

Ryerson Catholic

Chaplaincy Centre

OUR NEWS-eLETTER:

(Volume 3, No. 11)

March 10, 2008



“...made in the
image and likeness
of God...”

This past Thursday, in Room 115 of the Student Campus Centre, about 35 students and young people gathered to hear and discuss Catholic teaching in the area of homosexuality. Sponsored by Faith Connections, the Ryerson Catholic Students Association, and the Ryerson Catholic Chaplaincy, this Theology “Tap on Tour” was intended to broach a topic that is quite familiar to students on campus, but not as much so within the arena of faith. With many thanks to the evening’s main presenters, Dr. Moira McQueen (Moral Professor, member of Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute) and Mr. Denis Costello (Social Worker: Catholic Family Services of Toronto) a very informative and respectful presentation was made regarding the reality and understanding of homosexuality within the human family and greater Catholic community. Table discussions were lively, and many questions were asked and concerns were raised. And without a doubt, it became apparent that our teachings are not always easy to own or embrace, that answers in this area (as in many areas of morality) are not always easy to come by—black and white does not cover easily when dealing with real people whom teachings touch in a very personal way! However, one message that came out loudly and clearly from all interactions of the evening was this one *“We are all children of God—we are all made in God’s image and likeness, and need to be treated as such.”* As people of faith, may we all embrace this message regarding everyone we meet...

(Fr. Jim Roth, OSFS)

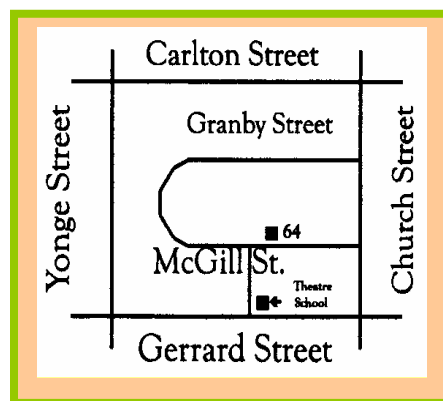
Weekly at the RCCC...

The Ryerson Catholic Chaplaincy Centre
64 McGill Street
416-351-0365

Website: www.ryercath.ca

Email: Fr. Jim Roth, OSFS -- jroth@interlog.com

Email: Kim Gottfried -- chapkim@interlog.com



OFFICE HOURS:

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (M-T-F)

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (W-R)

All are welcome!

DAILY SERVICES:

--Mass at the Chaplaincy Centre (12:15: M & F)

--Lauds (Monday 10:00 am); Vespers (Friday 3:00 p.m.)

--Chapel reflection and quiet prayer (anytime!)

--Pastoral Guidance and assistance (anytime!)

--Fellowship and social outreach (anytime!)

--Sacramental Reconciliation: any morning (M-T-F), or by appointment

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK".....

"The value of Christianity need not be seen in itself, but it must be seen in us."

(Hans Urs von Balthasar)

NEEDED— food for Ryerson's "Community Food Room"

To benefit Ryerson students in need, the following items can be dropped off at the RCCC: microwaveable lunch foods (noodles, Ravioli, etc.), rice, breakfast cereals, canned fruit, etc.

**COLLECTION BOX LOCATED JUST
INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR**



COMING SOON...

“Faith Sharing Circle”

(5:10 – 6:00
at the RCCC)

March 11 & 25

Are you a female Catholic college or university student interested in bringing holism (of mind body and spirit) to your student life? Are you looking for purpose & meaning in the career path you have chosen? Are you passionate about addressing certain social justice or health issues but don't know how to go about it or who to turn to? Would you like to get involved in local, provincial, national and or international initiatives that link your faith with your profession?

If you are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Women's League of Canada and the vision for a campus CWL please e-mail Shirley Christo at schristo@ryerson.ca to arrange a convenient date for meeting and further dialogue.

Liturgy of the Hours

Start and end the school week by joining us in this traditional Catholic prayer. Each day has seven times set aside for this form of prayer. We will start off by praying “Lauds” on Mondays (10:00 a.m.) and conclude the work-week with “Vespers” on Fridays (3:00). If there is interest in having more “hours” (each one lasts approx 15 minutes), we can accommodate!

Lauds: (Mar 17, 31 at 10:00 a.m.)

Vespers: (Mar 14, 28 at 3:00 p.m.)

