



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Edmonton Diocesan Council

Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

April 2007

Dear Sisters of the League,

What began as a brief curiosity into the many religious orders of men, women and lay people in the Archdiocese, turned into in-depth research. As I learned about the origins of these many orders, I saw a glimpse of the love for humanity many of the founders had for God's people. There was a hole that needed to be filled, and they found a way to do it.

Much of the information used to create these brief profiles was graciously obtained from members of the orders. Some information was collected from websites.

My hope is that this document will inspire men and women in your communities to consider a vocation in the priesthood or religious life.

Edna Hodgson
Christian Family Life Chairperson 2005-2007
The Catholic Women's League Canada
Edmonton Archdiocesan Council

Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart
Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth
that they may know the vocation wherein they can best
serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow
God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen
their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their
minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the
vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service.
Amen.



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Name of Religious Order: Congregation of Notre Dame

When were they formed? Marguerite Bourgeoys was born in France in 1620. In 1640, during a celebration in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, a special touch from God transformed Marguerite Bourgeoys' heart and challenged her faith. She joined a group of young Christian women who prayed together, taught and helped the most impoverished. In 1653, she came to Canada and founded a society that would embody the ideals of the first Christians. Very quickly, God's call for her to serve became clear. Plague broke out on the ship bringing her from France to Canada; she then served as a nurse with a compassionate heart.

In Montreal, Marguerite entered whole heartedly into the lives of the families she met. She was their social worker, marriage counselor, mentor, grief counselor, mother and friend. Wanting to pass on the faith to children, she opened the first school in Montreal in an abandoned stable in the spring of 1658. A daring teacher, she created a place where young women could gather to learn new domestic skills to earn a living. In all situations, she sacrificed herself so that the great precept of "*the Love of God and of the Neighbour be written in every heart*".

In 1982, Marguerite Bourgeoys was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

What is their focus? Their focus is teaching, being with families, with youth, with refugees, in soup kitchens and journeying with people who continue to discover God's place in their lives. Following Marguerite Bourgeoys' example, the congregation of Notre Dame tries to respond creatively to the challenges of each moment.

St. Marguerite's Vision: Visitation- Pentecost Spirituality

St. Marguerite reflected on the role of Mary through the Visitation: Mary was the first apostle, in fact, the first person sent to proclaim the Good News of God's dwelling among us. When Marguerite reflected on Mary's role in the Visitation, she concluded that she, too, was called to that role, as were those who would join her mission. Reflection on the Visitation suggests that both women - Mary, as well as Elizabeth - were changed as a result of their encounters.

Just as Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, so too was she present at Pentecost, waiting with the community of believers, for the birth of the Church by the same Spirit. As Marguerite Bourgeoys imagined it, Mary was present but not simply for the Pentecost event, but for all the early years of the Church's life.

So inspired, Marguerite traveled from France in the 17th century to help create in the new city of Montreal, "a new church in a new world", modeled on the first Christian Community.

In her spirit, the Congregation of Notre Dame joins with others to foster the life and mission of the Christian community.

As Sisters, Associates, colleagues and volunteers of the Congregation of Notre Dame, we strive to make Mary's life the pattern of our prayer, ministry and community. We try to imitate the way Mary lived on earth, inspired by her visit to her cousin Elizabeth and her experience in the midst of the Christian community at Pentecost. (Luke 1:39-56, Acts 1:12-14 & 2:1-4)

If you want more information, contact: www.cnd-m.com
Email cnde@cnd-m.com
Susan Kidd, Vocation Director



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Name of Religious Order: The Congregation of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus

When were they formed? The Congregation was founded in Poland in 1947 by Fr. Michael Sopocko as the answer for the apparition of Jesus Christ, who ordered St. Faustina Kowalska among other things, to found the new religious community.

According to Sr. Faustina's diary of June 29, 1935, *"when I talked to my spiritual director (Fr. Sopocko) about various things that the Lord was asking of me, I thought he would tell me that I was incapable of accomplishing all those things, and that the Lord Jesus did not use miserable souls like me for the works He wanted done. But I heard words to the effect that it was just such souls that God chooses most frequently to carry out His plans. This priest is surely guided by the Spirit of God; he has penetrated the secrets of my soul, the deepest secrets which were between me and God, about which I had not yet spoken to him, because I had not understood them myself, and the Lord had not clearly ordered me to tell him.*

The secret is this: God demands that there be a Congregation which will proclaim the mercy of God to the world and, by its prayers, obtain it for the world. When the priest asked me if I had not any such inspirations, I replied that I had not had any clear orders; but at that instant a light penetrated my soul and I understood that the Lord was speaking through him. In vain had I defended myself by saying I had not received any clear orders, for at the end of our conversation I saw the Lord Jesus on the threshold, as He is represented in the image (of the Divine Mercy), and He said to me, I desire that there be such a Congregation."

Sr. Faustina died in 1938 at the age of 33. She had been a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy from 1925 until her death.

The members of the congregation of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus begin each activity to renew the message of: *Jesus, I Trust in You*. The spirituality of the congregation consists in surrendering to God's will and by trustfully accepting all the consequences, which such surrendering brings.

In 1996, a group of Alberta women decided to dedicate their lives to what Faustina did for most of her short life - spread the mercy of Jesus throughout the world. To go about it, they set up a local house of the Congregation of Sisters of Merciful Jesus and today they enthusiastically carry out their mission as apostles of mercy among native people at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish at Hobbema, AB.

What is their focus? The congregation leads the apostolic life, trying to answer for the actual needs of the Church. The sisters work in 17 monastic houses in Poland and in 16 houses abroad (including the one at Hobbema, AB.) They run a hospice, a house of protection of life conceived where they hold retreats and catechise. In Bialystok, Poland, the sisters tend to the Shrine of Divine Mercy and also the grave of the Servant of God Fr. Michael Sopocko, and the home where he lived out his final years.

At Hobbema, Alberta, the sisters pray five times a day, beginning at 5:55 a.m.; they help with sacramental preparation and other basic work in the parish, the most important being simply to be 'present to the native community here' according to house superior Sister Josefina Pollentes. The sisters regularly visit the nursing home in Hobbema and hope to start make regular home visits to the sick and the elderly in the near future. They also hope to start doing prison ministry in the area.



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The convent at Hobbema is the only Canadian house of the 100 member sisters of Merciful Jesus.

(The information on the Hobbema convent was gathered from The Western Catholic Reporter, February 14, 2000).

If you want more information, contact: The Congregation of Sisters of Merciful Jesus
Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish
Box 128
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0
780-585-3920 or Fax 780-585-3940
Email: faustina@telusplanet.net



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Name of Religious Order: The Discalced Carmelite Nuns
(The order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel)

When were they formed? Nine hundred years before the birth of Christ, the great prophet, Elijah, lived on Mount Carmel, in Palestine. Two thousand years later, in the 12th century of the Christian era, a group of hermits from Europe settled on this same mountain. These hermits imitated Christ in the solitary aspects of His life: in His fasting in the desert, in His watching by night in prayer, and in His surrender to the Cross. The hermits of Mount Carmel placed themselves under the protection of Our Lady and they built in her honour a very beautiful little church. Soon they became known as the “hermits of St. Mary of Mount Carmel” and “the hermit brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel”.

Today, the successors of these hermits form the Carmelite Order. On July 16th, they solemnly commemorate their life-long devotion to Our Lady. The early Carmelites studied Elijah’s way of life. They imitated him. They prayed to him, addressing him as their “leader and father”. They came to be regarded as true followers of Elijah, true sons of the great prophet. In this spiritual sense, Elijah is called the “founder” of the Carmelite Order. And the way of the Carmelite Order is termed “the prophetic vocation”. The prophetic vocation means, primarily, living in the presence of God and bearing witness to God. It is a combination of a life of union with God and a life of apostolic activity.

The Carmelite’s Second Order, which is an affiliation of Carmelite nuns, began in 1452. The first official convent of nuns was at Florence, Italy. It was followed by a rapid growth of Carmelite convents in Europe. The Carmelite nuns follow the Rule of St. Albert and the Constitutions of St. Teresa of Jesus. St. Teresa had rekindled the Marian and prophetic spirit of the Carmelite vocation. She provided for strict enclosure, for solitude, silence, poverty and penance.

There is also a Carmelite Third Order which originated in the 15th century. It is an association of **Lay people who are affiliated with the Order**. They continue with their ordinary secular occupations but follow the “rule of life” which follows the broad outlines of the Rule of St. Albert.

What is their focus? The Carmelite nuns focus on solitude, study, prayer (especially the prayer of contemplation), manual labour, fasting, vigils and works of mercy. The Carmelite sisters are very much a contemplative order. The contemplative nun shares with all Christians the means of seeking and serving God: prayer, the sacraments, attention to the word of God in Scripture, and love of neighbour. The nature of her particular vocation is to live a life made extremely simple so as to allow her to concentrate all her energies on this search for God. All that is included in her life - prayer, relationships with her sisters and with all whom she may know or meet, work, recreation - is meant to help her in this search and all that would tend to distract her is excluded. Like all Christian vocations, it is a following of Christ and a gift of God given to guild up Christ’s body, the Church. It is not undertaken from motives of escape from the world, nor for mere self-cultivation, but in response to God’s call and from a desire to serve him and others. It is one form of that gift of self which God solicits from each one of us. The contemplative life is an embodiment of, and witness to, those deep interior values without which man is only half alive.



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To contemplatives, Pope John Paul II said, "Your lives are hidden with Christ in God. In silence and through prayer and penance you praise him. You call down his graces and blessings upon God's people (*cf Perfectae Caritatis 7*) ... Contemplative prayer brings mankind a proper understanding of human dignity and spiritual values.

"A Carmelite is - a woman wholly dedicated to God

- a woman of prayer
- a devoted daughter of the Church"

If you want more information, contact: The Carmelite Monastery
#12-51222, Range Road 270
Spruce Grove, AB T7Y 1G7
c/o: Mother Teresa of Jesus ocd, Prioress



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Name of Religious Order: Faithful Companions of Jesus

When were they formed? The Society of the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus were founded on Holy Thursday, 1820 in Amiens, France, by a French widow named Marie Madeleine d'Houet. The inner call from God that she received was to be a companion to Jesus, following Ignatian spirituality and way of life, to found institutions for the education of children, to give retreats and spiritual direction, and to engage in missionary endeavours. Marie Madeleine took on as her inspiration, the holy women of the Gospel who followed and ministered to Jesus during his public life even to the foot of the Cross and were privileged to announce the wondrous news of the Resurrection.

What is their Focus? The FCJ's are an international religious order with Sisters in many parts of the world. The FCJ sisters first arrived in Canada in Prince Albert and St. Laurent in 1883 at the invitation of Bishop Grandin OMI. The sisters were sheltered in St. Laurent during the Riel Rebellion following which the Bishop requested that they go to Calgary. In Canada, FCJ sisters have served in Calgary since 1885, in Edmonton since 1888 and they were in Lethbridge from 1890 to 2005. They have been established in Toronto since 1951 where they are now involved in work for refugees, giving spiritual direction and in school-related ministry. Sisters have served the Prince George Diocese of Northern BC since 1987 and two are at present ministering in Smithers and Moricetown Reserve, BC. In Calgary, they operate a Retreat/Conference Centre, the *FCJ Christian Life Centre*. In Edmonton, sisters are engaged in pastoral ministry at the University, in volunteer work at hospitals and parish, in giving spiritual direction, and in ministry with L'Arche and in a Safe House for youth at risk. Elsewhere in the Americas, FCJ's serve in various capacities in the USA (Rhode Island, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Alabama and California), in Argentina (La Banda, Salta), in Bolivia (Tarija and environs) and will soon be in Mexico.

If you want more information, contact: Visit www.fcjsisters.org.

