SUMMER • FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

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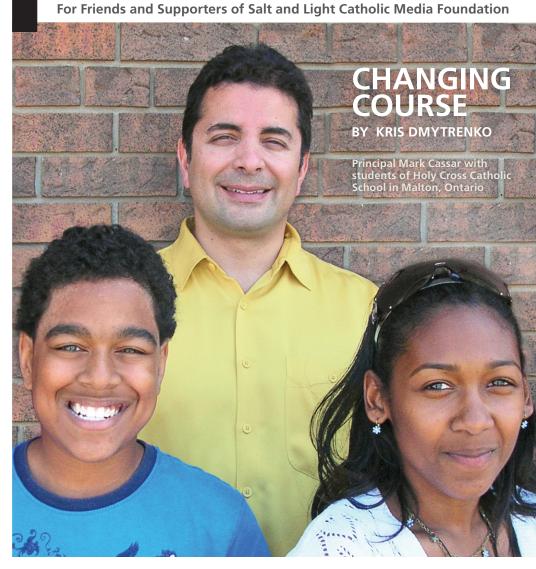
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Your Catholic Channel of Hope



"The students took off as soon as we got there," squawked a walkie-talkie on the principal's desk. The voice on the other end was updating Mark Cassar about a group of youth from another school who were lingering on Holy Cross property. It wasn't the first time a teacher had to chase away a band of outside students whose only extracurricular interest, it seemed, was intimidating younger kids.

Although classes ended half an hour ago, the young principal won't be leaving the school until his students have safely returned home. Doubtless, he'll stay long after that to prepare for the next day. His vigilance is justified. Holy Cross, located in Malton, a neighbourhood within Mississauga, Ontario, has developed a notorious reputation after several gang-related murders in recent years.

Cassar is quick to defend the reputation of his school's neighbourhood. "Despite some negative media attention," he acknowledges, "Malton is a very vibrant and healthy community, full of wonderful people."

These countless, concerned citizens, not lacking in civic pride, are central to Cassar's plan to protect his students. In 2007, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, representing Mississauga and Brampton-area schools, received \$120,000 from the provincial government's *Bullying and Violence Prevention Special Circumstances Fund*. The funds were directed towards six regional schools where gang and bullying problems were occurring or at risk of developing.

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of Salt + Light Television,

As member of the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil (Basilian Fathers), I have a special interest in education, teaching and evangelization – the special gifts or charisms entrusted to my religious congregation from its very beginning in a post revolutionary France in 1822. If I have been allowed to lead Salt + Light Television for the past six years, it is because of the strong dimension of education and evangelization that lies at the heart of Canada's first, national Catholic Television Network.

I have always considered Jesus of Nazareth to be a great role model for my priestly, educational and television ministry. I can easily picture Jesus teaching and preaching to his young friends as they sat on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, on hillsides, in deserted places or in Jerusalem. Jesus incorporated everything around him into his teaching and preaching. He does so manifesting a tremendous artistry of the human condition and of God's created world.

During my summer undergraduate studies in France in the late seventies, I remember an art history course that took us to the very picturesque medieval town of Moret-sur-Loing in the Département of Seine-et-Marne, not far from the cities of Paris and Sens. This magnificent little town was a source of inspiration for the great French artists Manet, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, Sisley and Dégas. Who of us is not moved by the breathtaking beauty of a Monet or Manet painting, as we admire how light can capture and change the way we look at the scenery and indeed the world around us?

That summer course and my visit to Moret-sur-Loing would be my introduction to impressionist paintings. I can still recall the art historian lecturing to us in French as we sat along the banks of the river in the middle of that town: "Remember that impressionism is all about colour and light. Its outward appearance uses light to bring out the colour, to give it life."

It is by no accident or coincidence that we chose as the name and mission of our Catholic Television Network "Salt and Light" - one of Jesus' most graphic and vivid teachings on a Galilean hillside. This was the biblical theme given to World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto by Pope John Paul II: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden." [Matthew 5:13-14].

