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Dynamic Movement of the Spirit

Spring 2015
Canada/USA
Communications #37



"I decided to go forward as if I were sure of the future."

Father Theodore Ratisbonne, Founder (Memoirs)

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50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate Celebration of Christian-Jewish Relationship



Pope John Paul II and Rabbi Ta'eff, Chief Rabbi of Rome in 1965

Modern Milestones in Catholic Jewish Relations

Beginning in the wake of the Second World War and the Shoah (Holocaust), Christians around the world have been engaged in a dramatic re-thinking of their relationship to Judaism and the Jewish people. The result has been a wonderful flourishing of dialogue and interfaith activity between these two ancient faith traditions on the local, national, international levels.

For Catholics, this transformation has largely been inspired by the Second Vatican Council document Nostra Aetate (the Church's relationship to Non-

Christian Religions) and the many powerful statements, helpful guidelines and historic events that have flowed from over the past half century.

For a full breakdown of the Milestones in Modern Catholic-Jewish Relations visit the Scarborough Missions website where you can also download a PowerPoint presentation:

<http://bit.ly/1Hpnpmq>

Sisters of Sion and Nostra Aetate

From their beginnings in the 1840's, Sion Sisters taught Christian, Jewish and Muslim girls, respecting their beliefs and traditions. In their constitution, Sion's Founder, Father Theodore Ratisbonne, insisted

on reconciliation and prayer for the Jewish people. After Nostra Aetate, Cardinal Bea said that the task given by Sion's constitution was now given to them by the Church.

What Dialogue Looks Like: Scarboro Missions Helps to Celebrate Nostra Aetate's Anniversary

- by Murray Watson, Sion Associate

As part of the celebrations that are going on worldwide this year to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the Interfaith Department of Scarboro Missions (in Toronto) has embarked on an educational initiative to highlight some of the people who have been such a key part of that half-century.



Starting last October, Lucy Thorson (a Sister of Sion based in Toronto) and I have been working to develop and post short “capsule biographies” of pioneers in Jewish-Christian relations (most of whom have died), and individuals who continue their work today in various countries. At the beginning of each month, we post two biographies—one pioneer, one “contemporary voice”—both as an online Web page, and as an Adobe PDF file (for those who wish to download and print them, for use in classes or discussion groups). We are trying to provide a good

mix of individuals: Jews and Christians, men and women, religious and laypeople, and people from various different parts of the world.

To date, we have posted materials on the following individuals: Dr. Mary Boys; Jules Isaac; Dr. Amy-Jill Levine; Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Heschel; Dr. Edward Kessler; Sister Rose Thering; Judith H. Banki; Pope John XXIII; Rabbi León Klenicki; Sister Charlotte Klein NDS; Dr. John Pawlikowski and Dr. André Chouraqui.

We intend to continue this programme until October 2015—and we have no shortage of possible candidates! We hope that these can be a helpful way to remember and celebrate so many people who have dedicated their lives to promoting friendship and better understanding between our two communities.

If you would like to follow our project, or to read/download some of the materials already available, please check out our site on the main Scarboro Missions site:

<http://www.scarboromissions.ca>

Nostra Aetate Program—Toronto—Responsibility to Engage

In 2015, Roman Catholics around the world celebrate the 50th anniversary of two important documents of Second Vatican Council: 1) Declaration on the relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, Nostra Aetate (in Our Times) and the Declaration on Religious Freedom, Dignitatis Humanae (Of the dignity of the Human Person). These documents underline the importance of respectful engagement in a thoughtful and deliberate manner.

The spirit of positive engagement is one which permeates many religious and social doctrines.

Unfortunately, thoughtful religious and social voices have too often been drowned out by polarized and extremist arguments. The goal of this conference is to remove many of the exclusions which exist in our society and create an effective interdisciplinary forum.