“faith in Action”

Thursday, March 27th
(10:00 - noon)

TOUR OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHEDRAL

Meet at the cathedral (Church & Bond St.) for a guided tour of this historical and highly-utilized institute of faith.

**MEET IN THE CATHEDRAL
FOYER BY 10:00**

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE RCCC!

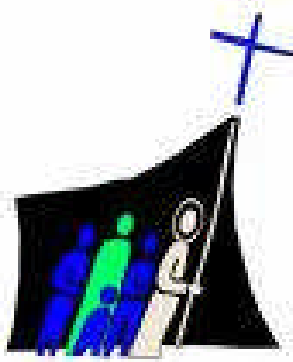
March 18 (7:00-9:30)

The C.S.A. and RCCC presents:

**“THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE—
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA”**

(Light refreshments will be served)





“...I was in prison and you visited me...” (Pt. 2)



(A Lenten “Faith in Action” reflection on the visit to Kingston Penitentiary)

Reading week is a time when university students are let free for a week from the daily strains of school work. But this reading week, six Ryerson students, all in different majors including social work and criminal justice, were behind bars! They had responded to the opportunity to go behind the scenes at Kingston Penitentiary, Canada’s oldest and only maximum security prison. “Faith in Action” is a program run by the Catholic Chaplaincy which allows students from Ryerson to visit unique places that tie into faith and a corresponding program of study.

We all gathered at the Chaplaincy Centre before we left to introduce ourselves and share what we might experience. The more we shared our thoughts, the more we all realized what a rare trip we were going on! After all, we were going to be the first group of students from Toronto to tour Kingston Pen, let alone the first group of students to have the opportunity to meet with the prisoners. There was definitely some excitement, but also some anxiety as we did not know what to expect.

Once we arrived, we met with the chaplaincy team of King Pen who led us through the entrance security. They then gave us a brief tour, pointing out areas where prisoners can meet their families and the core of the prison where most of the prisoners stayed in their cells. We were then led to a meeting room where seven prisoners, all serving some sort of life sentence waited for us, as well as two of the prison’s volunteer coordinators. There were chairs arranged in a circle and refreshments on the side. Many of us were a little wary of our surroundings because we didn’t expect it to be so informal. We were literally sitting beside men who committed serious crimes.

The reality of our trip did not hit until we actually got into the question and answer period where there were many interesting questions asked by us the students and many insightful, intelligible answers given by the prisoners. What made it so rewarding was that the prisoners were just as eager to dispel any stereotypes and answer questions as we were to ask them! One student remarked that at one point it did not feel like we were among prisoners at all! By the end of the trip many of us had developed very strong opinions and thoughts about the whole experience. The way Canada’s prisons are financed; the reality of living in prison and the stereotypes involved with Kingston Penitentiary were all major areas of enriched discussion on the way back home. This trip was definitely an eye-opener and hopefully the start of more educational trips to Canada’s oldest and infamous prison, Kingston Penitentiary.

(Assumpta Selvasadan—Second-Year Ryerson Student)

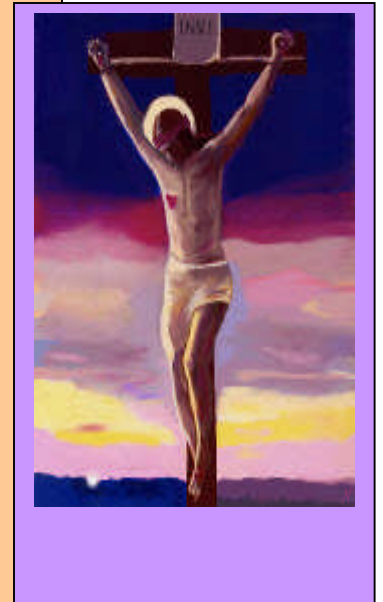
“And Let Us Pray...”



*Jesus my Lord,
let me strengthen my courage
by taking on the courage
of all those people who have been "centurions"
for me.
Many have faced disasters
and hard times with great constancy.
The upper hand of evil never turned them
against you.
They kept going.
Let me be like them, Lord.
No matter what the cross,
let me never stop declaring you
to be "truly the Son of God,
the source of my hope,
the reason why I will never quit on life.*

Amen.

(Catholic Doors Ministry)



“...and may God bless you, protect you, and deliver you from all harm.”