In the ancient biblical world, salt was a precious commodity. It gave flavour and zest to food; it served as an important preservative; salt also made people thirst for something more. Jesus wanted his disciples to give flavour and zest to the world through his teaching; to preserve the truth as he proclaimed it to the world; to make the world thirst for more.



In addition to being salt for the earth, Jesus called his followers to be the light of the world. In the famous sermon on the Galilean hillside, Jesus transfers his light to those who follow him: "You are the light of the world." Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus calls us to be that same light.

To follow the Lord Jesus, to be salt and light for the world, to bring the world the flavour of the Gospel and the light of Christ, is as real as it gets. The more we look on the face of Jesus, like an impressionist painting, the more light we see and the more we are transfigured by it.

What we are about at Salt + Light is to teach, evangelize and proclaim the artistry of the Gospel and the Church to the world. Do you like what you see on Salt + Light Television? Have you tasted the flavour (salt) of the Gospel through our network? Has your life been brightened by the light of Christ through our programming, documentaries and writings on the blog? We cannot continue our mission without your prayers and financial assistance. Please be generous with us so that we may continue to allow the flavour of the Gospel to permeate our culture, and the light of Christ to burn brightly through Canada's first, national Catholic Television Network.

Thank you for your generosity, prayerful support and financial assistance to Salt + Light Television. May God bless you with the flavour of the Gospel and the light of Christ!

With gratitude and my prayers for you and your loved ones. †

Thomas Louis ab

Father Thomas Rosica, CSB CEO, Salt + Light Television

CHANGING COURSE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AGAINST

GANGS & BULLYING from page 1









CHANGING COURSE is available for purchase at **saltandlightty.org**

Most of the newly-funded programs were facilitated by community organizations that were already working in the neighbourhoods.

For one year, Salt + Light followed students who partook in the many initiatives at these schools. The result is *Changing Course*, S+L's latest documentary, which premiered in March and is now available for purchase on DVD.

One of the partner organizations featured in the half-hour production is the Knights of Columbus, whose local members committed to arriving at Holy Cross daily at 7:00 am to facilitate a breakfast program.

"It isn't just about feeding kids," Cassar explained. "It addresses a lot of bigger issues like attendance, lates and hunger in general, which lead to academic performance and behaviour issues."

Though offered to all students at Holy Cross, *Breakfast for Kids* was primarily created for parents who have difficulty affording a healthy meal. Thanks to the Catholic fraternal organization's tireless, joyful presence, the students now see the *Knights* as part of the Holy Cross community.

During lunch hours, selected students are chosen to participate in programs designed to combat racism in what might be the most multicultural neighbourhood in Canada.

Ending the day are after-school activities like a homework club that, to the surprise of organizers, have overwhelmed the allotted classroom space. Even for those less keen about academics, the after-school sessions are a better option than an empty home or the local mall, a hangout that even S+L's film crew was cautioned to avoid.

Another key element in the initiatives is one-on-one mentoring that pairs high school and elementary students. Though relatively few students were chosen for the program,

coordinated by *Youth Assisting Youth*, it nonetheless demonstrates the Catholic School System's individual-focussed ethos.

"Once kids are seen as just a number, they fall through the cracks," cautions Cassar, "and then we wonder why they weren't helped when something goes wrong. So we've tried to take a personal interest in every child to help them realize their positive self-worth and potential—meaning, the gifts of God that they have to bring out to the open. By forming a bond with their teachers, they can call the Holy Cross staff part of their family. And when things do go wrong, we're here to help them."

Two years since the safe school initiatives began, the principals continue to see the transformation of their hallways.

Cassar enthusiastically tells of students who, previously infamous for behavioural problems, are now productive members of the school community. Suspension rates have plummeted. Parents, who sometimes had adversarial relationships with teachers, now trust the school and are taking more active roles in their children's education.