Participants represent both international and Canadian perspectives. For more information, contact – Christian Jewish dialogue TO at info@cjdt.org

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of Toronto

Celebrating and Remembering Nostra Aetate: 50th Anniversary

Saskatoon Event Question: Where are we Going?

On March 1, at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Dr. Eileen Schuller OSU, presenter and with a panel reflected and shared on Christian Jewish relations hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese Interfaith Commission.

Sr. Kay MacDonald nds introduced Sister Eileen of the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University and a specialist in Jewish-Christian relations, advisor to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and serves as a delegate on Christian-Jewish consultation. Helen Fenyes, past president of Congregation Agudas Israel Synagogue who reminded the audience that our friendship is 100 years old.

Sister Schuller noted the impact of Scarboro Missions and Sisters of Zion, whose charism has always been “to keep before the Church, the love of God for the

Jewish people.” She described the evolution of the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation which was established by the Jewish Congregation, the Council of Churches and the Conference of Catholic Bishops. Their discussions included such topics as refugees, immigration and development of the Middle East.

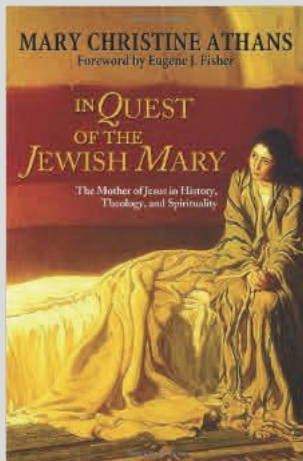
Panelists included Sister Eileen, Sr. Lucy Thorson nds, Rev. Scott Pittendagh, rector and Dean of St. John Anglican Cathedral and Helen Fenyes. Sr. Lucy called for a spirit of remembering and giving thanks for the progress made while affirming the present areas of growth and embracing the future with hope. She encouraged ongoing concrete initiatives, face to face action and to encourage groups of Christian-Jewish youth to be involved in concrete actions such as social justice, sharing resources and using new understandings such as social media and modern technology.

BOOK CORNER

In Quest of the Jewish Mary—The Mother of Jesus in History, Theology and Spirituality

By Mary Christine Athans, BVM Ph.D,

Dr. Athans draws on the latest in historical research, theological and spiritual reflection, the fruits of post-Vatican II Jewish-Christian dialogue and the insights of feminist theology.



In order to rediscover the Jewish Mary, as a woman of enormous courage, strength and prayers, she offers meditations, integrating Hebrew prayers which might have been extant in the first century.

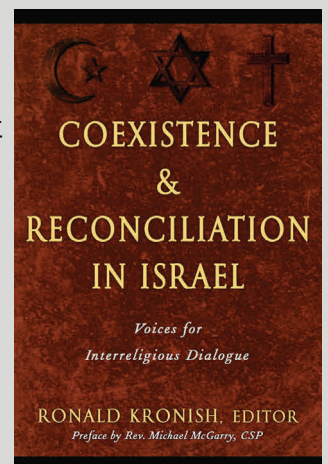
Coexistence and Reconciliation in Israel : Voices for Interreligious Dialogue

By Rabbi Dr. Ronald Kronish, Editor with preface by Rev. Michael McGarry CSP

There are five sections in the book:

Jewish-Christian Relations in Israel; Jewish-Muslim Relations in Israel; Triologue with Jews, Christians Muslims; Education for Peaceful Coexistence; Methodologies and Target Populations and Reaching Out to the International Community.

Dr. Ron Kronish, noted Rabbi, educator, author and speaker and is the Founder and Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) and has a representative at the Vatican and international conferences.



Postulant Vocational Story—Nancy Mena Fernandez, Postulant NDS



I have lived all my life in Costa Rica with my family. I always remember my parents teaching me and my older brother about the Catholic faith and our traditions. However, I was never involved in the church until I was 19 when I started to participate in different groups like a youth

ministry, a group called Missionary Community John Paul II and catechesis for children.

