



Editorial : The Human Person at the center

by Fr. Thierry de Roucy

This newsletter focuses on the opening day of the International Center for a Culture of Compassion, which I am sure will become a milestone in the history of Heart's Home. I pray that this center, through spreading a spirit of compassion, will contribute to build a world where the human person is at the center of everything. In his newest encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI implicitly encourages us to build this center, as he writes:

"The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer. This holds true both for the individual and for society. A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through "com-compassion" is a cruel and inhuman society. Yet society cannot accept its suffering members and support them in their trials unless individuals are capable of doing so themselves; moreover, the individual cannot accept another's suffering unless he personally is able to find meaning in suffering, a path of purification and growth in maturity, a journey of hope"

May the Child Jesus bless you with renewed hope and fill your hearts with His Presence!

Spreading the word about Heart's Home

For some of us, the fall was very busy, as we spent quite a bit of time on the road, traveling to New Jersey, Washington DC, Boston and Philadelphia to take part in Volunteer Fairs and introduce Heart's Home to various universities and colleges. This was a great opportunity to encounter students desiring to give one year of their lives to God and to serve the poor. We also took part in youth groups and CCD classes.



Sr Albane, Gonzague and Denis in a fair in Boston

For us, French missionaries living in a Hispanic neighborhood of the Bronx, this time on campus was a real dive into the American culture. We discovered a very religious and generous people... and were so happy when some of the young people we had met decided to join us in the Bronx for a Come and See Weekend!

This year we went to St Peter's Coll. (NJ), Fordham Uni. (NY), Georgetown Uni.(DC), CUA (DC), Mount St Mary Uni. (MD), Assumption Coll. (MA), Holy Cross Coll. (MA), Providence Coll. (MI), Fairfield Uni. (CT) and Villanova Uni. (PA). We hope to

come back next year and hopefully even add some more universities in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio... to our road plan!

If you are interested in spreading the word about Heart's Home to your Church or university, please contact us. We would be more than happy to come to your parish or youth group and introduce our missionary opportunities.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to those of you who help us make these encounters possible. May God bless you.

Sr Albane

Testimony: Otherwise, why would you travel so far?

"After lunch we say the rosary. We are usually joined by children or other friends. Praying with a squirmy kid in your lap is very exciting. Every afternoon we go on apostolates (visits). Our mission is to be a presence. The intuition that Father Thierry (the founder of Heart's Home) had, that when someone suffers, that which they need most is a friend. We try to be this friend, this Love, remembering that the worst kind of suffering is to suffer alone (...)

I can't really even put into words all the exciting and new thoughts, experiences, encounters and realities I am having every day. You are all in my thoughts and prayers so much more than you know. I will leave you with a quote that keeps repeating in my head.

"Isn't this an opportunity to ask the Lord for a new way of seeing others, for another heart, for another language: a new gaze, a new heart, a new language..."

Otherwise why would you travel so far?"

Amy Koreski, Heart's Home missionary in Honduras

Welcome Marie-Mai, Sylvie and Augustin

We are very excited about the recent arrival of 3 new missionaries here at Heart's Home.

- Marie-Mai comes to us from France where she was working as a tourist agent. She will spend 14 months with us.

- Sylvie, a former Heart's Home missionary in Argentina, Brazil and Switzerland brings her guitar, accordion and smile to our community.

- Augustin, a former Heart's Home missionary in Brazil and a member of the Molokai Fraternity recently joined Fr. Paul at the ICCC.

"Come and see" weekends!

If you are interested in becoming a Heart's Home missionary and/or want to know more about the Heart's Home mission, join us for a "come & see" weekend at Heart's Home in the Bronx, NY.

The upcoming weekends will be held on:

January 11-13, 2008
March 7-9, 2008
April 11-13, 2008
June 13-15, 2008

(Friday 6pm through Sunday 6:30pm)
For more information please contact Sr. Regine: sregine@heartshomeusa.org



Focus on the International Center for a Culture of Compassion

On September 23, 2007, we celebrated the Grand Opening of the International Center for a Culture of Compassion (ICCC). Located in the Catskills (2 hours from New York), the ICCC seeks to explore and share Heart's Home's spirit of compassion. It is a training center where all can discover compassion and encourage its growth by their experiences.

The Opening Day provided an opportunity for our friends to discover the mission of the Center. The highlight of the day was the roundtable discussion, which gathered people who, in their own field of activity, strive to promote human dignity and spread a spirit of compassion.

We are happy to share some extracts of this roundtable discussion with you. If you'd like to receive the entire transcript, please contact us.



Culture of Compassion Roundtable Discussion - Extracts

Fr. Thierry de Roucy, Founder of Heart's Home

Two years ago, in a library of Buenos Aires, I was going through a huge book about art history over the last 50 years in Argentina. I suddenly realized that, among the hundreds of paintings, there were lots of colorful cubes, circles, stains, lines... Few landscapes, and no faces – or horribly disfigured faces. Where is man?