Most of the DPCDSB's programs can be adopted by other schools in the province. Still, the board's leadership in gang and violence prevention reveals a uniquely Catholic philosophy that refuses to allow fear to overwhelm hope, even for students who appear irreversibly headed in the wrong direction.

Cassar concludes, "Our hope is that, at the end of a child's stay with us, we help to produce a Christ-like person who is able to give back to society."

SALT + LIGHT TELEVISION ON THE ROAD

MONITORING HOLY WEEK

MAR 2009

BY Matthew Harrison



Frater Leo Barker OSB, with David LeRoss, George Hosek and Matthew Harrison in the Abbey Church

I spent Holy Week with a TV monitor slung over my shoulder. It became a part of me for some 10 days as David LeRoss, George Hosek and I shuttled around Mission, BC's Westminster Abbey filming a documentary. That little monitor became a hub of joy for us as we huddled around it, admiring George's compositions, soaking up the excitement of filming in high definition. The monitor went with us through barnyards and forests, choir practices and candle making, theology classes and science experiments in seminary classrooms. We hauled it up narrow bell tower staircases, ran with it alongside candlelight processions, and crouched with it behind the Abbey's organ watching the stunning Easter Triduum liturgies unfold.

We were visiting the Benedictine monastery to capture parts of the Easter liturgies and the monks' way of life. At this, the pinnacle of the liturgical calendar, we were documenting how liturgy and prayer weave and flow throughout their lives. Accommodating our many requests, the monks were extraordinarily generous and helpful toward us – it was a joy and a privilege for us to have spent Holy Week with them!

Over the next few months we will be taking the images that we saw so clearly on that little monitor and crafting them into a production for viewers to enjoy come winter 2010. In the meantime, to learn more about the Abbey, visit westminsterabbey.ca.

NOTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL

DEC 2008 - MAY 2009

BY Mary Rose Bacani



Edmonton's Archbishop Richard Smith presiding over Vespers at Nothing More Beautiful

"There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ..." These words of Pope Benedict inspired the five-year evangelization initiative in the Archdiocese of Edmonton — Nothing More Beautiful. The first year of the program centered on the theme The Beauty of the Human Person.

Each evening encounter at St. Joseph's Basilica included teaching, powerful witness, prayer and beautiful music. I was invited to speak on *Our New Life in Jesus Christ* at the third encounter on April 30th. It was a truly unforgettable experience of joy and gratitude for all that God has done with my life

"My prayer is that all who experience these sessions will encounter the Lord anew, grow in their acceptance of His love and call, and come to know the peace and joy that He wills for each of us," says the Most Rev. Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton.

Salt + Light Television is a proud partner of this five-year initiative, making the presentations widely available through television, the Internet, and DVD.

Next year's theme is the *Mystery of the Person of Jesus Christ*. Find out more by going to **caedm.ca/beautiful**.

THE POPE IN THE HOLY LAND

MAY 8-15

BY Alicia Ambrosio



Pope Benedict XVI meets with religious leaders in Israel, at the Church of the Annunciation

In May, the Holy Father made a historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, visiting sacred sites in Jordan, Israel and Palestinian Territory. The highlights were the meetings with the various religious leaders of Galilee who joined together in a common prayer for peace, and the Mass in Manger Square. The journey included stops to non-Christian sites as well, including Aida Refugee Camp and the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim shrine.



Salt + Light was right there with Pope Benedict for the whole trip...sort of. Not able to actually make the Papal Flight from Rome to Amman ourselves, our friends at Centro Televisivo Vaticano sent us a live satellite feed of the entire voyage. Kris Dmytrenko and I were standing by in our Toronto studio to bring those live images to you! Even though our feet were firmly planted on Canadian soil, we were on Holy Land time, getting into the studio at 2:00 am to catch every moment of the visit as it happened. It was an exhausting week, but well worth it and there was much less packing required!