In 2009 I worked in a kindergarten while I was studying my major in University. Although, I was doing many things that I enjoyed I felt my heart empty but the Lord knew better than I what was happening; then he, as a lovely father waiting for his lost daughter.

Then in 2010 I went with a friend to a Vocational Encounter for young people. She was interested in religious life and I went to support her. I was not interested in any kind of vocational process. In the end she never came back to the group and I finished all the process. At this time I met Sister Alexandra who is the sister of Sion in charge of vocations in my country.



International Novitiate in Jerusalem in a sudden huge snow fall in Jerusalem



Left to Right: Sr. Mary Ellen, Postulant Nancy & Sr. Stephanie

After two years of accompaniment with Sister Alexandra, I had an experience of community life in the first semester of 2012 while I was finishing my Primary School Degree. Then I spent four months at home to decide about entering.

I made a retreat in October of 2012 where I heard the voice of God calling again and telling me *“I, Lord, have called you in saving justice, I have grasped you by the hand and shaped you; I have made you a covenant of the people and light to the nations.”* Is 42, 6.

I felt fear to answer his call but now I know that I made the best decision of my life when I entered in the Congregation in November 9, 2012; and my God has always been with me saying to me *“Have I not told you: Be strong and stand firm? Be fearless and undaunted, for go where you may, Lord your God is with you.”* Js 1,9.

UNANIMA—Commission on the Status of Women 59—March 9-20, 2015

- by Sylvia Obrigewitsch nds



- 1) Eliminate poverty
- 2) Equal access to education
- 3) Equal access to health care
- 4) Eliminate violence against women
- 5) Women suffering in armed conflict
- 6) Equal access to economic structures & resources
- 7) Equality in power & decision-making
- 8) Promote & protect women's human rights
- 9) Advancement of women
- 10) Equal participation in communication systems & media
- 11) Equality in management of natural resources & safeguarding the environment
- 12) End violation of the girl child

These 12 declarations are the outcomes of 1995 Beijing's World Women's Conference, and still fall short of implementation in all countries.

Sion within UNANIMA together with the many NGO's with whom our staff works daily, challenges the various Commissions by bringing the voices of those living with violence.

An example, the Mining Working Group of the UN, in which Ces spends a lot of time working, collaborates with others like Council of Canadian's Blue Planet Project, and currently they advocate for the human right to water & sanitation in countries where mining giants pollute. Many very small island nations call upon this Working Group to advocate for them because the voice of indigenous peoples whose rights to land, water and livelihood are ignored or not properly consulted. People living in the mountains of Peru, in British Columbia or by the lakes of northern Saskatchewan and Zimbabwe all face the same kinds of violations and are not consulted appropriately before their rivers and soil are contaminated.

At our March Board Meeting we were updated on the slow but steady positive results of this collaboration and of the formal & informal building of relationships

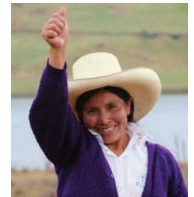
with the ambassadors and various country representatives. The results of bad mining practices and poor relationships destroys the earth's ecosystems. This impacts women and children who are the most vulnerable at the bottom of all the systems.

The Government Missions and NGO's puts on 2 weeks of Side Events (Workshops) every year held on the UN grounds as well as at 3 large venues close by. On the 2015 occasion of **Commission on Status of Women**, 9000 women came from all around the globe and told their stories, marched, and brought awareness to the 12 declarations listed above. Many UNANIMA board members participate in these informative workshops.

BUT THIS YEAR...the Commission on Status of Women #59 was Beijing plus 20!

- We took stock of progress since Beijing, noting areas of advance and failure
- Instead of struggling over an outcome document for the whole meeting, the Document (Declaration) has been drafted with input from five Regional meetings. It was approved at beginning.
- Why five regional meetings instead of "Beijing plus 20" ????? They were afraid that advances would be lost, due to the present world's conservative political climate and shifting powers.