Or contact:

Bonnie Moser fcJ	780-437-9090
Pat Desnoyers fcJ	780-437-9090
Margaret Mary Benoit fcJ	780-439-1667



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Name of Religious Order: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

When were they formed? The order was founded by Lurana White who had been a novice of the Episcopal Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in Albany, New York. In the spring of 1897, she wrote Reverend Louis T. Wattson (later to become Fr. Paul), about her frustrating search for a religious community whose members publicly professed the vow of poverty and lived according to the Franciscan tradition. Knowing of no such community, Fr. Wattson wrote Miss White about his own long-standing hope of founding the Society of the Atonement, which started a long correspondence between the two. They decided to form a community that would adopt the Franciscan tradition and be dedicated to the goal of promoting Christian unity and mission. In October 1898, they met in Warwick, New York at the White family home, which was called Graymoor. Fr. Wattson was encouraged by what he saw - a tiny chapel and an old farmhouse standing in the midst of a howling wilderness. In the early years, Fr. Wattson and Sr. White tried to convince Anglicans that they should unite with the Roman Catholic Church. They courageously continued to proclaim the goal of Christian unity in spite of opposition from Episcopalians and other members of the Anglican Communion. Fr. Wattson took the religious name Paul and soon discovered that few pulpits of the Episcopalian church were open to him. The early years continued to be difficult, but the two founders persevered in doing God's will by imitating Jesus Christ the Reconciler and by following the path of Francis of Assisi, the Little Poor Man. Such was their commitment as Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement. In October 1909, Fr. Paul, Sr. Lurana and a few companions were received in the Roman Catholic Church by Monsignor Joseph Conroy of Ogdensburg, NY. Many Catholics thought the friars and sisters of Graymoor were still secret Protestants. Eventually that reputation was overcome.

In 1935, when Mother Lurana died, the Society of the Atonement was firmly established in the Roman Catholic Church.

What is their focus? The sisters today are engaged in diverse ministries on behalf of Christian Unity and Mission throughout the world. Faithful to the ecumenical and missionary vision of their foundress, Mother Lurana, who wanted her sisters to have many foundations, small and poor, but rich in charity toward God, one another and the souls of men, the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement have spread to five countries - the USA, Canada, Italy, Japan and Brazil.

They are involved in religious education, social welfare, community development programs, pastoral, hospital and prison ministries, home visitation, adult day care, child day care and kindergartens, youth ministry, justice and peace work, and guest and retreat house ministries. The Franciscan sisters of the Atonement continue to pursue their founders' experiment with tradition in order '*that all may be one, that the world may believe.*'

If you want more information, contact: Our Lady of the Atonement House
11035 - 92 St., Edmonton, AB T5H 1W5
780-422-7263
Sr. Diane Bernier, SA Administrator

Or:

The Vocations Office, Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
41 Old Highland Tpke, Graymoor, Garrison, NY 10524
845-424-3623 ext.283
Email: VocationMinistry@graymoor.org



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Name of Religious Order: Les Filles de Jesus (Daughters of Jesus- FJ)

When were they formed? In Brittany, France on November 25, 1834. They were founded to care for the sick poor and to educate girls.

They have been in Canada since 1902. Their patron saints are Mary and Joseph.

"We recall with gratitude the charism of our Founders, we want to be led by the same Spirit of Jesus who inspired them and to renew our desire to continue in today's world what they began". (*Rule of Life #1*)

What is their focus? Their charism is "to honour the sacred humanity of Jesus by living the Spirituality of the Incarnation in our lifestyle and ministry; with simplicity, compassion and closeness to people; thus making visible God's loving presence."

They serve these ministries: pastoral health care; education/catechetics; parish ministry; native ministry; missions in Africa, Central and South America; prayer, retreats and spiritual direction; and service within the community.

They also have a Lay Associate program. Associates can be laity or clergy, women or men, married or single, who, inspired with the Charism of the Daughters of Jesus, desire to live their faith more deeply as committed Christians in their chosen walk of life.

Why become an associate member? To share in the spiritual heritage of the congregation, you can respond to the grace received in baptism and discover with others the will of God which is to bring people together in love. You can develop a spirituality of incarnation which gives meaning to daily life and calls for a concrete commitment to create a world of greater justice and love for all. You can also take part in a sharing which creates a sense of belonging.

How can you become an associate member? You will journey with a team member and a group in order to discern the call to become an Associate Member. You will participate in monthly group gatherings of formation, sharing and prayer. You will make a public commitment as an Associate member. You will allow the Spirit of Jesus Christ to permeate the moments of your life.

"Let us strive to progress continuously in the spirit of faith which sees God in all things and all things in God and which learns to turn all obstacles into means of advancing towards Him." (M.M. St. Charles, 1877)

As Associates with the Daughters of Jesus, we honor the Son of God, who shared our human condition. As we strive to follow in His footsteps:

We keep our gaze steadily upon Jesus, attentive to His words, His attitudes, His way of relating to people. We live close to people, with a special compassion for the most deprived. We strive to look at everything from the point of view of the poor. We take on a fundamental attitude that favors life, non-violence, respect and peace. We work towards creating communities through communion, prayer, sharing and celebration. We collaborate with others to be a leaven in the world where freedom and dignity will be restored.

If you want more information, contact: Les Filles de Jesus
9411- 88 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6C 1M5
780-469-7756 or Fax 780-465-1359



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Name of Religious Order: Missionnaires Oblates de Saint-Boniface

When were they formed? From the writings of Rosa Bruno-Jofre, accounts the formation of the Missionnaires Oblates of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate in Manitoba. This order was formed in 1904 by Monseigneur Adélarde Langevin, omi. who was then archbishop of St. Boniface. Ida Lafricain and Alma Laurendeau are co-founders. The foundation was to be, in part, an answer to the Manitoba School question, an urgent need in the diocese, and essential in fulfilling the duty to the flock. Langevin heavily emphasized Catholic schooling for the development of the faith. There were many Ukrainian, Polish and German immigrants and the archbishop wanted them to retain their maternal languages.

The Sisters shared with the Oblate Fathers devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with reparation as the main element. They also shared a devotion to Mary Immaculate and a commitment to evangelize the poor.

What is their focus? From what I can gather from information on the internet, the Missionnaires Oblates of Saint-Boniface focused on the education of the children in the newly formed parts of Canada. They moved west into Alberta at some point, and were probably involved in education at that time.

(I do not have complete information at this time.... E. Hodgson)

If you want more information, contact: Sr. Dolorése Déry
9928-110 St.
Edmonton, AB T5K 1J3
780-482-3233



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Name of Religious Order: Montfort Sisters (Daughters of Wisdom / Les Filles de la Sagesse)

When were they formed? Les Filles de la Sagesse or Daughters of Wisdom were founded at Poitiers, France by Blessed Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort in 1703. He was temporary chaplain of the hospital at Poitiers, when in 1707, he gathered into community some pious but variously afflicted girls, and gave them a rule of life, the main points which have been retained in the Rule of the Daughters of Wisdom. Montfort placed a large wooden cross in their meeting room to indicate that true wisdom is in the 'foolishness' of the cross. This community of poor, crippled, blind and sickly girls was destined, under God's providence, to give solid religious training to Louise Trichet who became Sister Marie-Louise of Jesus.

What is their focus? The congregation strives to acquire heavenly wisdom by imitating the Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ. The means for imitating Christ is a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Today the Daughters of Wisdom direct the institutes of the blind and deaf-mutes in several areas in France. They had been also involved in hospitals, psychiatric institutions, orthopaedic institutes, poor-houses, kindergartens, day nurseries, boarding schools, day schools and parochial schools. In Canada, the sisters work in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and in Alberta.

If you want more information, contact: Sr. Clare Charlesbois
122 Falconer Court
Edmonton, AB T6R 2V8
780-435-1202, 780-435-1244
or Fax 780-438-0869
Email: clairecha@canada.com



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Name of Religious Order: Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM)

When were they formed? The foundress of this order is Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo of the Philippines. She lived from 1663 to 1748. At the age of 21, Ignacia felt called by God to a life of higher perfection. Her parents wanted her to marry but she preferred to consecrate herself to God, following the movement of grace in her soul. The Jesuit Father, Pablo Clain, residing in Manila, providentially helped her to discover the plan of God in her life. Guided by such a good director and teacher, Ignacia assimilated perfectly the spirituality of St. Ignatius and decided to consecrate her life for the greater glory of God. Her choice apostolate was the retreat movement through the Spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius which was made available to all classes of people.

What is their focus?

The RVM apostolate concentrate on Christian education, retreat work, dormitory work, seminary work, tribal minorities apostolate, catechetics, social/pastoral ministry, family life, prison apostolate, foreign missions - American Samoa, Ghana, West Africa, Indonesia, Italy, Switzerland, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, USA and Canada.

The RVM Mission statement is:

We, the Religious of the Virgin Mary, the first Filipino congregation, born of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo's discernment and courageous response to the will of the Father, are called to be contemplatives in action, in imitation of Mary. We form a community of women forgiven and forgiving, committed to the service of the Kingdom in response to the signs of the times, with the preferential option for the poor.

Basic requirements for Admission:

1. A sufficient and adequate motivation, that is, a desire to dedicate oneself unconditionally to God in the service of His Kingdom.
2. A sufficient affective maturity, openness to experience and able to live in a community life.
3. A sufficient mental and physical health.
4. An average level of intelligence to progress in the understanding of spiritual and religious life as well in studies and work.
5. A college degree, preferably with work experience.

If you want more information, contact: Sr. Maria Cornelia Ramirez, RVM
St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church
7508 - 29 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6K 378

Or:

Religious of the Virgin Mary
1624 Lakewood Road West
Edmonton, AB T6K 3H4
780-462-8792



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Name of Religious Order: The Sisters of the Precious Blood

Their official title is Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

When were they formed? Their foundress is Catherine Aurelia Caouette who formed the order in 1861. As a young child, Aurelia had a marked devotion to the Passion of Our Lord. As a teenager while at boarding school, Aurelia met Fr. Joseph Raymond who was the confessor and spiritual director of the Sisters (Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame, who ran the school) and the students. When she was 18 years old, she made a resolution to practice poverty. In 1854, Aurelia became a member of the Third order of St. Dominic and was given the additional name of Catherine of Siena, the theologian of the Precious Blood. On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 1861, Catherine Aurelia and three companions founded this first contemplative community in Canada. Bishop Joseph LaRocque and Msgr. Joseph Raymond were co-founders.

"I crave hearts who will return Him love for love... hearts who will be united in Prayer, Reparation, Suffering to the Holy Victim who knew so perfectly how to love, to obey, and to suffer for souls."

This is a cloistered contemplative order.

What is their focus? They have as their contemporary mission to keep present in the Church and in the whole world the ministry of Prayer and Reparation carried on in Silence and Solitude. The principle end of the institute is to give glory to the Father through the worship of His Son Jesus, and to honour Mary, Immaculate in her Conception and through these means to Pray for the salvation of all God's people. They are a community called to a life of Contemplative prayer directed in a special way to the great love which Jesus showed to all mankind in the shedding of His Precious Blood. One essential characteristic of our way of life is Joy, since a vocation of Love and Reparation is a cause of Joy to the whole world, reminding all believers of the presence of that blessing we already possess here on earth.

Theirs is a ministry of prayer within contemplative community life. In accord with their foundress, while praying always for the Universal church, they must pray especially for the dioceses from which all the sisters come and for the local church in which they live, the faith of its people, the holiness of its priests and the cares of its Bishops. Their central devotion is to make the Blood of Jesus known and glorified. Each sister has special hours of Adoration and Reparation in which she prays for the intentions of all who share their needs for prayers with them, and for this special time of prayers and solitude the sister needs the Cloister. Within the solitude of the Cloister, their foundress says, "She is free to labour with all her strength for those who do not pray, for those who weep, for the sick and the aged, for families, for all things."

Hours of prayer are interspersed with a variety of works. These activities make for full, interesting and wholesome days permeated with a spirit of prayer. They are likewise filled with Joy in the knowledge that each moment of each day is part of the complete gift of self consecrated to Jesus by vows. Their activities, besides spending as much time as possible before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer, are making altar bread and being available to the general public when they are burdened with difficulties that need an understanding heart and open ear. These they do both by telephone and correspondence.

If you want more information, contact:

Sister Margaret Mary, APB, Vocation Directress or Sister Teodosia, Assistant Directress
c/o: Sisters of the Precious Blood
p415 - 165 St.
Edmonton, AB T5R 2S5



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (sc-ic)

When were they formed? Their foundress was Honoria Conway - "Praise be to God."
The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception was the first English speaking congregation founded in Canada in 1854.

In 1999, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated 75 years of ministry in Alberta. The story begins in August, 1924, when three Sisters of Charity left St. John, New Brunswick, in response to the invitation of the Redemptorist Fathers, to teach school in the newly founded St. Alphonsus parish. The first schools were portable buildings and store fronts, until a six room brick school was built and opened in September 1927. From these humble beginnings, the Sisters reached out in faith and love, responding to the needs of the people of Alberta.