MARCH FOR LIFE

MAY 14

BY David Naglieri



This year's National March for Life in Ottawa marked the 40th anniversary of the Omnibus bill, Trudeau's successful effort to decriminalize abortion and pave the way for abortion on demand in Canada. That history was on the mind of many of the marchers who compared 40 years of abortion in Canada to the 40 years Israelites spent wandering the desert in the Old Testament.

This year also marked the first time that Salt + Light TV broadcast the rally and march. It was an amazing opportunity to convey the youth, vigour and passion of the marchers to a global audience. Many of us came away impressed by the number of young Canadians who turned out to give testimony to the fact that being "hip" and "modern" need not imply turning our backs on age-old truths, such as the sanctity of each and every human life.

This special, one-hour Salt + Light program is now available for purchase. Including interviews with marchers, segments of speeches delivered by pro-life leaders on the steps of Parliament, and exclusive commentary from Campaign Life Coalition, this DVD is an excellent way to spread the pro-life message in your home or faith community.

QUEBEC YOUTH SUMMIT

MAY 15-18

BY Jasmin Lemieux-Lefebvre

After spending six months in 2008 with the organizational team of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC), on loan from Salt + Light Television, it was quite a treat for me to go back to Quebec City for the fifth edition of the Youth Summit last May.



Father Thomas Rosica challenged the 450 attendees to be missionaries of heart during the opening conference of the weekend entitled: *Be the Change You Wish to See in the Church and the World.* With my colleague Thérèse, we had the privilege of hosting two, very-well-attended workshops on Media and Evangelization.

I salute the Archdiocese of Ottawa for picking up on the opportunity to continue on the path laid out by Cardinal Ouellet and the Archdiocese of Québec as they begin to organize the next *Youth Summit*. Salt + Light will be there again to cover the bilingual event that is now becoming an annual gathering of faith.

MISSION TO THE UN

MAY 16-21

BY Mary Rose Bacani



Matthew Durham, CSB, and Mary Rose Bacani, S+L Producer — with Archbishop Celestino Migliore, at the Holy See Mission to the UN

New York, New York! This leading, global city is host to the United Nations headquarters and the Holy See Mission to the United Nations. Here, the Path to Peace Foundation held its fourth annual Catholic Social Teaching Seminar for young leaders in May, with the theme Till It and Keep It: Being Stewards for a Just World. More than 50 college students participated in a week-long intensive program. They attended lectures and interacted with speakers from the United Nations and various Catholic organizations and social agencies.

Salt + Light Television captured the 2007 seminar experience in its documentary

Mission to the UN, and has been sending representatives to New York to share in the experience ever since. Fr. Bob Meyer, Director of the Catholic Social Teaching Seminar, says, "My hopes for the program are to expose college students to the work and influence of the Church on the world agenda, and to continue to educate and expose students to Catholic Social Teaching." Colleges and universities interested in participating in next year's seminar are encouraged to visit: pathtopeacefoundation.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FIRST INTERNATIONAL MARIAN CONGRESS PHOENIX, AZ, AUG 6-8

BY David Naglieri



The Knights of Columbus held its *First International Marian Congress* on Our Lady of Guadalupe in August, following the organization's 127th annual convention in Phoenix. Salt + Light Television was there to cover this historic event.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is honoured as the "Empress of the Americas" and devotion to her is widespread throughout North America. Speakers at the congress included Dr. Jose Aste Tonsmann from Peru, who has done extensive studies of the reflections seen in the image's eyes; Rev. Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, who oversaw the cause for canonization of St. Juan Diego, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in December 1531; and other experts on key elements of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her message.

The Guadalupe Festival also featured an afternoon of music, prayer and inspirational speeches by notables including actor Eduardo Verastegui, best-selling author Imaculee Ilibagiza, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City, and Irish singer Dana.

Visit **kofc.org** for more information.