Maxima Acuna de Chaupe is the recipient of **UNANIMA'S Woman of Courage Award** for 2015. This poor indigenous is a courageous woman from Peru standing up for her family's rights to live on their land.



Looking Back—Selma—Isabelle Lewis

Dusting off old memories can be a fascinating and sometimes inspiring experience. Our remembered past experiences may shame us, but even in the resulting sadness there is something for us to learn.

Recently I saw the movie, “Selma” which put me back in time to the days of the civil rights movement in the United States. After years of cruel injustice, the black community was bravely standing up and claiming their right to vote and to live with equal human opportunities guaranteed by the constitutions of their country.

I remember I was called out of my class for 6th graders at Sion grade school in Kansas City and asked if I wanted to join the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama to the capital city of Montgomery. Sister Franciscus, our superior at the time, being a zealous sister of Sion who well understood the importance of human rights and justice, invited some of us to go to Selma for the march. Three of us, Winifred McAnany, Barbara Reiderer and Rafaella Notre accepted the invitation with courage and determination.

This was a proud moment for us as Sisters of Sion and it remains so 50 years later, as President Barack Obama referred to these marchers as “people of enormous faith.”



Saint Josephine Bakhita’s Personal Story of Human Trafficking

Sister Josephine Bakhita, an African slave, who died in 1947 was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000. She was born in 1869 in the area now known as Sudan. Her story has become increasingly significant in the contemporary Catholic Church against human trafficking. Her feast day, February 8, 2015 has become the first international day for prayer and reflection on human trafficking.

Josephine spent several years in captivity as a slave-servant to the daughter of a prominent merchant who attended a school run by the Canossian Sisters in Italy. There



Bakhita met the suffering Jesus on the cross and this resonated with her pain of beatings and abuse.

She refused to go back to that family and the Sisters and Patriarch of Venice intervened on her behalf in court. Since slavery was illegal in Italy, she was freed and spent the next five decades as a Canossian Sister.

Often in physical pain, she would cry out, “Loosen the chains... they are so heavy.” May we take an honest action to the sin of human trafficking.

Congregational School Team Update—Alice Munninghoff, Sion International School Coordinator

The Congregational School Team will host the third international meeting for Sion Schools from May 4-10, 2015 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Currently, 57 participants are registered from 8 countries and approximately 20 Sion schools. The theme of this gathering is “Educating for Social Justice” and the program features several presenters, including Brother Elio Passetonds and Leonardo Boff, Brazilian Theologian, who will share their thoughts on the theme and offer suggestions about social justice and the Gospel message to serve one another. These presenters, along with others, will offer school leaders ideas that they will find helpful in working with students to heighten their awareness in responding to Jesus call to create a world of justice, peace and love.

Other highlights of the gathering include a signing ceremony of the “Charter of our Lady of Sion Schools” developed by the Congregational School Team at its

initial meeting in January 2014. An exchange of ideas and projects that are currently being done in our schools worldwide will allow every school to share its experiences of service and interaction with the marginalized in their own geographic areas.

In keeping with the theme, a full day immersion, hands-on experience with the poor in a favela is planned for our school participants. Additionally, a group of graduates of Sion in Brazil will share how their Sion education has formed them as adults, living out the mission of Sion in their careers and vocations.

Visiting the sites and experiencing the culture of Rio de Janeiro will complement the trip and will include a visit to Christ the Redeemer and to Sugar Loaf.

The CST is very excited for this third schools’ meeting and look forward to this time together to share our common commitment to our beloved Sion mission and the charism of the congregation.

Pope Francis on the Year of Consecrated Life...2015

The year of consecrated life challenges us to become “experts of communion”. Witnesses and architects for the “plan of unity” which is the crowning point of human history in God’s design. In a polarized society, where different cultures experience difficulty living along side one another, where the powerless encounter oppression, where inequality abounds, we are called to offer a concrete model of community which by acknowledging the dignity of each person and sharing our respective gifts, makes it possible to live as brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis continues “to have the courage to be present in the midst of conflict, as a credible sign of the presence of the Spirit who inspires in human hearts a passion for all to be one. (John 17:21)



Are you following the Friends of Sion Blog?

