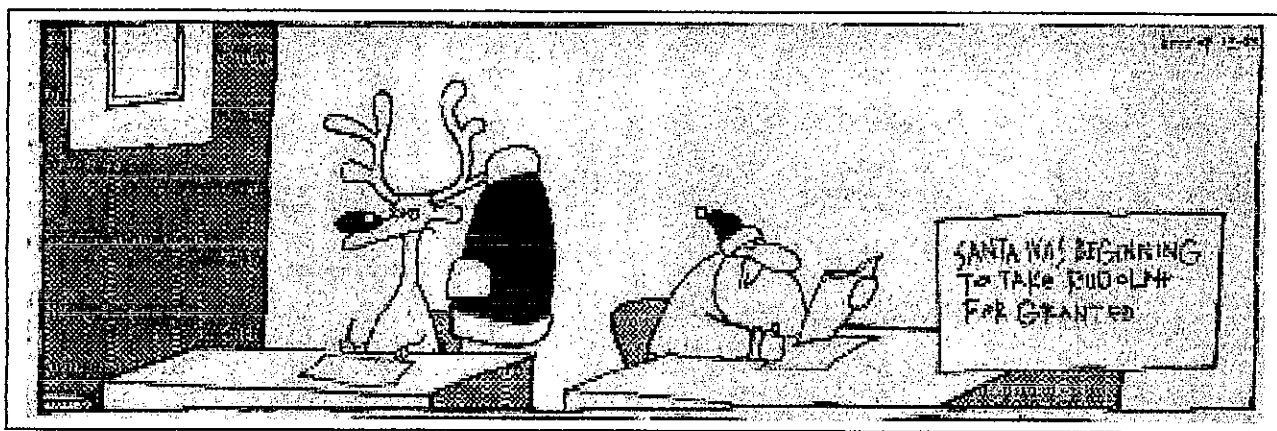
The book draws generously from the examples of the Desert Fathers, monastics and saints--including Catherine of Siena, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis of Assisi, Augustine and Aelred of Rievaulx, as well as contemporary writers and Scripture. Additionally, and this is a strength of the book, are the author's personal, autobiographical experiences and lessons that are often brutally honest; above all, this gives the book continuity and a contemporary sensibility.

The Holy Way is a book for the lifetime journey. Huston writes, "Simplification is ultimately a method, not the goal. It is the path, not the endpoint; the field, and not the treasure. It is meant to free us up from all needless anxiety and distraction, to clear away the clutter of ambition and envy and insecurity, so that we might come as close to God as we can in this life. When we do, we experience love at a depth we never suspected was possible."

Books about the spiritual life, about prayer and meditation and about "the simple life" fill many shelves in bookstores across the land. Some of these are helpful resources. Some are not. But one thing is certain: *The Holy Way* stands apart. It is no quick fix and no quick read. It is a book that you'll keep for a long, long time.

Loyola Press. 346p + notes, bibliography, index
Publisher's price: \$15.95 (US) paperback

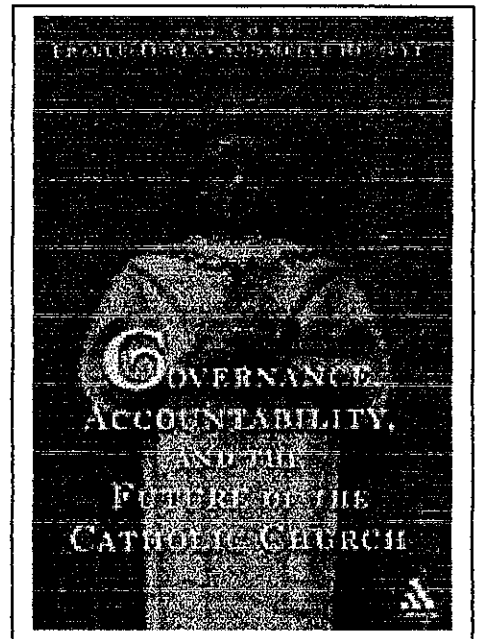
(From 'November's Selection' in *Americia: The National Catholic Weekly*,
found at <http://www.americamagazine.org>)



**Governance, Accountability,
and the Future of the Catholic Church**

Edited by Francis Oakley and Bruce Russett

The St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University sponsored a conference this past spring, bringing together a host of scholars from varying disciplines to discuss the problems facing the American Catholic Church, the crucial role of church leadership and many urgent questions that affect church life at every level. In attendance were bishops, clergy, women religious and laity. The 15 papers delivered have been gathered in this volume and offer a comprehensive picture of where we've been and where we must go.



Part One, "Historical Perspectives on a Changing Church" includes, among others, essays on church law and alternative structures, constitutionalism in the church and belief and practice. Part Two, "The Church Today," covers such areas as the sex abuse crisis, financial accountability and Asian perspectives of being church. The concluding chapter is entitled "Monarchy, Democracy, or 'Decent Consultation Hierarchy'?"

Contributors are the editors, Oakley and Russett, as well as Bishop Donald W. Wuerl, Peter Steinfels, Francine Cardman, Brian Tierney, Marcia Colish, John Beal, Gerald P. Fogarty, S.J., James L. Heft, John T. McGreevy, Thomas J. Reese, S.J., Francis J. Butler, Gerard Mannion, Peter C. Phan and Donald Cozzens.

This book brings into clear and sharp focus the many and complex issues underpinning the American Catholic experience of today: e.g., the role of the laity, church governance, the role of women and other marginalized Catholics, openness, stewardship and the need for healing. It is solid reading, not to mention a most timely publication. We recommend it highly.

Continuum, 240p
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