What is their focus? Throughout their years in Alberta, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception have offered dedicated and faithful service as teachers in schools and at Newman Theological College, in Catechetical ministry, as pastoral assistants in parishes, as staff at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, and the Alberta Regional Tribunal. They have also been in ministry tutoring, in literacy, music ministry, inner city ministry, prison ministry, massage therapy, spiritual direction, serving on Boards of organizations, and caring for the poor and needy in a variety of ways. Since 1986, the Sisters of Charity have welcomed men and women to journey with them as Associates of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. Journeying together, the Sisters and Associates continue to discover the richness of deepening their baptismal response to the mission of Jesus.

In 2004, the congregation celebrated 150 years. They give praise and thanks to God for all who have been part of their story.

"We welcome and look for a heart for the poor, a longing for wholeness in all of life, an ability in relating with others, a desire to respond to God's call, and the presence of professional and life experience...:

If you want more information, contact: Prairie Region
9333 -107 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5H 0T4
306-664-4072
Website: www.sc-ic.org
Email: cpscic@nb.sympatico.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
(Les soeurs de l'Assomption la Sainte Vierge)

When were they formed? This order was founded on September 8, 1853 in the parish of St.-Grégoire-de-Nicolet, Quebec by Father Jean Harper, aided by his assistant, Father Calixte Marquis. The interest in education of St-Grégoire's parishioners was shared by their pastor. Jean Harper, a born educator, was convinced that the education of the young women entrusted to him, was fundamental to their Christian formation. Confident in providence and moved by an extraordinary charity, Fr. Harper was able to successfully undertake the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Four young women of the parish: Leocadie Bourgeois, Mathilde Leduc, Hedwidge Buisson and Julie Heon agreed to join the newly-founded community and committed themselves to the work proposed by Father Harper. Since its origin, the spiritual inspiration of the Congregation has been profoundly christocentric and Marian. The Virgin of the Assumption is proposed to our faith as the final accomplishment where God, Father and Providence, guides humanity through and by Christ. The Virgin Mary has received and lived the Word of God in her whole being. Therefore, her worldly path led her to the glory of eternal beatitude.

What is their focus? Conceived in a local Church, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin carries out a ministry of education. Its three part focus targets the youth, young women destined to become teachers and the special needs of the poor. With preference for teaching in rural areas, the Congregation's vitality fulfills the power of its initial spirit. The Congregation opened itself to new callings: co-educational schools, Indian missions, teacher training colleges, schools of domestic arts, musical schools, classical colleges, studios of fine arts, as well as catechetical works and foreign missions. Today, as in the past, the Congregation finds its inspiration and support in the grace of its origins. The Congregation maintains its educational presence to address the needs of changing times. The sisters become involved in new activities to adapt to the needs of the secular and Christian communities: adult education, presence to the underprivileged, religious education, spiritual accompaniment and pastoral ministries. Each sister, regardless of ministry, helps fulfill the mission of the Congregation within the Church.

The Congregation also receives support from the lay associate members seeking to deepen their Christian Life. These men and women share the same spirituality as the sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and commit themselves to incarnate this spirituality in their respective environment.

The motto, RESPICE STELLAM, VOCA MARIAM, defines the nature of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin: a Marian congregation. The multicolored cross, symbolizes Christ's command:

"Go, teach all nations."

If you want more information, contact: Email: info@sasv.ca Website: www.sasv.ca

Vocation Director
251, rue Saint-Jean-Baptiste
Nicolet, Quebec J3T 1X9
Ph: 819-293-2011
Fax: 819-293-5458

Sr. Louise Laneville Vocations Director
3115, rue De Blois
Trois Rivières, Québec G8Z 1R4
Tel: 819-372-1812



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of the Religious Order: Sisters of Charity "Grey Nuns" of Montreal

When were they formed? In 1737, Marguerite d'Youville founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal "Grey Nuns". Marguerite Dufrost de Lajemmerais was born in Varennes, Quebec on October 15, 1701. She married François d'Youville on August 12, 1722 and had six children, four of whom died in early age. They raised two boys who became priests. As a Sister of Charity, Sr. Marguerite devoted her life to the poor, searching out every human misery and doing all she could to alleviate the social ills of her time. She died on December 23, 1771 at the age of 70. She was beatified by Pope John XXIII on May 3, 1959 and canonized by Pope John Paul II on December 9, 1990. She is the first Canadian Saint.

What is their focus? The Grey nuns ran a boarding school for orphans in St. Albert, AB from 1863 to 1948; they taught in their homes and in established schools from 1863 to 1976; they provided nursing in homes from 1870 to 1895; they provided the novitiate program for young women who wished to become Grey Nuns from 1934 to 1954; from 1947 to 2000, they ran Youville Home for the sisters who lived with and cared for many sick and elderly; from 1982 to the present, they provide pastoral care at Youville house and in St. Albert parish, and from 1998 to the present, they run Marguerite Residence, which is a small home for 4 sisters who work in St. Albert.

In Edmonton, the sisters were active from 1895 to the present day in these capacities: established Edmonton General Hospital in 1895, which was the first hospital in Edmonton to care for the sick and the dying as a response to the community need. The hospital is now administered by Caritas Health Corporation.

They also were and are involved in many, many more activities: school of nursing, school of medical records, teaching in elementary and High schools, vocation ministry, social work, clothes for the needy, conference and retreat centre, Christian Living experience, Formation Centre West, pastoral care, sponsoring refugees, operation Friendship, parish ministry, visiting senior citizens, associate ministry, Placid Place (for retired priests), bible study program, Grey Nuns hospital (1988-1999), La Salle (safe place for women and their children), Caritas Health Group, Food bank and prison ministry.

If you want more information, contact: Eveline Gagnon, sgm
9810 - 165 St. NW
Edmonton, AB T5P 3S7
780-484-5611
Email: egagnon@greynuns.ab.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Charity of St. Louis

When were they formed? The order was started by Marie Louise Elisabeth de Lamoignon, who was born into an aristocratic family. She lived from October 3, 1763 to March 4, 1825. In 1803, the widowed Mme. Mole, mother of two grown children, opened a house of charity in Paris to serve the church. She became Mother St. Louis, founded her institute and placed it under the protection of St. Louis, a model of faith, a friend of the poor and a champion of peace and justice. Seeing the misery of her time and the desperate need for education, she opened weaving and lace workshops as well as a school for the poor and destitute girls. "Yes, to educate these children and to cultivate their hearts and spirits are the greatest service of charity we can render them."

As a daughter of the Church, sensitive to the spiritual distress of her country after the French Revolution, Mother St. Louis welcomed in her houses lay people who wished to spend time in silence and prayer.

"Could it be, O my God, that you really call us to found such charity shelters in other countries as well: are you really calling us to that kind of apostolate?"

This order is found in France, USA, Haiti, England, Madagascar, Mexico, Republic of Mali, Martinique, Republic of Senegal and Canada.

What is their focus? Today,... the world needs teachers who can help men and women give meaning to their lives and engage them in building a more just and well-integrated society, where each individual will be recognized and accepted in his/her dignity as a child of God..." Pope John Paul II, audience with the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, July 9, 1996.

There is a shared charism with associate members, that we are drawn to the same spirituality and committed to the Church mission, we witness to the tender and merciful love of God at the heart of the world...

These sisters work in the community. "We have a special interest in co-coordinating our activities with others; we search for ways of collaborating effectively with those who work for the gospel." - Rule of Life

"Our vocation is strengthened and renewed through our community prayer, the sharing of the word of God, and the celebration of the Eucharist." - Rule of Life

"...as compassionate women, we are impelled by the love of Christ to walk in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed. Deeply concerned for the advancement of justice, we commit ourselves... to promote the respect and dignity of each person." - orientations of the 21st General Chapter

If you want more information, contact: Vocation Director
Provincial House
3723 - 40 St. SW
Calgary, AB T3E 3K4

Or:

Sr. Mary Spence
#302- 160 Kingswood Blvd.
St. Albert, AB T8N 6Z2
780-458-0027



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (Halifax) (SC)

When were they formed? The charism of the Sisters of Charity- Halifax, are rooted in the tradition of Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac. From four sisters arriving in Halifax in 1849 grew a congregation of vibrant, dynamic women, teaching, healing, loving, risking, praying, supporting each other, serving the church.

What is their focus? The mission of the Sisters of Charity - Halifax is to give joyful witness to love: the love of God, of one another, and of all persons. "Corporately and individually, we strive to develop a sensitivity toward those whom the world oppresses, to right in great ways or small the injustices we see around us, to heal the wounds of the embittered, to speak peace to the troubled, to urge the mighty to right wrongs." (Constitutions). We live our mission through loving presence, through prayer, through ministry to others. The Congregation is a member of numerous religious and professional organizations including the Sisters of Charity Federation in the Vincentian-Setonian Tradition - more than 5,000 sisters from 13 Congregations.

A strong and rapidly growing Associates program is indicative of the vitality of the Charity charism. Currently, 160 Associates have committed to journeying with this Congregation in prayer and service. Small groups meet regularly in at least 11 different locations in Canada, the US and Bahamas. The interest in Associate programs have been steadily growing in congregations all across North America. They're attracted to the relationship through a desire for a deeper spiritual life and the particular charism and mission of the congregation.

Associates of the Sisters of Charity - Halifax can be found in every walk of life: in schools and hospitals, in business and social service settings. They are married, single, young and old, well-off and poor. They bring the charism of charity, the love of God, into places and among people where Sisters have no access, and are no longer found.

Sister Maria Sutherland co-ordinates the Associates Program for the Sisters of Charity, with numerous team members in the various regions. Attendance at workshops and meetings of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious keeps them current on trends and others' experiences. Sister Maria says, "This is not something we are doing; this is the work of the Spirit; we are simply recognizing it and facilitating its growth."

If you want more information, contact: Congregational Administration
150 Bedford Highway
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 3J5
Tel: 902-457-3500 or Fax: 902-457-3506

Or:
Sr. Annata Brockman
#632- 12720 - 111 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5M 3X3
780-488-6321



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Secular Institute: Secular Institute of Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate

When were they formed? The Spirit moves where He wills and when He wills....

In 1952, it was under the Spirit's guidance that Father Louis-Marie Parent, omi, sought God's will in view of starting a new foundation. The founder who was filled with burning apostolic and missionary zeal, set out to work without exactly knowing the outcome of the movement which was being born. Through faith and courage, he overcame many difficulties and misunderstandings.

From the very beginning, the Institute was made up of a dynamic group of young enthusiastic women who were called by the Spirit to live this wonderful project.

What is their focus? Our mission is similar to that of all secular institutes. It commits us to a responsible presence and to a transforming action within the temporal realities to make them more just and more human. As Oblates, this mission specifically invites us, like Christ, to manifest the unconditional love of God the Father to everyone by revealing the signs of His presence at the heart of daily life. We live this commitment in different milieus, through a trade or a profession of our choice, and by sharing the concerns common to all.

Our Charism defines our way of being in the world. It is a spiritual dynamism that enables us to realize our mission and therefore to participate in the mission of the Church in the world. The charism is what distinguishes us from other secular institutes. It invites us to a constant availability to the will of the Father to live everywhere the charity of Christ through service, with the help of Mary.

Availability to the Father's will, unconditional and universal love of neighbour, unselfish service to others and devotion to Mary are the components that continually inspire each Oblate as she carries out her mission.

Perhaps you meet members of secular institutes every day without even knowing it....

These are lay persons who choose to live the Gospel in the midst of the world and to share the same living conditions as their contemporaries. Members of secular institutes, men and women, consecrate their lives to God. By their presence in their work, they collaborate to the transformation of the world from within, as a leaven. In each their own way, secular institutes witness to a particular dimension of God's infinite love for the world. These persons usually live alone or in a small fraternity; they are engaged to their familial, ecclesial, professional, social and cultural milieus. This type of commitment, most often discreet was formally recognized by the Church in 1947. Today there are approximately 180 secular institutes scattered throughout the five continents.

If you want more information, contact: Margot Bilodeau, Director
Western Canada Sector
Email: ommi@ommi-is.org



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (sc-ic)

When were they formed? Their foundress was Honoria Conway - "Praise be to God."
The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception was the first English speaking congregation founded in Canada in 1854.