For everyone who shares the Charisma of brothers and sisters of Notre Dame de Sion

<http://www.friendsofsion.tk/>



People of Color Conference—Valeri Reynolds

This past December four educators and five students from Notre Dame de Sion School, Kansas City, Missouri, attended The People of Color Conference, PoCC, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The mission of the PoCC conference is to ‘quip educators with knowledge, skills, and experiences to improve and enhance the interracial, interethnic, and intercultural climate in their schools.’ Although this conference has been in existence for 27 years, this was the first time Notre Dame de Sion School was represented. In addition to Sion, over 3,500 participants from independent schools all over the country were in attendance.

During the conference, we were given the opportunity to discuss successful strategies that other independent schools implemented to establish a more diverse school environment. We learned that often times, educational institutions only use ethnicity to define a diverse community. In other words, schools believe more ethnicity equates to more diversity. However, PoCC teaches that to truly provide a healthy, diverse school atmosphere; administration must first embrace a broader scope by realizing that ethnicity is just one component. Other key factors include socioeconomic status, gender and religion just to name a few.

To begin execution of a formalized diversity plan, Notre Dame de Sion is launching a Diversity Committee to first create a diversity statement. The group will also initiate ways to integrate diversity into age appropriate curriculum. For instance, faculty who teach younger children can subtly introduce diversity by reading books, asking families to come in and speak about their culture or doing simple art projects that focus on the various skin tones that shape their classroom. Older students can actually play a larger part in promoting diversity by forming a sub-committee of the Diversity Committee. This will allow the students to have a voice in the creation and planning of further initiatives. In conclusion, Notre Dame de Sion is well on its way of fulfilling our current mission of ‘providing a culturally and religiously diverse world.’



Sisters of Our Lady of Sion (NDS)

We are an International Congregation of religious women, joined by Associates and Friends, called to witness to God’s faithful love as revealed in the scriptures for the Jewish people and all humanity. The Word of God is central to our lives as we seek to integrate a three-fold commitment: to the Church, the Jewish people and to a world of justice, peace and love. Our vocation calls us to work against all forms of racism, oppression and marginalization. In each of our ministries, we seek to respond to the biblical call to freedom and the imperative to “hear the cries of the poor”.

Ministries include: Jewish-Christian and interfaith relations/dialogue, education, social work, community development, parish ministry, spirituality, biblical studies and catechetics, intercultural work, work with youth and indigenous peoples. Sion communities are located in every continent. The Congregation is comprised of two branches, Active and Contemplative Sisters.

Contact celia.deutsch@gmail.com or Pauline Greenizan at sistersofsion.info@gmail.com

We are Sion video: <http://youtu.be/ng-g3DIgYAM>

Kansas City Associates talk about Consecration –Vatican II–Nostra Aetate–Audrey Dol nds

The first few months of 2015 have been a rich time for the Sion Associates in Kansas City. The Year of Consecrated Life and the 50th Anniversary of Vatican Council II have provided important themes for reflection, discussion and prayer.



NDS School

As we took a new look at the teachings of Vatican II from within our experience of lay associateship, the Council message about Baptism and the identity and

mission of the laity was brought alive in a new way. We have spent rich hours considering the relationship between the call to holiness, baptismal consecration, and consecration through vowed life. It has helped us see that the inspiration for the Associate Movement is deeply rooted in the Council’s understanding of the role of the laity in the Church. For this we are very grateful.

Our study of the origins of Sion has helped us realize that ‘seeds of lay commitment’ were present in our early ‘origins.’ Already on June 23, 1797 at Turkenstein, during the years following the French Revolution, two lay women and a priest entered into a solemn commitment together! We look forward to our Associates Retreat the weekend of May 30-31 when we will reflect together on these important roots and what they can mean for us as lay Associates today.