FROM THE EDITOR



Gabriella Catolino, MDiv Director of Marketing & Development

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEAVING A LEGACY

At the end of March, I lost my father as a result of a massive heart attack. It is always hard to lose a parent, but for me it was especially difficult, as he was the last living relative of the generation before me. It is sobering to think that I am now on the top rung of the generational ladder. Now, a few months after that tragic event, the haze has cleared and I have been able to reflect back on my father's life and the lives of other deceased members of my family and be proud of the legacies they have left for me and my three siblings. We were provided with strong examples of family, faith and cultural tradition, and I am honoured to be a living example of their strength of character. That strength was tested and proved as we stood around our dad's deathbed and together escorted him to eternal life. And, it was demonstrated again and again in the days and weeks following his death as we gathered together often in his memory.

Today, I would encourage everyone to write a will, and include a charitable bequest regardless of the size of your estate. My husband and I made an appointment with our lawyer shortly after my father's funeral to do just that. Each of us has the potential to make a difference in the lives that follow us by making a bequest that will make our society better. In my parents' case, my siblings and I understood their desires to deal with the earthly goods they left behind, and we were able to execute their wishes fully as a result of their will. But I was never more proud of them than when I realized they gave a portion of their assets to charity.

Nearly 70% of individuals give to charities in their lifetime. Less than 10% include charities in their estate plans. Really, those numbers are not high enough. I would like to try and impress upon everyone the importance of, and effects of, thoughtful, well-planned, tax-preferred gifts on individuals and organizations in your community.

At Salt + Light Television, we strive to provide our viewers with programs and services that capture the soul, mind, and heart. We realize just how important it is to have hope and to have information to think about that makes our world better. Salt + Light Television is worthy of your support, and by supporting this television station with a gift today and by leaving a legacy gift in your will to support our mission, you are ensuring millions of viewers will have the benefit of saying "Salt + Light Television is Our Catholic Channel of Hope!"

Each of us will experience a personal loss in our lifetime and each of us will handle it differently. At first I experienced grief, then gratitude and now hope. So, I end this communication with a simple thank you to my deceased parents, Edda and Antonio, for the legacy they left to me.



THANK YOU MAE McDONALD!

Mae McDonald is a vibrant, 81-year-old widow living in Cornwall, Ontario. She is a regular viewer of Salt + Light Television and is able to enjoy both our English and French programming. Here is what she had to say about what inspired her to select Salt + Light as one of the benefactors of her will.

"My husband passed away and left with me a large amount of money. When he was alive, he always wanted to give to charities but never got around to it. So, I feel I should be leaving this money to people who need it the most. I have chosen many people in addition to my seven children. For example, I sponsor three children in the third world, and I support the Companions of the Cross, the Legionaries of Christ and of course Salt + Light Television. I always have it on. I love it! I'm not that holy even though I try to be, but I think it is very hard to be holy. That's why we need television like Salt + Light."

Thank you Mae McDonald! May God continue to bless you with good health and prosperity so you can continue to be a philanthropic example in your community!

LUMINARIES

CHRIS VALKA'S ORDINATION

This past May, the Salt + Light family celebrated the ordination of one of its own, Fr. Chris Valka, CSB. Over the years, Fr. Chris has been working at Salt + Light while completing his theological studies in Toronto with the Basilian Fathers.

The ordination of Fr. Chris took place in his hometown of Houston, Texas at the Basilian parish, St. Anne's Catholic Church. Several members of the S+L family made the trip to Houston to witness the great event. Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB preached his first Mass at the University of St. Thomas, where Fr. Chris first encountered the Basilian Fathers. Over the summer Fr. Chris will be working at the Toronto studios once again before beginning his new assignment at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Michigan.

Congratulations Fr. Chris and be assured of our prayers as you begin your priestly ministry!



CONGRATULATIONS MARC BOUDIGNON

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 10th, Imogen Thérèse Boudignon made her grand entrance into the world. She arrived a little earlier than expected, weighing in at 5 lbs, 13 oz. Proud mother Nola and father Marc, a senior editor at Salt + Light, are ecstatic and completely in awe of this wonderful gift from God. They're thrilled to report she is happy, healthy, hungry and nearly able to get her hands through her sleeves without turning up the cuffs.