In 1999, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated 75 years of ministry in Alberta. The story begins in August, 1924, when three Sisters of Charity left St. John, New Brunswick, in response to the invitation of the Redemptorist Fathers, to teach school in the newly founded St. Alphonsus parish. The first schools were portable buildings and store fronts, until a six room brick school was built and opened in September 1927. From these humble beginnings, the Sisters reached out in faith and love, responding to the needs of the people of Alberta.

What is their focus? Throughout their years in Alberta, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception have offered dedicated and faithful service as teachers in schools and at Newman Theological College, in Catechetical ministry, as pastoral assistants in parishes, as staff at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, and the Alberta Regional Tribunal. They have also been in ministry tutoring, in literacy, music ministry, inner city ministry, prison ministry, massage therapy, spiritual direction, serving on Boards of organizations, and caring for the poor and needy in a variety of ways. Since 1986, the Sisters of Charity have welcomed men and women to journey with them as Associates of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. Journeying together, the Sisters and Associates continue to discover the richness of deepening their baptismal response to the mission of Jesus.

In 2004, the congregation celebrated 150 years. They give praise and thanks to God for all who have been part of their story.

"We welcome and look for a heart for the poor, a longing for wholeness in all of life, an ability in relating with others, a desire to respond to God's call, and the presence of professional and life experience...:

If you want more information, contact: Prairie Region
9333 -107 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5H 0T4
306-664-4072

Website: www.sc-ic.org
Email: cpscic@nb.sympatico.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of the Holy Cross CSC (Soeurs de Sainte-Croix)

When were they formed? The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross has their origins in the Marianites of the Holy Cross, founded in 1841 by the Venerable Basil Anthony Mary Moreau. From the beginning, congregational spirituality has been marked by a variety of influences: the liturgical life of the Benedictines, the spiritual discipline of the Jesuits, the attention to one's interior life of the Sulpicians. Fr. Moreau's spirituality was shaped by the events, needs and aspirations of post-revolutionary France. Today our spirituality continues to be immersed in world reality and in the Word of God.

What is their focus? We are a Roman Catholic Congregation of women religious, part of the international Holy Cross family of sisters, brothers and priests. Sisters of the Holy Cross live out Jesus' gospel and mission by ministering in many different ways to people around the world. Addressing unmet needs in a variety of cultures and settings, we minister in large hospitals and small outreach clinics; in elementary and secondary schools and universities; in churches and parishes; in the streets of the inner city and remote rural areas of eight countries on four continents. Each congregation was created to respond to a real need in the Church and world. Each order, or community, has a distinctive "charism", a heritage of special gifts and vision of the founder, and combinations of individual and communal gifts and ways of living the life of a religious. As Sisters of the Holy Cross, we are called to respond to evolving needs. Over the years, this has taken various forms - education; health care; women's development; justice stands related to the poor, the imprisoned and the environment; and other ministries as the needs of the world continue to emerge.

There is a special richness and challenge of being part of an international congregation which grows in valuing the diversity of its members' different cultures while living one common mission. Each Sister of the Holy Cross finds unique ways of responding to Jesus' love and mission. As Sisters of the Holy Cross, we center our personal and communal prayer in the liturgical and sacramental life of the church. The celebration of the Eucharist is the heart of our worship. We continue our praise of the Lord and our intercession for the salvation of the world through the daily morning and evening prayer of the church. Frequent reception of the sacrament of reconciliation and fidelity to daily personal and communal prayer deepens our union with God. Frequent meditation and reflective reading of Scripture dispose us to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus.

If you want more information, contact: Regional Administration
8745 - 92 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6C 1S2
780- 469-1784

Or:

Regional Animator
Sr. Lucienne Landry
7760 - 110 St.
Edmonton, AB T6G 1G1
Telephone: 780-437-7164



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus

When were they formed? The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus was founded by blessed Fr. Honoratus Kozminski (1829-1916) OFM Capuchin, December 10, 1887 in Warsaw, Poland. Mother Mary Frances Witkowska was co-founder. She was inspired by Fr. Kozminski to establish, under his direction, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Name of Jesus. At that time, the Polish Nation and its religion were under severe persecution by Russians. Our Congregation was called to life without any exterior signs of the religious state (Secret Sisters), to work among young workers, to encourage suffering people to perseverance. Strengthened by constant prayer and devotion, Mother Mary Frances aspired towards sanctity, serving her sisters, and in a special way, poor girls. She was renowned for her love of the Blessed Sacrament and the practice of penance, as well as a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin, Help of Christians, to whom she and her sisters dedicated their lives of poverty.

In 1893, during the persecution of the Church in her homeland, she was moved to offer her life as a sacrifice for the freedom and growth of the Church. The Sisters of the Sacred Name of Jesus offer the same sacrifice when they make their perpetual profession. A tender love of God and neighbour, a faith strengthened by a boundless confidence in Jesus, obedience and humility animated her personal life. She died on October 26th, 1895, revered by many as a saint. After her death, it was said, that her life was a sacrifice of love and fervour for God's glory offered for love of Him hidden in the Blessed Sacrament.

What is their focus? For 118 years, the Congregation has helped people of different social conditions by working in hospitals, schools, orphanages and parishes in Poland, England, Slovakia, Lithuania, Namibia and Canada.

In 1976, three of our Sisters arrived in Radway, AB to work in the diocese of St. Paul. For five years, the Sisters were living with Sisters of Charity working in their hospital in Radway, in the parish and learning English and the Canadian way of life. After that time, the Sisters bought a house, moved to Smoky Lake and have been living there since.

The Sisters actively participate in the parish. They visit people in their homes and work in Smoky Lake Hospital and Nursing Home. Two of them who work there as nursing staff, have contact with many Ukrainian people who very often don't know English. They can communicate with them because of the similarity of languages.

In 1990, three new sisters from Poland came to Edmonton to work in the daycare and the Polish parish of Our Lady Queen of Poland.

If you want more information, contact: Sisters of the Sacred Name of Jesus

Box 738
Smoky Lake, AB TOA 3C0

Or:

Sr. Anna Maka, Superior
8835 - 91 St.
Edmonton, AB T6C 3N3
780-440-1082



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name Of Religious Order: Sisters of Mission Service

When were they formed? We were founded on July 15, 1951 in North Battleford, SK. by Fr. Godfrey Kuckartz, omi.

What is their focus? At the time, Father was traversing the prairies and giving Missions. He noticed that in small communities especially, having a couple of Sisters would enhance the faith community. At that time the established Communities of Sisters formed "houses", which, if my memory of Canon Law serves me correctly, had to have a minimum of five Sisters. He also saw us working in established hospitals and schools, but not owning them.

Our beginnings were small and frugal. The 6 - 10 Sisters, under the leadership of Catherine Canon, did the cooking and laundry at the Oblate College in N. Battleford. In 1953, they moved to Prince Albert, and began their Novitiate training, along with working at the Catholic Centre and Hospital. In 1955, they moved to Saskatoon. Some cooked in the Rectories and the local Seminary, while others taught school, nursed, or pursued further studies. They took their first Vows on August 22, 1966.

More ladies joined this Community. The largest group to enter at any one time was 12 in 1958. A second house was purchased. As they were educated they moved further a field, first into rural Sask., then to the Yukon, and Lloydminster, AB. By 1965 we reached our peak in numbers: 58 Sisters. Along with Sisters leaving, two were killed in a car accident. We leveled out to about 25 - 30 Sisters. We also moved further west: to places (Calgary, Edmonton, and British Columbia), and into new ministries (Public Health Nursing, Parish and hospital pastoral ministry, and Counseling).

Our next big project was to fulfill part of our rule: "to serve in missions both near and far away." We opened a mission in Papua, New Guinea in 1972. First one Sister and a second one joined her. They nursed and did pastoral work there for about twelve years.

As fewer and fewer ladies were joining Religious Communities, several Communities pooled resources in 1981 and formed an "Inter-Religious Novitiate" in St. Albert, AB. We purchased a house there for one Director, one candidate, and a student. Several of us studied Theology at Newman College through the years.

Diminishing numbers did not deter us from going abroad again, this time to Alagoas, Brazil. Two Sisters are missioned there.

To date, we are now twenty in number, many of us are retired, and some are recycled. We live in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Beechy, and Allan, SK.; Winnipeg, Man.; Sooke, Kelowna, Salmon Arm, and McBride, B.C.; Trochu, AB; Alagoas, Brazil: and LeBarboux, France.

Submitted by,
Emma Hartman, SMS
Trochu, AB
March 16, 2007



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Our Lady of Charity

When were they formed? They were founded in 1641 in Caen, France by St. John Eudes. On July 8, 1855, Sister Jerome Tournoux of Rennes, France, established the first Foundation in North America in Buffalo, New York, and thus began the spread of the Mission of Our Lady of Charity in the United States, Canada and Mexico. These sisters came to Alberta in 1921.

What is their focus? Their mission is to minister to those persons wounded by life's harshness. Their primary focus is to work with women in need. Their ministries include providing: shelter for victims of domestic abuse, counseling for troubled teenage girls, daycare for children and adults, and rehabilitative and nursing care for the ill, elderly and people with AIDS. They minister in English and Spanish speaking parishes where they also teach in local schools and offer religious education programs.

Their life in community calls them to share all things in common and to strive to deepen their spiritual life and develop a balance between prayer life and their apostolic service.

If you want more information, contact: Sr. Norma Johnson, Archivist
#112, 561 Bothwell Dr.
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2H8
780-416-7152
Website: www.nauolc.org
Email: info@nausistersolc.org



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross (NDC)

When were they formed? The Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross was founded in 1832 in Murinais, France for the education of young girls, and the care of the sick and the elderly in their homes. On invitation from the La Salette priests, Srs. M. Alype, M Ludovic and five others came to Forget, Saskatchewan from France in 1905. They established a bilingual school which opened on March 1, 1906 as St. Joseph Academy for boys and girls, both boarders and day-scholars.

What is their focus? Education - unfortunately, I was unable to find any other information. Perhaps, a connection could be made with La Salette priests.

If you want more information, contact: Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross NDC
5719 - 109A St.
Edmonton, AB T6H 3C4
780-435-4383

Or:

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross NDC
St. Andrew's Centre
#319, 12720 - 111 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5M 3X3
780-452-0029



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Our Lady of Sion

When were they formed? By Fr. Theodore Ratisbonne of France in 1846.

What is their focus? God's love and fidelity for the Jewish people is at the heart of their charism.

Mission Statement: the events of our world and of our lives urge us to hear the cries of the poor and to respond anew to the call of God to do Justice. This commandment resounds urgently in our day through the calls of the Church. The history of the Jewish people makes us particularly sensitive to the rights of minorities, of the poor, and of all who are marginalized in our society. These situations provoke our reflection and our prayer; they demand concrete commitments.

Mission/Charism: the Sisters of Sion is an international group of Roman Catholic Women Religious who are called to witness God's faithful love for the Jewish people and to hope in the promises confided to them for all humanity. We are committed, in light of this gift, to build a world of justice and peace. Our Charism is a continuing gift. By it we are compelled to "*hope, pray and work for the day when all will know the Lord*" and where "*justice and peace will embrace*". (Constitution #5) We are called to encourage the Church to reflect on its origin and mission to rediscover its roots in Judaism. In light of the tragedy of the Shoah, our charism calls us to challenge all forms of racism and marginalization by responding to the biblical imperative to "hear the cries of the Poor". The Congregation of Our Lady of Sion is international, ministering in 24 countries. It is comprised of two branches: Active and Contemplative, and maintains a close relationship with the Fathers and Brothers of Our Lady of Sion. Whatever ministries we are involved in, we keep alive the vision of Theodore, the unshakeable knowledge of our roots, and our call to do justice.

Of a time when God will be for all

Of a world where barriers are broken between Jews and Gentiles, men and women, the enslaved and free

The Sisters of Sion in North America: Edmonton, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Kansas City

If you want more information, contact: Sisters of Sion
1405, 6205 - 101 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6A 0H3
780-465-7612
Email: sos.edm@3web.net



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Providence of Montreal

When were they formed? This order was founded by Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin. Emilie Tavernier was born in Montreal on February 19, 1800. Although not wealthy, young Emilie and her family generously responded to those in need. In 1823, she married Jean-Baptiste Gamelin, a successful Montreal Businessman who shared her concern and love for the poor. By the time Emilie was 28, her husband and three children had all died. In dealing with her loss, Emilie found strength and comfort in Mary, Mother of Sorrows, who became a model and source of compassionate charity for her. She connected with others who were experiencing grief, by visiting those who were imprisoned, by caring for the elderly who had no place to live and by giving food to the poor. She consecrated herself completely to serving these people, trusting in Divine Providence. On September 23, 1851, Mother Gamelin died, one of the hundreds of the victims of the cholera epidemic that swept through Montreal. She was beatified in Tome by Pope John Paul II on October 7, 2001. Her legacy of compassion continues today by those called to share their lives as Sisters of Providence.