Another important occasion for us was April 9th when we participated in the



NDS Associates

we participated in the Nostra Aetate event: Understanding the Past: Discerning the Future. The afternoon was sponsored by the Sisters and Associates of Our

Lady of Sion and was hosted by Avila University. It brought together 31 representatives from three Catholic institutions in our neighborhood: Notre Dame de Sion School,

St. Thomas More Parish, and Avila University. The afternoon began with a presentation by Audrey Doetzel,



Sr. Audrey and STM Parish

NDS in which she reviewed some of the history which led to the Council’s focus on our relationship with Jews and Judaism.

The presentation ended by highlighting a sentence from the encyclical by Pope Pius XI, *Mit brennender Sorge*, which was read in the churches of Germany on Palm Sunday, 1937. After addressing the gravity of the situation under the Nazi regime, the encyclical stated: “Like other periods in history...the present has ushered in a new ascension of interior purification.” We couldn’t help but see that our present time is another such period — a period which is calling us to a new “interior purification.” As we reflected together on the “signs of the times” today, we saw the degree to which polarization has intensified on all levels of society — in the church, in politics, and in international relations. A resolution, which surfaced spontaneously and unanimously, was to replace our ‘teaching of debate’ with the ‘teaching of dialogue.’ We realized, perhaps more profoundly than ever, our important role today as educators — be it in a school, a university, or a parish.

Early Writings: Theodore Ratisbonne, Founder
From p. 135 of Book 1:
**You realize that God is only love
 that He gave us only love
 that He asks only love
 in return for love.**

The Nun Who Brought God to Ramah—Jacob Cytryn and Mary Ellen Coombe

GLEANINGS—*Dialogue on Jewish Education from The Davidson School*

Jacob Cytryn is the director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin

Sister Mary Ellen Coombe is associate director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Jewish camp director reflects:

Each of us, educationally and institutionally, has our profound weaknesses. Not the weaknesses that we can improve through practice or advice, but the ones we just cannot get right. When faced with profound weakness, we have two options: give up or look to the outside.

It is no secret that Jews and Jewish educational settings generally do not do a great job of talking about God. We are great at a variety of things surrounding God: Biblical, Rabbinic, liturgical, and medieval texts about God; philosophical challenges related to God, like theodicy; comparative theology—Biblical versus Maimonidean/Aristotelian versus kabbalistic versus modern. But God Talk itself is just not what we do well.

At Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, as in many other educational settings, we did not stumble on a way to consciously address our profound weakness. Instead, a solution emerged out of relationships. The wife of the camp director before me worked for the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee, with a focus on interfaith work. She had befriended a masterful educator, a Catholic nun named Sister Mary Ellen Coombe. One thing led to another, and ultimately Mary Ellen was invited to join us at camp for a long weekend.

Those first few summers, Mary Ellen spent much of her time at camp in Q&A sessions about Catholicism and Christianity. She fielded more than the

occasional question challenging the idea that Trinity could be reconciled with monotheism. In her answers—about Jesus; her own calling; the Church's history with and current relationship to the Jews; faith, love, and belief—she did what she does best: she shared deep and complex ideas in the simple, easily comprehensible language of a gifted, thoughtful, and experienced educator. However, Mary Ellen did more than that: she introduced unabashed, nuanced, and direct talk about God to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin.

Over the years, Mary Ellen has been the lead teacher on weeklong, presummer interfaith seminars for advanced undergraduates and graduate students about to return to camp as staff. On her annual return year after year, she still does the occasional Q&A, especially with our younger campers or our special needs population of young adults with high-functioning autism spectrum disorders. But she now spends a lot of her time engaged in more specialized discussions: about martyrdom on Tisha Be'av, Christian connections to the Holy Land in the context of programming on Israel, why she became a nun.