I read business magazines. They mention figures, statistics, stock markets, exchange and interest rates, mergers and acquisitions. And I wonder: what is the purpose of this business? Where is man?

I also listen to lots of political talks. They speak about constitutions, trade unions, and political parties. I often wonder: where is man – where are you and I?

It often seems to me that, to become professionals, we have to ignore human reality, and only look at figures, test tubes, charts. Don't you think that we would be more professional if we cared more for the human person, if we strived to restore dignity, to make him happier?

I guess now you understand that the goal of this Center is to strive to put the human person at the center of everything. We can even say more: by putting the human person at the center, the Center wants to put God back in the center. We believe that this is a work of compassion: compassion towards God and towards the human person. If the human person is really at the center of politics, of artistic creation, of scientific research... then we believe that God will be more loved, and that the human persons will be more consoled.

Dr. Wayne Bardin, Director, Bardin LLC

One man's compassion is almost always made possible by that of another. (...)

A Scottish farmer named Fleming eked out a living for his family on a small farm. One morning he heard cries for help from a bog on his property. When he investigated he found a young boy up to his chest in mud. He rescued the boy and prevented a frightful death. Next morning an expensive carriage pulled up in front of the farmhouse and a well-dressed nobleman asked to see the farmer who had saved his

son day before. When Fleming acknowledged that he was the person who saved the boy, he was offered a reward, which he refused. The well-dressed man was persistent insisting that the farmer must accept his generosity. While the two men argued, Fleming's son walked into the room. The nobleman then said that if the farmer would not accept the reward for himself, then he would provide something for his son. He promised to provide the same education for Fleming's son as he would provide for his own. And he did. As he departed, the nobleman commented that if the son had the same integrity as the father that they should expect great things from him. As the years passed, the farmer's son excelled at the University where he studied medicine. He was knighted, Sir Alexander Fleming, for the discovery of penicillin.

Some years later, the same nobleman whose son had been saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia, and penicillin saved his life. The name of the nobleman was Lord Randolph Churchill. His son was Winston Churchill who served as prime minister of England during World War II.



Roundtable discussion. From left to right: Dr. Wayne Bardin, Isabelle Collin-Dufresne, Fr. Thierry de Roucy, Daniel Schreck, Anna Halpine, Antoine Treuille

Antoine Treuille, Managing Partner of Altamont Capital Partners

[A certain number of] companies are committed to developing the compassion dimension amongst their employees, are committed to expand on the awareness and the fulfillment of human dignity. The CEOs of these companies generally has made a personal commitment not of money but of time, often to a one on one relationship with a person in need. Unlike most companies, which contribute somewhat blindly to a variety of charitable organizations but without personal involvement of its employees, [these] companies have a real soul, and grow real compassion amongst its constituencies. These companies improve the social well being by developing community responsibility and promote healthy sustainable social and human basic values.

These companies and their CEOs also understand that Compassion, like love, and like a lot of other human emotions, can actually be taught. It is not abstract, it can be felt. He who feels compassion receives in return. That experience brings about a feedback process. If you start once helping somebody, reaching out and feeling what you get in return, it is like a drug: you want to do it more and more.

I think a center like this one could be a school for that awareness towards the corporate world. I think that's a wonderful objective. I believe strongly in it.

Anna Halpine, Founder of the World Youth Alliance

This has extended to the way we work inside the United Nations, and we have had enormous success, but this has come out of – again – our experience and our commitment to the fundamental dignity of each person, including those we work with. Day after day people approach us in the halls and say to us “many people are watching you, and they are watching you to see if you are who you say you are; that you are not here because a company is paying you, but that you are really young people here to promote and defend the dignity and worth of each person.”

I think this is an expression – as I understand it - of the idea of compassion. In these halls of power, many things guide the decisions that are made each day, but what these people are really looking for is a way in which they can reach out to another human person, who is motivated for reasons that are fundamental, and for reasons that involve meaning and purpose in their lives.

Isabelle Collin Dufresne, visual artist

As a visual artist, I believe in Christ. I believe in every of His words, as related to us. In the New Testament, especially, I like to quote « Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you.» In my artwork, my medium is light. Why light? Because Christ said “I am the way, the light, that illuminates each man that comes to this world.”

Also, as a visual artist, I believe in beauty. Beauty is of God. Whatever is edifying is of God. By giving people beauty, their hearts are touched and they rejoice. I hope that my work is healing for it is based on the light prism. I make art not for me but for others.

Upcoming Events at the ICC

Sat. January 12: Saturday in the desert Day retreat for women.
Mary, the Mother of God

Sat. February 16: Day retreat (open to all)
A reading of *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical

Please register at:
iccc@heartshomeusa.org



View from the ICC in the morning