What is their focus? Our ministries are diverse and fulfilling. They continue to evolve and change to address the needs of our society: Education, parish ministry, healing ministry, pastoral care, spiritual direction and retreats, food banks, working against family violence, deaf community service, foreign missions, refugee sponsorship, service with the Providence community.

Our life of prayer includes quiet moments and faith sharing in our journey to seek a deeper relationship with God, with people and with the earth. Living in community enables us to love, support, challenge and encourage each other. Through personal and communal growth, we live our Gospel values.

Providence Associates: are individuals who desire to share the Mission and spirituality of the Sisters of Providence, but do not seek vowed membership in the congregation. They are lay women and men who hold Gospel values as the compelling force in their lives. They are people from different cultures and walks of life who come together regularly to deepen their knowledge of the life and spirit of Emilie Gamelin and the Sisters of Providence. In faith and spirituality, they affirm and empower one another in compassionate service to those in need. Providence Associates and Sisters of Providence enrich each other and the people of God through their sharing and growth in Providence spirituality. Through getting to know each other in social, spiritual and ministerial activities, they become supportive communities for each other. Providence Associate membership is for those who feel called by God and share the same Mission as the Sisters of Providence. They are individuals gifted with the same Charism as the Sisters of Providence, who serve God while remaining in their own chosen state of life and profession.

If you want more information, contact: Vocation Director, Sisters of Providence
Providence Centre
3005 - 119 St. Edmonton, AB T6J 5R5
Ph: 780-436-7250 Fax: 780-436-7255
Email: vocdir@providence.ab.ca
Website: www.sisters.providence.ab.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston

When were they formed? The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul views its founding as a process of history involving key people guided by a deep spirituality and passion for the poor. Our heritage is rooted in the creativity and spirituality of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, in the willingness of Emilie Gamelin to risk and trust in Providence, in the responsiveness of the Montreal sisters of Providence to the call of Bishop E.J. Horan, our ecclesiastical founder, and in the courage and pioneer spirit of Catherine McKinley, the first general superior and proclaimed Kingston foundress, and the original members of the Kingston community. The mid 19th century was an especially difficult time for the poor of Kingston. Particularly afflicted were the aged, orphaned and imprisoned, who had nowhere to turn for help. Many suffered without care in their homes, others were forced to beg in the streets. To help alleviate the sufferings of the poor, E.J. Horan, the bishop of Kingston, invited a congregation of Montreal Sisters of Providence to his Episcopal city to establish an Institute to care for all of the poor, old and young.

On December 13, 1861, four Sisters from Montreal arrived in Kingston to found what is now known as the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Under the guidance of Sister Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, the French sisters began the task of building a new congregation. In 1862, a Kingston milliner, Catherine McKinley, and another Kingstonian, Ann O'Reilly, joined the community.

What is their focus? The sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are an apostolic congregation of vowed women religious called to be channels of God's providence in the world through compassionate service in response to the needs of the times. In accordance with our mission statement, we seek to empower others, especially the poor and oppressed, to achieve a quality of life in keeping with their human dignity. We also strive to be prophetic leaders in our Church and in society. Relying on the providence of God which we are called to proclaim, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are gifted with a charism of compassionate caring for God's people, especially the most destitute, manifested by service given in a spirit of humility, simplicity and charity. As we serve with compassion and walk in hope, we trust in the power, the movement and the mystery of Providence in all things.

They have concerns for the ecology, liturgy, outreach programs, justice and peace, and healing of violence.

While most sisters no longer wear a habit, they wear a cross and an SP pin as a symbol of their commitment.

If you want more information, contact: vocations@providence.ca

Providence Motherhouse
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Telephone: 613-544-4525
Fax: 613-531-9805

Sr. Pat Amyot, Sr. Ellen Murray, Sr. M. Bernadette Reichert
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9947- 104 St.
Edmonton, AB T5K 0Z2
780-428-6521



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of St. Joseph (London) CSJ

When were they formed? The founding vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph came from France in 1650. At that time, many people were poor and had little help in meeting the everyday concerns of life. A small group of six women, Francoise Eyraud, Claudia Chastel, Marguerite Burdier, Anna Chaley, Anna Vey and Anna Brun, and a Jesuit priest, Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ joined their hearts and hands to provide assistance. The Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada were in Toronto in 1851, Hamilton in 1852, London in 1868, Peterborough in 1890, Pembroke in 1921, and in Sault Ste. Marie in 1936.

What is their focus? United by a common story and charism, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, Hamilton, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Pembroke and Peterborough form a Federation whose purpose is to focus and empower one another in the passion living of our mission and active and inclusive love. Each Sister of St. Joseph has responded to a call to dedicate her life in a special way to Christ and his kingdom of love in our world. She has done this along with others who live a similar spirituality and similar depth of desire: the shared goal to bring about the unity expressed in Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper: That all may be one.

Our spirituality, then, is a spirituality of relationships: Our relationship with God, our relationship with one another and with all people, our relationship with all of God's creation. Active and inclusive love animates all these relationships. Our founder, Jean-Pierre Medaille, challenged us to be known as the Congregation of Great Love.

If you want more information, contact:

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Fax: 416-424-1714
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Website: www.csjfederation.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of St. Joseph (Peterborough) CSJ

When were they formed? The founding vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph came from France in 1650. At that time, many people were poor and had little help in meeting the everyday concerns of life. A small group of six women, Francoise Eyraud, Claudia Chastel, Marguerite Burdier, Anna Chaley, Anna Vey and Anna Brun, and a Jesuit priest, Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ joined their hearts and hands to provide assistance. The Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada were in Toronto in 1851, Hamilton in 1852, London in 1868, **Peterborough in 1890**, Pembroke in 1921, and in Sault Ste. Marie in 1936.

What is their focus? The Peterborough community can be found in small groups across Canada, parts of Africa and Asia. We touch our world in a manner that proclaims all life as sacred. Our life and mission nurture God's initiative within each of us. We explore this spirit, this energy at work by a life of prayer and community, being church, celebrating Eucharistic spirituality, journeying with the poor of the Earth, and being single hearted in our desire to witness to God's love. Now, in the twenty-first century, the Sisters of St. Joseph are present throughout the world, and still seek to do whatever is possible for a woman to do, in response to their founding vision.

If you want more information, contact:

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Peterborough, ON
K9J 6Z6

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of St. Joseph (Sault Ste. Marie) CSJ

When were they formed? The founding vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph came from France in 1650. At that time, many people were poor and had little help in meeting the everyday concerns of life. A small group of six women, Francoise Eyraud, Claudia Chastel, Marguerite Burdier, Anna Chaley, Anna Vey and Anna Brun, and a Jesuit priest, Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ joined their hearts and hands to provide assistance. The Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada were in Toronto in 1851, Hamilton in 1852, London in 1868, Peterborough in 1890, Pembroke in 1921, and in **Sault Ste. Marie in 1936.**

What is their focus? United by a common story and charism, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, Hamilton, London, **Sault Ste. Marie**, Pembroke and Peterborough form a Federation whose purpose is to focus and empower one another in the passion living of our mission and active and inclusive love. Each Sister of St. Joseph has responded to a call to dedicate her life in a special way to Christ and his kingdom of love in our world. She has done this along with others who live a similar spirituality and similar depth of desire: the shared goal to bring about the unity expressed in Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper: That all may be one.

Our spirituality, then, is a spirituality of relationships: Our relationship with God, our relationship with one another and with all people, our relationship with all of God's creation. Active and inclusive love animates all these relationships. Our founder, Jean-Pierre Medaille, challenged us to be known as the Congregation of Great Love.

Our mission as Sisters of St. Joseph flows from the purpose for which the congregation exists: we live and work that all people may be united with God and with one another.

If you want more information, contact:

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (Polish)

When were they formed? The Congregation of Sisters of Servants of Mary was established on May 3, 1853 by Blessed Edmund Bojanowski - a lay person. He loved God above all, and had filial devotion to Mary Immaculate.

What is their focus? Blessed Edmund Bojanowski's family background endowed him with a great sensitivity to the needs of others. He paid special attention to the children of the rural areas, who were abandoned and neglected. He also recognized the need for the care of people who were ill, elderly or lonely. He saw the need for improving the moral, cultural-educational standards of the people. In his zeal, he acknowledged that what he was doing was still too little. For that reason, he decided to organized young women of the rural areas, as the ones best acquainted with their environment, and capable, after adequate preparation, to help the needy. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he established a religious congregation, beginning with nurseries for the education and care of little ones. A variety of works followed - among children, youth, the sick and the needy. The Sisters of Service of Mary strive to follow Jesus by practice of the evangelical counsel of chastity, poverty and obedience. In order to make a complete gift of themselves to God, the Sisters receive a special formation: Postulancy - about 10 months; Novitiate - 2 years. The Sisters realize their vocation in the Church and in the community by: the caring for children, by running daycares and Drop-in Centers, caring for the sick in hospitals and private homes, Christian Education for children and youth; teaching and preparing young people for their daily duties; pastoral care - hospital and home visits; and to serve the poor and needy in any other way. The Sisters serve in many countries: Poland, Germany, Ukraine, Bialorus, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Italy, Canada and Cameroon-Africa.

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of Service SOS

When were they formed? In 1918, Catherine Donnelly, from Alliston, Ontario was teaching in rural schools in the Canadian West where immigrant families had settled. Shortly after her arrival, the Spanish influenza epidemic swept through the district and the government closed the schools. Catherine volunteered to go into the homes to nurse the sick. It was a soul-searching experience for she realized the lack of any spiritual resources for those immigrants and their children. She became convinced that only dedicated Sisters living among and with the people would help them to remain faithful to their Catholic heritage.

Unable to find an existing Order of Sisters, who could adapt to the lifestyle she envisioned, she consulted Fr. Arthur Coughlan, CSsR, the Provincial Superior of the Toronto Province of the Redemptorists and Archbishop Neil McNeil, Archbishop of Toronto. Fr. Arthur Coughlan was well aware of the situation Catherine described from his Redemptorists confreres in the West. Fr. George Daly CSsR, ministering in Regina, had made his assessment of the situation in a recently published book - "Catholic Problems in Western Canada." (1920) The Archbishop also concerned about the needs of immigrants, supported Catherine's idea, that to serve them and their children, a new form of Religious Institute was necessary in order to respond to the Canadian situation - Sisters whose rules would be flexible, whose habit would be inconspicuous and who would be free to live and work among the people. Through the untiring work and support of Archbishop Neil McNeil, the new concept of Religious life eventually received canonical approval.

What is their focus? Today the Sisters of Service "go out to the people as those who are sent. Therefore, mobility, flexibility and readiness to live and work in small groups are essential to our way of life. In accordance with our Constitutions, our Institute responds to the needs of the Church as presented by the Bishops. Each sister, through prayerfulness, humility, zeal and lifestyle, is a sign of the presence of God's love."

The lifestyle and unprecedented methods followed the Sisters in their missionary apostolate of teaching, nursing and social work were eventually crystallized in the Documents of Vatican II. With the support of the Catholic Women's League, immigration services were provided at the ports of Halifax, Montreal, Quebec City, and St. John, NB. Hostels for immigrant women were established in major cities. The Institute became a National Organization and in the first ten years of existence, the Sisters of Service spread from Halifax to Vancouver. Teaching in Public schools in the rural west, operating small rural hospitals, teaching religion by mail in the more isolated areas, these services were developed to minister to the spiritual and social needs of the New Canadians.

Time changes as does society. New needs arise which require adaptation. Just as the Sisters were inspired to assist new settlers in Canada in the 1920's, so today they continue to be concerned and to reach out in a variety of ways to those in most need.

The Catherine Donnelly Foundation, a registered non-profit charitable organization was established in 2004. It serves to honour the memory and extends the vision of Catherine Donnelly and the SOS unique history of missionary service in Canada.