As she approaches retirement, she has worked on building new relationships in order to continue her work at Ramah. A young priest who majored in Jewish Studies at a university that sends a significant number of staff to camp has visited for two summers, and another is being actively recruited to join us for the first time this summer.

The nun shares:

My years of visiting Camp Ramah have been a great learning experience for me. Years ago, I set off to camp to learn about you and to tell you about me and my Catholic community; it was as simple as that....

Read the full article on JTS website:

<http://bit.ly/1PQ6kBm>

A Sion, mon esprit a ete eduque et mon Coeur a grandi—Barbra Goetz

In preparation for the International School's meeting in Brazil, I took the time to re-read Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's book; *The Dignity of Difference*. Many things spoke to me. I would like to share two of them with you;

“Education is the single greatest key to human dignity”

We are very fortunate at Ecole Bilingue Notre Dame de Sion, St. Laurent, Quebec, to live in such a rich and diverse environment. It is the very air that we breathe. Opportunities to celebrate, and learn about each other, occur on a daily basis.

Recently the Grade Sixes wrote about how they would feel if their culture was taken away from them. Their insights were profound. They wrote how it would make them feel like they did not belong. That they were not who they thought they were, and this would lead to feelings of sadness, fear, and anger.

As a school, it is essential that we insure that diversity does not lead to division. Projects and celebrations that bring us together as a community provide moments of bonding. Each year our Fete du Sion is one such joyful time. It is when we know we are all members of this wonderful Sionian family. This year another opportunity presented itself thanks to the help of Sr. Dianna Lieffers.

As the winter month's and the Christmas break was nearing, the School undertook a project in support of St. Gabrielle's Parish's Food Basket Drive.

Sr. Dianna Lieffers, who works tirelessly with the poor, came to speak with our students. She educated them in regards to the causes of poverty, and what the reality of being hungry means to children and their families. The students were allowed to ask many questions. As well, they saw a demonstration of what goes into a food basket. They wanted to know why we have 'poor people' in Canada. Sr. Dianna talked to them about the people she knew, and the struggles that they faced each day. The students left with a deep understanding of why they must help. Sr. Dianna's witness was powerful and authentic. The response in terms of volunteering, food donations, and money was overwhelming. We were all so very enriched by the experience.

Each student, their families, and the staff joined together in all their rich diversity to make this project possible. We all shared the common desire to make a difference. We all belonged. We had hearts as large as the world on that day!



Pentecost Blessings!

Send your news, comments and new subscriptions to Sister Stephanie Schmidts nds

sschmidts@sbcglobal.net

SOJOURN IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

"You will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem...and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Center for Biblical Formation: Notre Dame de Sion in Jerusalem

The center for Biblical Formation was established at Ecce Homo in the Old City in 1982 in response to an expressed need of clergy, religious and lay persons desiring to study scripture in the Land. Programs are offered in English, Spanish and French.

"And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem." Psalm 122:2

Study the Origins of Your Faith
Be Enriched By A Unique Experience
Reflect on the Meaning of Discipleship
Further Your Knowledge of the Scriptures
Explore the Religious, Cultural, Historical, Political Context of the Land
Witness the Living Faith of Jews, Christians and Muslims



PROGRAMS:

Passover & Easter Programs: March 10–April 6, 2015 & March 8–April 4, 2016

This program will celebrate both of these feasts of freedom and study them from the perspective of the Christian tradition it provides

Rediscover Jesus In The Land: Luke: June 2–29, 2015 & Matthew: June 1–28, 2016

This program is especially for teachers and preachers so that they combine a serious study of the gospel with excursions to the places significant

In The Footsteps Of Jesus: September 7–October 4, 2015 & September 27–October 24, 2016

This program pays attention to the first century setting and narrative style of Mark

For information regarding fees, programs and volunteer opportunities, check the website or send an email

www.biblicalformation.org
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