



*Editorial : Grand Opening of the International Center for a Culture of Compassion*

*by Fr. Thierry de Roucy*



The foundation of the International Center for a Culture of Compassion has kept us busy for the last three years. After looking for a suitable place for over a year, we found one several months ago (close to Ellenville, NY, South of the Catskill Region) which we purchased, and where the project is currently starting.

On September 23, 2007, we will celebrate the Grand Opening of this Center, under the patronage of the Consul General of France in New York, Mr. Delattre, who, since the beginning of his tenure, has been a faithful friend and supporter of Heart's Home. I am very grateful to him and want to seize this opportunity to warmly thank him.

This Opening Day will be an opportunity for you to discover the mission of the Center, which is now a very important place for Heart's Home, and we hope, will become an important place in the lives of many. Several artists will participate on this day, as well as people who, in their own field of activity, strive to promote human dignity and spread a spirit of compassion.

With God's Grace, we pray that this Center will contribute, in its own special way, to help humanity live more in conformity to His image and likeness.

*News from Heart's Home in the Bronx*

**We are moving to Brooklyn!**

After 4 years of presence in the Bronx, hosted by Saint Francis of Assisi Church, we were recently informed that the rectory house where our Heart's Home John Paul II is established since 2003 would no longer be available, due to the realignment of the parishes in the Archdiocese of New York. We are very grateful to the Archdiocese as well as to Fr. Michael Sepp, administrator of Saint Francis of Assisi for so kindly welcoming us and supporting our activities over the last 4 years. We will gladly continue our activities in the Archdiocese through the ICCC, our new program, which is located in Woodbourne, NY (see editorial above).

We are quite pleased to announce that we received a very warm welcome from the Bishop of Brooklyn who—providentially—was looking for a missionary group to reach out to the community of Saint Edward's parish, located in the Fort Greene area. Thus the Heart's Home John Paul II center will move to Brooklyn in the fall 2007. We are very excited about this opportunity to extend our outreach to a new neighborhood of New York City and look forward to greeting you in our new home!

« After ten months of being here in the Bronx as a volunteer, it is very difficult to "evaluate" or even "quantify" the results of the activities we have undertaken. This is due to the very essence of our charism of compassion and consolation, consisting in experiencing friendship with the lonely and those suffering. I have always tried to "sow" humbly, though abundantly, without any regrets, leaving all in God's hands. Then, results would occur marvellously, in their own way and in God's own time.



*Denis visiting friends of Heart's Home in the Bronx*

Strange as it is, I decided to join the organization to attempt to lose and forget myself in order to serve, to give myself fully to the others. Eventually I found myself being the very one to benefit from it all, much more than a hundredfold! The visits I made in our neighborhood to nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, the AIDS Center, became a pretext to reveal a little something of me to me. My own image was reflected back to me. In a way, during this journey, I am becoming the person I was created to be, which is such a liberation. How indebted, grateful and thankful I am to you all, inhabitants of the Bronx! I guess all my words and thoughts would never be enough to express what I feel.

One way I found to keep sharing the joy I have to be among you was to extend my mission for four more months, till April 2008.

Of course, it will not be an easy task to leave this borough. Nevertheless, a new start is awaiting us in Brooklyn, where we are looking forward meeting the artist and student communities, among others.

I will keep you in my prayers, my friends, May God bless all of you »

Denis

*Laetitia's final promises*

Laetitia will soon be flying back to France to take her final promises in the Fraternity Molokai in October 7. This is a marvelous event for our small community in the Bronx, but also for the whole Heart's Home Movement, which benefits from her gift. Her "yes" to Christ call us to recognize Christ in our own life and where we are. May God bless her on this very special day and complete in her life all He has already start-

*Bye, Agnes*

After more than 3 years of mission at Heart's Home in the Bronx, Agnes left us last July to join the Heart's Home team in France for a year of studies. We thank Agnes ("smiley") for the gift of herself, her joy and friendship she so willingly shared in the neighborhood as well as within the Heart's Home community. We will all miss her very much and wish her a great year in France.

*A new book*

Heart's Home will soon publish a book with all the texts from Thierry de Roucy, who founded the movement. These various texts will enable you to have a better insight in our charism of compassion.



## Heart's Home's photo exhibition at the UN in Geneva

From the 18th to the 29th of June 2007 the first photographic exhibition of Heart's Home took place at the UN. It was sponsored by the permanent mission of France - such sponsorship was necessary in order for an NGO to organize an event of this kind. After one year of presence at the UN, in particular the Council of Human Rights, we came to two important conclusions: what is shown to the eyes of the public and the international community is often misery, and the work environment is often one of accusation rather than a truly constructive approach. The idea of this exhibition derives from the following: to offer the perspective which our experience gives us, to always seek the positive in every situation and to endeavor to be more constructive.



children, El Salvador

The exhibition also constituted the possibility of providing a very good communication tool. The objective remains to humbly show who we are by focusing on our friends.

A private viewing of the exhibit took place on June 19th in the presence of Mr. Pierre Le Loarer (Director of Cultural Affairs for the UN and the person in charge of this kind of activity, who thus introduced all exhibitions), Sergei Ordzhonikidze (Director General of the United Nations office in Geneva), and also Mr. Jean-Maurice Ripert (Ambassador of France to the UN in Geneva). Each one in his turn made a short speech, the most notable of which was that

of Mr. Ripert. We had had the chance to meet him with Fr. Thierry and it was obvious that this meeting had influenced his speech. He told us again later that France was completely satisfied with this exhibition and would be happy to have another collaboration in the future with Heart's Home (he will soon be France's new representative in the UN Security Council in NY). During the show, we had other very good reactions, most of which were preserved in a gold book. The message seems to have gotten through: we wanted to show the infinite dignity of every person, whatever the circumstances, and the faces in the photographs were the proof.

The exhibition "the poor and worthy" served as an introduction to the work of Heart's Home. In September, in keeping with this theme of dignity and the way in which it is taken into account in the system of human rights, Heart's Home will co-organize a round table in parallel with the Council of Human Rights. In addition, the photographs will now travel: an exhibition is already planned for Naples (Italy), Sion (Switzerland), soon France and probably the USA. In this manner, in its humble capacity, Heart's Home contributes to reminding the world that the value of a person could never be reduced by some external condition. On the contrary, dignity is the very essence of every human being.

## Five new Heart's Home missionaries from America!

This summer, 5 new American Missionaries will undertake the road of Heart's Home.

- Adam Larson, from Washington, DC will join the Heart's Home of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Amy Koreski and Rebecca Cunningham, from Seattle, WA, will go to Honduras and El Salvador
- Mike Higgins from Yardley, PA will join the Heart's Home of Salvador da Bahia, Brazil
- Noemie Hubin, a dual citizen from France and the US, will go to Thailand

We are looking forward to receiving news from their mission and sharing them with you!



Future Heart's Home Missionaries