If you want more information, contact: Sisters of Mission Service

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Email: sistersofservice@rogers.com

Website: www.catherinedonnellyfoundation.org



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Sisters of St. Benedict

When were they formed? In response to the call of the Church, a community of Sisters of St. Benedict came to Winnipeg in 1912 from the United States. Originally, Benedicta Riepp, at the age of 27, was sent with two other Sisters from Saint Walberg Abbey, Eichstätt, Bavaria (Germany), to St. Mary's Pennsylvania to help educate German immigrants and to spread the Benedictine way of life. Eventually, other monasteries were established in the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Taiwan, Japan and Canada.

What is their focus? The rule of St. Benedict is less than one hundred pages. It was written in the sixth century for a collection of serfs, scholars, shepherds and wealthy scions of nobility - a motley group of would-be monastics. The Rule of St. Benedict survives today as a masterpiece of spiritual wisdom. Benedict envisioned a balanced life of prayer and work as the ideal. Stability, fidelity and obedience receive primary attention in the Rule - perhaps because of their close relationship with community life. "Let everyone that comes be received as Christ" is one of the most family and often quoted phrases of the Rule. It emphasizes the preeminent position which hospitality occupies in every Benedictine monastery.

Stewardship is another value, which focuses on the care and reverence of material things - "treat all goods as if they were vessels of the altar."

As monastic women inspired by the Gospel and the Rule of St. Benedict and guided by the documents of the federation of St. Gertrude and our lived tradition and monastery norms, we are committed to model a contemplative stance to all of life. We call ourselves to listen and to respond as we pray and work with the people of God in restoring and transforming the human community - so that God may be glorified.

Our mission is to witness to Jesus Christ through community life and prayer, contemplative living, hospitality, service to the people of God and stewardship of all God's gifts. We witness Jesus Christ also through service in education, health care and spiritual formation.

Our various ministries flow from our discernment to do God's will as a community and as individuals.

If you want more information, contact:

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Or
Sisters of St. Benedict
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Soeurs de la Charité de Notre Dame d'Évron (SCE)
Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Évron

When were they formed? The congregation of the Sisters of Charité Notre Dame d'Évron was founded in a small rural village of north-western France in 1682 by a very dynamic and compassionate young widow, Perrine Thulard, who was quickly joined by other like-minded, dedicated young women to care for the many sick, destitute and dying people of their post war-torn society. From these early beginnings, they also devoted themselves to the education of the local children offering a very basic education, especially for the girls, as these rural children would otherwise have no such opportunity for gradual empowerment.

What is their focus? Great spiritual leaders from the 17th century contributed significantly to the renewal of Christian life in France and beyond. Perrine Thulard was imbued with Vincent de Paul's spiritual experience "to serve the poor is to serve God," François de Sales' desire "to do everything with love", and Bérulle's conviction that "God is the centre of our lives." Even today, this spiritual journey leads us to direct our lives "for the glory of God", centered on Jesus Christ, transformed by the Holy Spirit and given for others in the same way as Jesus did.

In 1909, eight sisters left their cherished homeland traveling many miles to western Canada where they began to work for caring of the sick and teaching children at St. Ann's Ranch in the Trochu valley. In the years to follow the foundation in Trochu, several other groups of French sisters joined the first eight and other rural communities were to know the presence of this group of courageous women. In 1919, the St. Louis hospital in Bonnyville was opened to care for those needing health care in the area. Today, the sisters are found at Ft. Saskatchewan, Bonnyville, Vegreville, Edmonton, Vermilion and Trochu. They work in health, education, chaplaincy, social work, pastoral care, youth ministry, parish ministry, and solidarity for justice.

"God is the master and we have nothing that doesn't belong to him."
– Perrine Thulard

"Charity", our name for more than 300 years, signifies our daily gift of ourselves to the service of God and others through Jesus Christ and for Him.

If you want more information, contact:

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8539 - 89 St.
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T6C 3K4
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Fax: 780-465-7252
Website: <http://www.soeurs-charite-evron.com>



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Ursulines of Chatham Union (OSU)

When were they formed? The Ursuline order was created on November 25, 1535, when Angela Merici and her 28 companions formed the Company of St. Ursula in Brescia, Italy. Political and moral corruption was rampant in Europe at this time. In a society ruled and defined by men, where women were permanently governed by fathers, husbands or pastors, Angela and her company offered an alternative approach. Unlike other nuns of that time, the first Ursulines did not live isolated from the rest of the world. Instead they remained integrated in their families and stayed in their workplaces involved in a variety of works that raised the dignity of women, children and the marginalized of society.

The Ursulines of Chatham Union were founded in 1860 in Ontario by Mother Xavier LeBihan of LaFauet, France.

What is their focus? We are listening women who leave the beaten path and listen to the Earth and its inhabitants, especially the marginalized ones. We are treasuring women, sprung from a living tradition, who walk in mutuality with others, cherishing life in all its stages. We are daring women who challenge the status quo, who dream of new possibilities, who explore alternatives. We are women who follow Angela Merici, herself a woman of adventure, of prophetic vision, of gospel values.

As Ursulines, like Angela Merici, our founder, we commit ourselves to live lives of prayer and reflection. Our prayer and reflection cannot be isolated from the life around us. The Spirit of God, alive and active within us, leads us to act in response to the challenges of the Gospel. Angela Merici's vision combined a contemplative spirit with active involvement in doing good works. It is in this spirit, that the Ursulines gather in various ways and places as educators, pastoral ministers, social workers, spiritual advisors and volunteers to share our gifts and use our resources to support the poor, women and the environment.

The Ursulines of Chatham describe themselves as

Women with an option for justice and the poor

Women for women;

Women who believe in the sacredness of earth and the universe;

Women who accept diversity;

Women committed to live with respect toward all creation;

Women committed to live in mutuality and dialogue.

If you want more information, contact: Sr. Helen Edwards
#305-14505 - 92 St. Edmonton, ABT5E 5V5

Or:

Ursuline Religious
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Chatham, ON N7L 3L8
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Email: ursuline@kent.net



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Ursulines of Jesus (UJ)

When were they formed? At the beginning of the 19th century, a time of turmoil in France, Louis Marie Baudouin and Charlotte Gabrielle Ranfray were fascinated by the beauty of the mystery of Jesus, the Incarnate Word. Seeing the needs of the people devastated by the terror of violence and oppression of the French Revolution, the Holy Spirit inspired them to commit their whole lives to the service of their sisters and brothers “rebuilding the Church” and society of their day.

What is their focus? Today, with the same audacity, we find the presence of Jesus incarnated in events and in the different faces of people around us. We live as sisters in community and respond to the needs of our society by being the presence of Jesus, Missionary of the Father. We announce God’s love and compassion in the midst of our world, witnessing to the attitudes of Jesus, Word made flesh today.

With Jesus, we live in adoration of our loving God and we act in solidarity with God’s people through our involvement in pastoral ministry, education, care of children, the sick and elderly; ministry with native people, immigrants, youth and by being engaged in social justice projects.

We are an international congregation and live in intercultural communities in Western Canada, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, France Spain, United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy and Cameroon.

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Regional Superior
Regional Administration Office
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Ursuline Sisters of Prelate

When were they formed? The Ursuline Sisters of Prelate are a group of women living consecrated life with Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience within the Roman Catholic Church, according to the Spirituality of their foundress, Saint Angela Merici (1474-1540). From its foundation in 1919 up to 1969, the Motherhouse of the Ursulines of Prelate, housed the General Administration, the Formation community and St. Angela's Academy, a private high school for girls in grade nine to twelve.

A recently published book entitled, *WHERE TO NOW?* written by Sr. Magdalen Stengler, (Prelate Ursuline), captures well the story of the Ursulines of Prelate from the 1912 arrival in Winnipeg of Sisters from three locations in Germany, through foundations in Saskatchewan, at Bruno, Vibank (who joined Chatham), and Prelate, and the "unfolding" of the Ursulines of Prelate to the present. The story of the Ursulines of Prelate has parallels with, not only the other Ursuline foundations, but with foundations of other pioneer Religious Congregations in Western Canada. This was made abundantly clear when in Saskatoon in September 2005, over one hundred Religious, representing 66 different congregations who served in Saskatchewan from its inception into Canada, gathered to celebrate the "Contribution of Women Religious to the History of Saskatchewan."

What is their focus? It was Sisters who provided the inspiration, labor and money for the Catholic Institutions of Health care, Social Services and Education. It is predominantly in Education that Ursulines have served. They expanded their apostolic work from teaching to include parish ministry, adult education in various forms, and to work in Brazil and Africa. All of these works were supported by the prayer and service of the Sisters engaged in homemaking.

As Sisters have grown older, some of these works have had to be abandoned in response to the timeless advice of St. Angela Merici in the sixteenth century: "And if, according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice. And always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ. For in this way, without doubt, Jesus will be in your midst, and as a true and good master, he will enlighten and teach you what you have to do." (Last Legacy of St. Angela)

With gratitude for the past, enthusiasm in the present and great hope for the future, the Ursulines of Prelate continue to trust in the faithful and providential love of God who continues to call them to consecrated service in the Church. They pray that other vibrant, faith-filled women will answer God's call to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ while "educating for life" as Ursulines of Prelate.

If you want more information, contact: Sister Gertrude Sopracolle
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Or:

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Basilian Fathers (CSB - Congregation of St. Basil)

When were they formed? The Basilian Fathers were established as a religious congregation in France in 1822. As a result of the closing of seminaries in France during the French Revolution, two diocesan priests opened a secret school in the mountains of central France. After several years of operation and after a change in French laws, ten priests serving there openly bound themselves into a religious community. They reasoned that the school, by then located in the nearby city of Annonay, would have a better chance of continuing if it were conducted by a Religious Congregation that could accept and train new members to continue the operation of the school after the founding fathers' retirement. The original members chose St. Basil the Great, the fourth century teacher, bishop and doctor of the Church, to be the namesake of the new community.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the French Basilians came to Canada on invitation of Bishop de Charbonnel of Toronto who had been a student at Annonay. They opened St. Michael's College in 1852. The Congregation grew in numbers and activities in the New World, spreading across Canada and the United States. In 1902, a small group of missionaries came to Canada to work with the Ukrainian settlers. They were led by Fr. Platonid Filias who established the first mission at Beaver Lake. The group included Fr. Sozont Dydyk, who was assigned to Rabbit Hill, Fr. Antin Strotskyi, who served the Star settlement, and Brother Yeremiia Yanishevskyi. The Basilians were accompanied by four Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate: Sr. Amrozyia Lenkevych, Sr. Izydora Shypovska, Sr. Emilia Klapoushok and Sr. Taida Vrubleivska. The missionaries left L'viv on October 6, 1902. They traveled to Hamburg by rail, and set sail for New York on the Moltke on October 10th. From New York, they took a train to Montreal. There they were met by Oblate Father Albert Lacombe, who arranged their rail journey across Canada. The group arrived at Strathcona on October 31, 1902.

What is their focus? The members take the simple vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Their living together has many of the qualities of family life. They eat together, pray together, recreate together and work together.

Most of the members are engaged in teaching and administration in high schools, universities and parishes in Canada and the US. Smaller groups serve in France, Mexico, Colombia and St. Lucia. The Basilians of Alberta lived among their Ukrainian people, ministering to their spiritual needs and helping to build churches, schools and community institutions. The Beaver Lake mission was the site of their first monastery and chapel. Over the years, the Basilians established a printing press and built Mundare's Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic church, monastery, novitiate, grotto shrine and museum.

If you want more information, contact: Rev. David Bittner, Rector
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Basilian Fathers of St. Joseph's College
4808-Whitemud Rd. NW
Edmonton, AB T6H 5M3
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes

When were they formed? The Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes arrived in Alberta from the Netherlands in 1955 at the invitation of Calgary Bishop Francis Carroll. At one point, 21 members were working in the diocese. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in Canada in 2005. The Congregation of the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes was founded in Belgium in 1830 by Stephanus Modestus Glorieux, a priest of the diocese of Ghent. Glorieux saw his priestly ministry primarily as ministry to the countless poor and marginalized of the time. To help him in this ministry, he founded a congregation of brothers and a congregation of sisters.

What is their focus? The aim of the Congregation can be stated as "choosing the option for the poor and the marginalized." To realize this option, the brothers engage in a wide variety of ministries such as work for and among youth, catechesis, teaching, nursing in psychiatric institutions, pastoral ministry, etc. These ministries change with time, circumstances and locality.

Our basic motivation is found in evangelical values, in Jesus of Nazareth and what he stood for, and in the loving attitude of our founder towards people.

