

April 2007
Year 3, No 2

Easter Greetings

Community of Our Lady of Walsingham



Between the finger of God and the finger of man stretching out to each other and almost touching, there seems to leap an invisible spark: God communicates to us a tremor of his own life, creating us in his own unique image and likeness. That divine breath is the origin of the unique dignity of every human being, of humanity's boundless yearning for the infinite."

John Paul II

Launch of the COLW website

As many of you will be aware we launched our own website on the 2nd February this year, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple and the day when the Church celebrates the gift of Consecrated Life. We are sure that many of you will already have had a look at the site and will therefore know more about our history, way of life and our hopes and dreams for the future.

We wish to say a particular THANK YOU to Andrew Dyckhoff and Peter Wognum, two as yet 'unofficial', but very good friends of the community. Their immense generosity provided us with this free gift (although Peter spent HOURS of his leisure time adding page after page...) and has enabled us to get out to a much larger audience what we are all about. We have had such positive feedback from a wide range of people and this encourages us to set out even further into the deep.....

Yes, already there has been an article in the G2 pages of the Guardian, an interview with Radio 4 (for the Sunday morning program) and an interview for the Tablet. We have been asked to do four entries for the faith column of the New Statesman blog but we have managed to forestall this until the early summer because we have so much going on at present. Two TV programs and a magazine wanted to send people to live alongside for a while but we have decided to wait a while before accepting this kind of exposure. Shall we let them wait for 17 years as our dear Cistercian friends did?

If you yourself have any suggestions for the website eg things to add etc www.walsinghamcommunity.org please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Community News

Karen from Woking joined the community on 2nd January and is settling in really well. She has brought many gifts to the community, one of which is her musical talent and this, together with the gift of a keyboard from our Carmelite sisters at Golders Green, means that we are already singing a lot more of the Divine Office. There is definitely a lot of room for improvement but things are looking

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Risen Lord, you travel
with us as our constant
guide

Risen Lord, you come
walking, listening and
discussing

Risen Lord, you are in
our talking, laughing
and sharing

Risen Lord, you know
all that happens on our
road

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Jo is enjoying her pastoral placement at the Marillac Nursing Home and is getting deeper and deeper into her vocational growth therapy. Gabi is getting good results for her assignments for the MA in Spirituality that she is doing at Heythrop, despite the stresses of deadlines and not being able to write in her first language. Terry, our aspirant is living nearby and is an excellent space to make a decision regarding her vocation in life. Camilla is learning all the intricacies of dealing with the media – other projects suggested by the aforementioned friends are up her sleeve so we may hear more of that in future newsletters. We'll keep you posted.

Several other young women are considering joining the community, one is even coming from Switzerland for a week's visit.... If you know of any young woman aged 18 to 35 considering religious life and who may be interested in our new community, please let them know about the weekend we are organising **Ever Ancient, Ever New from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th May.**

Autumn Seminars

As many of you are already aware, an important aspect of our charism is to help all people live life vocationally. With this in mind we hope to arrange annual retreats/conferences/seminars etc to support people in different vocational states of life. This autumn we have invited by Fr William Jarema Founder of the Mercy Center in Colorado Springs (where Camilla studied last September) and “*an excellent speaker*” as experienced by Fr John Armitage, to lead the following initiatives:

Celebrating Celibacy as a Way of Living, Loving and Being
Seminar for Diocesan Clergy from Mon 1st – Fri 5th October 2007
Parenting

A day conference for Mums and Dads young and not so young on Parenting
Saturday 6th October 2007

Growing in Wisdom and Grace: Spirituality for Everyday
Weekend for Young Single Adults Aged 18 – 35 from Fri 12th -Sun 14th
October

The Beatitudes and the Call to Simplicity: Archetypal Dimensions of Poverty
Seminar for Religious from Mon 15th – Fri 19th October 2007

Further details of all these and booking forms can be found on the Events Page of our website. If you can spread the word and let others know about these it would be much appreciated.

And finally...

We wish you all the best for a grace-filled Easter. May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord accompany you throughout the Easter season. May the assurance of his resurrection and of his victory over death enable us all to keep our eyes fixed on the things of heaven even as we are fully committed to building up his kingdom here on earth.

With thanks for your continued support, and keeping you and all your intentions in our prayers,

*Sr Camilla, Sr Gabriela,
Johanna and Karen*