BEHIND THE SCENES at Salt + Light



RICHARD VALENTI
Senior Editor

BY Gabriella Catolino

Richard Valenti is a senior editor at Salt + Light Television. Hired in June 2003, Richard was one of the first employees. The road that led him to Salt + Light was unexpected and although paved with many surprises, it provided much joy, growth in faith, and even love.

Richard attended college with a desire to learn all he could about 3D Animation and Digital Media Arts. Having graduated at the top of his class, it was not a surprise that he was hired by a large advertising agency to work in its post-production facility. While he liked the work, he somehow was not content. It was a time of spiritual searching.

Born and raised in a Catholic family, Richard was given a strong faith foundation, but it was World Youth Day 2002 that stoked the flame in his heart. Richard took time off of his job to volunteer for the WYD events at his parish, St. Bonaventure. He also attended the main event at Exhibition Place and there encountered Pope John Paul II. As the Pope moved passed the crowd of thousands, Richard was sure he made eye contact with this saintly man. That incredible experience helped to skyrocket his faith that was growing stronger.

Richard never returned to his job at the ad agency. He knew that he wanted to work in an environment where his faith values were upheld.

Shortly after WYD, a fellow parishioner, Mr. Bob Brooks, an Emmy-award-winning cinematographer and a founding member of the Cinematography Society of Canada, recommended that Richard consider a potential new opportunity at a Catholic television network starting up, called Salt + Light Television. Richard was offered, and accepted the position.

Those first days were filled with challenges and hope. The initial team was small and, as a result, Richard was not only an editor who needed to learn Avid "on the fly," he was also videographer, graphic designer, and technical expert. He was being offered an opportunity to become a well-rounded television person. And, it was here too that he found the love of his life.

Mary Rose Bacani was hired soon after Richard's arrival and both have worked closely together for the past five years. Bit by bit,



Richard's admiration for Mary Rose, their sharing of faith, and love of their work grew into more than friendship. Now, the two are engaged to be married in October 2009!

Today, while still helping in many areas of the organization, Richard's main role is senior editor. He works with the producers and videographers to tell a story. Not as easy as it sounds, Richard's technical knowledge and innate understanding of S+L's mission allows him to mould the pieces into something our audience will be inspired to see, and that gives a message of hope.

Richard's hope for Salt + Light is to continue to provide quality, youthful programs that speak to all generations, while being faithful to Catholic Church teachings.

Salt + Light is grateful to Richard for his skill, passion and vision, and we wish you well in your new adventure as husband, with Mary Rose as your new bride!





WHY LAMPSTAND?

Just as a lampstand elevates the source of light and lends brightness to the world around us, Salt + Light Television aims to enlighten viewers and draw them closer to the Church. With information on our great Catholic programs, the tremendous people who make up the Salt + Light team, and exciting projects and developments, *lampstand* will shed light on the many facets and faces of Salt + Light Television.

2009 FALL LINEUP

Salt + Light Television will bring our viewers another exciting lineup of inspiring, educational and entertaining Catholic programming ... and it's just around the corner!

The highly anticipated second season of the hit youth show *In Your Faith* will be back as hosts Byron and Rosanna explain subjects like "Who is a Saint?", "What is the Bible?" and individual episodes dedicated to the Sacraments. Other favourites will return with all new episodes of the flagship interview show *Witness*, and the current affairs show *Catholic Focus*.

The new Salt + Light documentary 1 Day will debut in October, a film that tells the inspiring story of a group of students from Loyola High School in Montréal who travel to Ensenada, Mexico to participate in an Arial Home build for a family in need.

Be sure to stay tuned for an exciting new season beginning this fall!

SALT + LIGHT'S PROGRAM SCHEDULE can be found

at **schedule.saltandlighttv.com** or, for your copy, call **1.888.302.7181** or e-mail **info@saltandlighttv.org**

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