We regularly meditate on and consider this basic motivation, either individually or in community, with fellow brothers or with non-brothers, in order to remain faithful to and focused on our basic mandate and chosen option.

Today, there are eight men who remain in Alberta (as of September 2005). After some men reached retirement age, they found work volunteering in pastoral care ministry, parishes, schools and local communities. Some went to serve temporarily in Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Kiribati.

As it stands today, because of the age factor, the sun is setting on the Canadian venture of the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes. Therefore there is no vocation director or information officer. All eight brothers are still involved as far as capacity and energy allows, with the works of the Founder, Fr. Stephen Modest Glorieux, for the benefit of Church and Society.

If a man has a vocation to join the order, he is advised not to go to Canada, because it is fading out, but he would be advised to go to Ethiopia, for example. "The Church is experiencing growing pains. In countries with less affluence, that is where religious life is growing. When we are affluent, we think we are the answer and the norm. No matter how I slice it, I am not." - Bro. Donatus Vervoort.

If you want more information, contact: Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes
167 Malibou Rd. SW
Calgary, AB T2V 1X5
Email: donatus.vervoort@newman.edu



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
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Name of Religious Order: The Franciscan Friars (OFM - Order of Friars Minor)

When were they formed? More than 800 years ago, a small band of men from the town of Assisi were inspired by St. Francis' vision and example of Gospel life. They gathered around him to support each other in their effort to follow Jesus Christ more closely. From this small Italian town, the Franciscans spread quickly through the world. In 1908, friars from Quebec established a presence in Western Canada. From its humble beginning in Ft. Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Franciscan Province of Christ the King now extends throughout the entire length of Western Canada. We have friaries in Lumsden (near Regina), Cochrane (near Calgary), Edmonton and Victoria. Our 43 friars are part of over 17,000 world wide in 103 countries.

What is their focus? Consecrating our whole lives to God by professing vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, we endeavour to share the message and life of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the vision of St. Francis of Assisi. This vision is straightforward: to live the Gospel simply and humbly as brothers to all and in loving fraternity with each other.

The source of our Gospel life is our communion with God in prayer. Together, we celebrate the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours daily. As well, each month, we withdraw for a day of more intense prayer and once a year, for an extended Retreat. Daily, we also come to God alone in personal prayer. In these sacred moments, the Gospel readings have a pre-eminent place in our contemplation. Through prayer we transform our lives so that like Francis, we, ourselves, become a prayer.

The Franciscans are first a brotherhood. The purpose of the fraternal life is to simply support each other in our effort to follow Jesus Christ more closely. Our primary "ministry", therefore is to be a Gospel witness in the world. This "ministry of Presence" flows from our life of prayer and permeates all our other ministries. This includes retreat centres, parishes, preaching, and teaching, counseling, chaplaincy, street ministry, Secular Franciscans (formerly called the "Third Order), mission, to just name a few. Other friars are involved in supporting ministries such as the maintenance of our houses and vehicles.

Brotherhood is a very important aspect of our life. It is our communal sign to the world of the Gospel life. It is not, therefore, merely a practical convenience to facilitate our various ministries, but a Gospel value in itself. Our fraternal life is loosely structured to allow for different work schedules and spontaneity; it follows the natural rhythm of ordinary life. The daily structure evolves around communal prayer and meals.

Prayer: this "ministry of presence" flows from our life of prayer and permeates all our other ministries. Franciscan spirituality is rooted in the incarnation of Jesus. Two aspects of this inspired Francis: Fraternity and Minority. This is reflected in our official name, "Order of Friars Minor".

Friar means brother and minor means little. As Jesus out of love came to serve us as a poor and humble (little) brother, so the friars are to be to all people and all creation. And in doing this, in the joy of the Spirit, we give witness that true happiness is not derived from the accumulation of power, prestige and possessions, but in God alone.

If you want more information, contact: Brother Gerry Clyne OFM
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Website: www.franciscanfriars.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Holy Cross Fathers (Congregation of Holy Cross)

When were they formed? The Congregation of the Holy Cross, an international Congregation, was founded by Basil Anthony Moreau, a priest of the Diocese of Le Mans, France in the still-troubled period following the French Revolution. The Revolution had devastated the Church in France in many ways, and originally, Father Moreau envisioned assembling a community of men who would devote themselves to the needs of this broken Church, especially in the vast rural areas.

By August of 1835, he had successfully recruited well-educated priests to live in community and collaborate with the diocesan clergy in refounding the Church. Their first strategy was preaching parish missions. Their second was to be education, formation for which began immediately. In 1837, Father Moreau's vision of a new community was realized. In Sainte-Croix, (Holy Cross), near Le Mans, three groups - priest, brothers and sisters became the single Congregation of Holy Cross. Though they remained distinct societies, Moreau wanted the priests, brothers and sisters to be united in their lives and work as a visible imitation of the Holy Spirit.

In 1847, a group of 14 religious - priests, brothers and sisters arrived in Canada.

They established themselves in Saint-Laurent (Montréal), but eventually branched out to Québec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Alberta.

The Holy Cross Fathers of the Sacred Heart Province established themselves primarily in French Lower Canada. Gradually, men whose first language was English began to join and serve the English speaking communities in Quebec and beyond.

What is their focus? In 1943, fourteen Holy Cross fathers formalized a commitment to educating in the faith and serving the needs in English Canada by forming a distinct English entity - today known as The Holy Cross Fathers of the Sacred Heart Province (English Canadian province). Father Moreau's vision as a congregation of educators in the faith included schools but expanded beyond - Parishes were an equally important ministry. The Community has greatly devoted their energies to ministering to people living on the fringe. In the West, Toronto and Halifax, Holy Cross has set up food banks, soup kitchens, advocacies for a variety of groups and ministries to minorities.

Despite the small numbers, our province has always had a few members living and working in the Third World. Over the years, our men have lived out this call in India, Bangladesh, Peru, Mexico, Dominica and Haiti. This engagement has enriched the awareness of all our members and inspired deeper commitment to the Church's universal call to teach and act for justice. One member of the community is Deputy Director of Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the official development agency for the Canadian Catholic Church.

The Holy Cross fathers have been heavily involved in education. From this ministry, the community embarked on a vigorous campaign to recruit young men for the priesthood and brotherhood in the Province.

If you want more information, contact: Rev. John Vickers
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Welland, ON L3C 1J8
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Oblates of Mary Immaculate OMI

When were they formed? In 1816, the Church in France, suffering the effects of the French Revolution, was in need of revival. Responding to this need, Fr. Eugene de Mazenod called together a group of priests whose main purpose would be to preach the Gospel to the poor working people of southern France. Other priests, drawn by this purpose, soon joined the group and in 1826 they received papal approval as a Religious Congregation under the patronage of Mary Immaculate. The word "oblate" means to offer your life, by special dedication, in service to the Lord.

In 1841, at the invitation of Bishop Bourget of Montreal, six Oblates left for America to be part of the first mission there. They received reinforcements in succeeding years and local vocations increased. De Mazenod's (now Bishop) intuition that Canada could be a land of preference for the Oblates turned out to be sound. At one point, Canada had over two thousand Oblates.

What is their focus? We are men of mission, prayer and community, seeking to get close to people, to experience their hurts and dreams, their fears and joys.

Today, there are about 700 Oblates working in Canada. They work throughout Canada. They are organized into three sections known as Oblate provinces. Oblates exercise very diversified ministries, but above all, we seek to dedicate ourselves to the poor and abandoned in urban centres, in Northern Canada and in other remote areas of the country. Oblates also work with immigrants, ethnic minorities and First Nations people. One can find us, for example, in parishes, retreat houses, in missionary formation, preaching, social justice and other pastoral ministries, and universities. Our work situates us throughout Canada from coast to coast.

"No ministry is alien to us as long as we never lose sight of the main purpose of the Congregation: the evangelization of the most abandoned." (Oblate Constitutions and Rules).

There is an Oblate Mission team that ministers to parishes and there is an Oblate Youth Ministry team that is encouraging development and leadership of youth in our communities.

If you want more information, contact: Alberta contact for Vocations
Father Mark Blom
Oblate Youth Ministry
18 Gareth Place
St. Albert, AB
T8N 3K5
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Email: mblom@omi.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Assumption Province - Polish)

When were they formed? The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is a world wide Roman Catholic congregation of Priests and brothers founded after the French Revolution in 1816 by St. Eugene de Mazenod.

The Assumption province was established in 1956. Our roots and origin are in St. Mary's province.

What is their focus? Our principal ministry is among the old and new Canadians of Polish descent. Since 1965, the scope of our ministry has broadened to include work among Italian immigrants, and gradually, among other immigrant and ethnic groups. As men dedicated to Our Lord and the mission of the Church, we bring the Good News to these people in their language and help them acclimatize to a new society, culture and way of life. The ministry finds expression in conventional forms, including parishes, the Retreat house, preaching of parish missions, while at the same time seeking new ways to evangelize in our ever changing society.

In whatever ministry we are assigned to, we share in the missionary work entrusted to Assumption Province. We strive to genuinely care for those who most need the consolation of the teaching of Christ and are least touched by the Gospel.

The Assumption province has representation at two parishes in Edmonton:
Holy Rosary Church and Our Lady Queen of Poland.

If you want more information, contact: Vocation information, please email:
Fr. Majek Roman, omi rmajek@omi.ca
Fr. Burdzy Mieczyslaw, omi mietekb@omiap.ca
Fr. Rosinski Marcin, omi rosinski@omiap.ca

Or write:

Missionary Oblates
71 Indian Trail
Toronto, ON M6R 2A1
Telephone: 416-769-4971



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Order of Preachers (OP) The Dominicans
(St. Vincent Liem's Dominican Vicariate)

When were they formed: Our family began in 1206 when St. Dominic founded the first monastery of Dominican nuns. St. Dominic de Guzman was a Spanish priest of the Cathedral at Osma. He was born in Caleruega in 1170. In 1230 by "accident", he began a new ministry to which he would dedicate the rest of his life and to which he would lead many other men and women: preaching. The new order was given the title "Order of Preachers" and their itinerant style of preaching was sanctioned by the pope.

What is their focus? We Dominicans are a family of communities dedicated to the "Holy Preaching". The particular charge to the Dominicans was to preach against heresy. In order to preach well against very passionate and knowledgeable heretics, the Dominicans had to know theology well. Thus study became a hallmark of the Order and the prerequisite for the office of preaching. Primary to all activity, however, is a foundation in prayer. One can't do God's work unless one is in close contact with God. *The Dominican motto: To Pray, To Bless and To Preach* grew out of the basic commitment to apostolic ministry. Because human beings need to be encouraged and supported, community life became a priority for Dominicans. They went out and worked; then they came home and were renewed by prayer and conversation in the community. The men and women of the Dominican Family all share the same priorities: prayer, contemplation, community, study and preaching.
In Edmonton Archdiocese, the Order of Preachers (St. Vincent Liem's Dominican Vicariate) is found at Queen of Martyrs parish.

If you want more information, contact: Vocation Director, English Section
F. Claude Richard
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Or:

The Western Canada Vicariate
Priory of St. Mary
5251 Joyce Street
Vancouver, BC V5R 4G8
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Telephone de la paroisse: 604-435-9611



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: The Redemptorists (Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer)

When were they formed? The Redemptorists were founded in 1732 by St. Alphonsus Liguori. St. Alphonsus was ahead of his time in the life of the Catholic Church. As a Doctor of the Church, his writings and compositions remain to this day, a source of inspiration. St. Alphonsus was a bishop, a respected pastor and shepherd for the people, an artist, a composer and brilliant writer, and had a special place in his heart for the poor and the most abandoned.

What is their focus? Redemptorists follow the example of St. Alphonsus in his love of Jesus Christ, who, out of deep love for humanity, became one of us, endured the Passion, and whose Resurrection brought us new life and Redemption. St. Alphonsus teaches us well about the Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and about the special role of Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Around the world, almost 6000 Redemptorist Priests and Brothers minister in 77 countries.

Our life is rooted in the Apostolic community: living together, praying together, working together, and talking together about what really matters in our lives, the world and the Church.

Our mission of evangelization invites each Redemptorist to witness to Christ's Redeeming love and compassion for the abandoned, especially the poor. Through collaboration with the Church and the laity, Redemptorists throughout Canada minister in a variety of ways, including Parish ministry, Preaching Parish Missions, devotions to our Mother of Perpetual Help: both on Television and in parishes, chaplaincy programs, Youth and young adult ministry, inner-city ministry with the poor and the marginalized, and the Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupré.

In Canada, Redemptorists minister in three languages and cultures: English Canada (Edmonton-Toronto Province), French Canada (Ste. Anne de Beaupré Province) and with Ukrainian Catholics (Yorkton province).

If you want more information, contact: Fr. Santo Arrigo C.Ss.R.
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Edmonton-Toronto Province
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Toronto, ON M5M 1W7
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Telephone: 416-789-3217



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Name of Religious Order: Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB)

When were they formed? The Salesians were founded by Saint John Bosco and take their name from its patron, St. Francis de Sales. We are a religious order in the Catholic Church founded in Turin, Italy in 1859. Inspired by the goodness and zeal of St. Francis de Sales, Don Bosco gave us a program of life in the motto: *Give me souls, take away all else.*

What is their focus? Faithful to the commitments Don Bosco has passed on to us, we are evangelizers of the young, especially if they are poor. We pay special attention to vocations to the religious and priestly life; we are educators of the faith for ordinary people, particularly by means of social communication. We proclaim the Gospel to those who have not yet received it. We carry out our mission in works and activities that promote the human and Christian education of the young, such as boys clubs and youth centres, schools and technical institutes, hostels and houses for young people in difficulties; parishes and mission residences, retreat houses, and the social communications sector. In 1877, Don Bosco founded the "Salesian Bulletin" which is published today in 52 editions around the world, in 30 languages.

Our educational practice rests on three pillars: reason, religion and loving kindness. The foundation of that system wants to be a sympathetic understanding of the young and an active presence among them, helping them to grow.

If you want more information, contact: Brother Bernie Dubé SDB
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
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Name of Religious Order: Spiritans Congregation of the Holy Ghost
(CSSp - Congregatio Sancti Spiritus; congregation of Holy Ghost)

When were they formed? Over 300 years ago in France, we had a modest beginning as a handful of young people interested in the welfare of the poor and marginalized. The Spiritans were co-founded in 1703 by François Poullart des Places and Francis Liebermann, in 1748, with the merging of the Missionary Society of the Holy Heart of Mary.

What is their focus? The Spiritans are a Roman Catholic Religious congregation of over three thousand members involved in many diverse ministries worldwide. We have dedicated ourselves to working with the poor and in those situations where the Church has difficulty in finding ministers. Since our arrival in Canada in 1732, we have shared in the establishment of urban and rural parishes, high schools, university, hospital and prison chaplaincies, pro-life movements, ministry to First Nations Peoples and outreach programs for new Canadians and refugees.

Our mission, in Canada, and around the world, is one of *presence*. We go to people, not primarily to accomplish a task, but rather to be with them, live with them, walk beside them, listen to them and share our faith with them.

Spiritans are priests and brothers, but also include a growing number of lay men and women, married and single. Regardless of your education, we welcome your commitment to our family.

Priests - teach Christ's message of justice, peace and compassion. They lead the community in prayer, especially in Mass and the Sacraments. Preparation involves the study of theology and at least one other discipline at the university or college level.

Brothers - Spiritan men who make vows but do not choose ordination. They develop professional and technical skills such as medicine, teaching, social sciences and communications.

Lay Spiritans - men and women, single or married, who belong to the Spiritan community and are committed to its mission, while continuing their regular lives.

VICS - Volunteer International Christian Service - an organization directed by the Spiritans which gives men and women the opportunity to share their skills with others in the developing world.

Supporters - people who give of their time and money to help the Spiritans continue their mission. Christ can always use another pair of hands!

If you want more information, contact: Spiritans: Congregation of the Holy Ghost
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Toronto, ON M4E 3S2
Ph: 416-698-2003 Fax: 416-698-1884
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Website: www.spiritans.com

VICS
#3 - 843 Youville Drive West
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Email: vics1@telusplanet.net
Website: www.volunteerinternational.ca



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE Edmonton Diocesan Council Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

Edmonton Diocesan Priest

The primary ministry of a diocesan priest comes from the Greek word, “to keep house”. The diocesan priesthood is one of being available and involved in the day-to-day lives of people thus helping the local bishop to “keep house” in the family of God who struggle to live out the Paschal Mystery - the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. Diocesan priests are in reality the extension of the Bishop, who is the chief shepherd of the people of God in his diocese. Their primary responsibility is meeting the spiritual needs of the Catholics in the diocese. Generally, but not always, this means parish ministry. The word ‘parish’ is taken from the Greek, a “dwelling beside or near”. Parish priests are to live near the people they are serving. As a pastor or an associate pastor, the diocesan priest spends his time and energy in ministry, such as visiting parishioners, school communities, administering the sacraments, and preparing homilies, along with parish administration. He may be also asked to take on other ministries such as teaching, campus ministry, being a chaplain at a hospital, military base, or a prison. Some are assigned to work in Diocesan offices like the Marriage Tribunal, Vocations office, Office of communications or youth ministry. A central responsibility of the Diocesan priest is to pray for his people and for the whole church. As a pastor, a diocesan priest is the shepherd of his parish community, thus responsible for their spiritual growth and well-being as families, individuals, and as a faith community. It is of utmost importance that he takes time to pray for his own needs, chief of which is to grow ever closer in relationship with Christ, his friend and brother. The presence of a Diocesan priest represents the presence of Christ and the Church - ever beside its members through the successes and failures, joys and sorrows of life.

Diocesan priests do not make a vow of poverty like that of religious priests, sisters, or brothers. Instead they are called by the church to live simply and receive a salary from which they pay for their personal needs and save for future ones. A diocesan priest may live with one or two other priests in a rectory, but many times, he lives alone.

If you want more information, contact: Edmonton Archdiocesan Vocations Office
Director: Fr. Paul Moret
Catholic Pastoral Centre: 780-469-1010
Email: vocation@edmontoncatholic-church.com
Associate Directors:
Rev. Patrick Baska 780-474-5434
Rev. Mike Mireau 780-986-3253

Permanent Diaconate Program:
Director: Ron Woytiuk
Catholic Pastoral Centre: 780-469-1010
Email: diaconate@edmontoncatholic-church.com



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
Edmonton Diocesan Council
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Name of Religious Order: The Society of Catholic Apostolate (Pallottine Father and Brothers)

When were they formed? Saint Vincent Pallotti (1795-1850) was a priest who, on April 4, 1835, founded the Union of Catholic Apostolate, bringing together priests, men and women religious, and lay people. They were united as a faith community for the common purpose of living and spreading the Good News.

What is their focus? St. Vincent Pallotti gave special emphasis to the fact that every Christian has from Jesus a mission for the Church and for the world. He was aware that the bishops, priests, and religious alone cannot carry total responsibility for evangelization. Lay people, too, have an obligation and the right to actively participate in the mission of the Church. The Second Vatican council confirmed the ideals which inspired St. Vincent, namely, that the apostolate of the Church is most effective when all the members are brought to an awareness of their obligation to collaborate in her mission.

"We serve the poor and encourage them to serve others in need.
We minister to the sick and ask the sick to be healers.
We teach, and ask our students to use their knowledge for the good of others.
We assist the spiritual formation of the laity, and ask them to be partners with us in the Christian formation of the world.
If this is your spirit, we invite you to share our vocation of challenge as a Pallottine sister, brother or priest. "

If you want more information, contact: Pallottines Canada
Fr. Ludwig Hens, SAC
321-90 Ave. SE
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1-800-749-7079

Rev. George Neumann, SAC
Good Shepherd Parish
18407-60 Ave
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780-487-7765

Rev. John Reddy, SAC
Our Lady of the Angels
10004-101 St.
Ft. Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1V9
780-998-3288

Rev. Henry Rosenbaum, SAC
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Calgary, AB T2J 1N8
403-278-4535

Name of Religious Order: The Sulpician Fathers (SS)



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
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When were they formed? The Priests of St. Sulpice were founded some 350 years ago by Jean-Jacques Olier. He was a wealthy man, and destined to be a priest at the royal court before he had a conversion experience. He went out preaching missions with St. Frances de Sales and had a great success, but the reform of the people in the parishes never lasted. When reflecting on why not, he came to realize it was because the clergy needed to be reformed. So, he sold off his benefices and rights to the income from a number of monasteries and other properties and traded them for the right to be the Pastor of the largest parish in the city of Paris, the parish of St. Sulpice. He began parish visitations, baptism preparation sessions, marriage preparation sessions and so on. He launched a huge reform of parish life at a time when the general state of the faithful was not too inspiring. He drew other young men to him, to live the apostolic life together like the disciples around the Lord Jesus. He had a great love and devotion for the Blessed Sacrament and for Our Lady. Many other Bishops began sending him candidates to be formed as priests. He was asked to start up houses like this in the rest of France. This became the origin of the seminary formation program across France, which reformed the whole Church through the reformation of the clergy.

What is their focus? Our mission since this time has been the formation of diocesan priests as pastors. A Sulpician Priest is a priest who has been ordained at least two years, who then works in the seminary for two years, before going on to further specialized studies to prepare him to work and teach in the seminary permanently. We remain incardinated as diocesan priests in our home diocese, even if we are "permanently on loan" for the work of forming future priests. There are three Provinces of Sulpicians: In Canada, the US and in France. The Canadian Province has seminaries in Colombia, Brazil, Japan, and in Canada (Quebec and Edmonton). The Canadian province has about 140 members... and all together world-wide, we are less than 400.

The constitutions of the Society bear this out:

Dedicated to Jesus Christ, the High Priest, the Society of St. Sulpice, born in the apostolate of Jean-Jacques Olier, its founder, is a community of diocesan priests whose vocation is the service of those ordained to the priestly ministry.

With this fundamental purpose in view, they devote themselves to the discernment of vocations, to the initial and ongoing formation of priests or to the exercise of other ministries. They fulfill this work with the desire to instruct others in the "interior life" and to form in them the "apostolic spirit".

If you want more information, contact: Western Canada Vocations contact:

Fr. Shayne Craig, p.s.s.
Rector, St. Joseph Seminary
15611 St. Albert Trail
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Name of Secular Organization: Madonna House Apostolate



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Edmonton Diocesan Council
Religious Orders in the Edmonton Archdiocese

When was it formed? The Madonna House apostolate is a family of Christian lay men, women and priests striving to incarnate the teachings of Jesus Christ by forming a community of love. In 1925, Pope Pius XI issued a call to "Catholic Action" calling on all the laity to participate in a new and renewed movement to carry and apply the Gospel message - the message of truth and justice, of morality and peace - to all aspects of human life. Catherine Doherty had been raised by her Christian Russian parents to a strong sense of responsibility toward the poor and less fortunate, and was painfully aware of the injustices of the economic and social conditions oppressing many of them. She was also filled, during the late 1920's, with a burning love of God and an unceasing questioning as to how best to serve Him. Catherine founded Friendship House in Toronto in 1930 during the depths of the Great Depression. She and a group of fellow laypeople strove to provide food, clothing and shelter to the unemployed and homeless; a library, reading room and social activities for those deprived of them; help in finding employment; and assistance to the immigrants in need. In 1947, Catherine moved to Combermere, Ontario to create a new apostolate, Madonna House. Madonna house began as a group of laypeople, but with the arrival of Fr. John Callahan and a number of other priests in the early 1950's, included priests in the membership as well.

What is their focus? In 1955, men were coming to Edmonton from all over Canada looking for work. Many found themselves without work, and in need of food and clothing. Archbishop John H. MacDonald responded to their needs by inviting the Madonna House Apostolate to come to the city to serve the poor of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. The first staff worker was sent to begin Marian Centre by begging, and the people of Edmonton responded by providing funds, material and volunteer help. A building was renovated and relocated. Eventually another was built. At Marian Centre, we try to build a family of love, witnessing to a Gospel way of life. Our first priority is to offer friendship and hospitality to all who come. It is our privilege to serve Christ in the poor, for he said, "Whatever you do for the least of my people, you do for me." Prayer is at the heart of our life here. Without prayer we would have no love to give; we could not go on serving from day to day. Our chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, is the center to the house. We are called to feed the physically and spiritually hungry - to clothe not only the body, but every aspect of life with the light of the Gospel. Marian Centre receives no support from the government or grants of any kind. We welcome volunteers to join us in the many jobs that need to be done each day and we also welcome donations of food or men's warm clothing.

If you want more information, contact: Marian Centre
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