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Members of the Regis community celebrate at the donor tea. Back Row, left to right: Gordon Rixon SJ, Dean, Julie Cachia, Office of the President, Maureen Baldwin CND, Student Council, Zane Chu, Admissions Assistant. Front row, left to right: Professor Joseph Schner SJ, Wilma Scherloski, Dean of Students.
I am writing these words on a lovely Sunday afternoon in early June. I find it a joyful setting to recall at leisure the academic year that has just ended, and give thanks for it. Back in January, when the snow was blowing and the second semester was just being launched, such an ending could be contemplated only in imagination.

But good things were brewing even in the snowy weather...We were in the throes and delight of planning and working towards the Gala Fundraising Dinner held on February 9th that was such a community-building success for Regis. Some forty people who had never visited Regis before joined over 100 others of us for the evening—and left as our friends. Regis staff, faculty and students cooked, served and cleaned into the late hours. The Gala left an indelible joy in the hearts of our guests—and in ours, as well. What a memorable evening it was!

Soon after, we had other special evenings to which our friends (old and new) were invited. The Labyrinth evening featured the video presentation by that name of the graphic, utterly powerful drawings by Polish artist Marian Kolodziej memorializing the horrors of Auschwitz which he survived for more than three years due, as he put it, ‘to the love and sacrifices of other inmates.’

We ended the semester with the Commissioning in our final Eucharist of our graduates for the work that lies ahead after Regis, and the ordination of two of our Jesuit scholastics to the priesthood and another to the diaconate.

Perhaps the most marvellous and hopeful event, as winter turned into spring, was the arrival at Regis—made possible by the kind donation by Mr. Peter Benninger—of the sculpture by Tim Schmalz entitled Jesus the Homeless. This sculpture, based on Mt. 25, now sits at our front entrance. It immediately entered our spirit as a community and serves now as an inspiration and challenge for us and many occasional visitors.

People from far and near come to view the work, to sit at the pierced feet of the homeless one, and—yes—to pray. This wonderful gift to the Regis Community will lead us to encounter both literal and figurative homelessness; and with grace, will allow us to become more and more the hands and face of Christ in our world. It is this hope we carry into our summer.
Panel faces the facts and feelings of ‘being homeless’

The arrival at the College in mid-April of the sculpture ‘Jesus the Homeless’ presented our Regis friends with a special opportunity to hear about homelessness as a wound in society calling for our attention. A panel made up of Bruce Rivers, the Executive Director of Covenant House, Ted Penton SJ, a Regis student who described his first-hand experience of life in hostels, and Gordon Rixon SJ, academic Dean of Regis, featured different takes on the isolating and soul-damaging effect of not having a home on young as well as older wanderers. Over 200 people filled the Regis chapel for this event.

**Mr. Rivers** gave the raw facts on the homeless youth who make their way to downtown Toronto and, for a good number, to Covenant House. They come from various parts of Canada and they end up on the streets for a variety of usually unknown but very understandable reasons. They are truly the forgotten ones since, as he said, most busy people don’t think these youth really have to be on the streets. Rivers urged his listeners to a way of truth with compassion.

**Ted Penton** surprised the audience by giving a live, flow-of-consciousness access to his responses upon entering various street hostels on a ‘pilgrimage’ from Montreal to Winnipeg as a Jesuit novice. He presented his journey into rough, loud and even threatening encounters so graphically that no one could avoid feeling with him his fear, and even repugnance in many of the hostels and missions he stayed at. He came to ‘know’ the experience of the homeless.

**Gordon Rixon**, focussing on the recently dedicated ‘Jesus the Homeless,’ traced out elements of a truly Christian vision of God’s love for each of his children, noting the beauty God finds in each one. Seeing the beauty in all creation and in each individual is both possible and necessary for Christ’s care to flow through us to others—even ones who repel and frighten us.

Questions and comments from the audience revealed the intimate character of many people’s experience with the suffering of being homeless. The event ended with a candle-light silent vigil in the dark, gathered around our new sculpture. It was an evening of prayer, truth and encouragement.

Peter Benninger (far right), who funded the purchase of ‘Jesus the Homeless,’ poses with family members after the dedication.

Tim Schmalz, sculptor of ‘Jesus the Homeless’.
Regis Jesuits Ordained in Joyful Ceremony

On Saturday, May 25th, many Regis faculty, staff and students shared in celebrating at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish the priestly ordination of Hendrik van Meijel SJ and Trevor Scott SJ, and the ordination of Matthew Livingstone SJ as a deacon.

Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa, presided at the ceremony, assisted by Very Rev. Peter Bisson SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits of English Canada and Rev. Robert Foliot SJ, Rector of the Regis Jesuit Community. The truly joyful ceremony drew the supporting presence of many family members of each of the three men being ordained as well as their friends, brother Jesuits and a wide representation of the parish community.

Fr. Van Meijel has returned to his work as pastor on the Wikwemikong Reserve on Manitoulin Island where he spent this past year. Trevor is pursuing his interest in art this summer in Venice, while Matthew, with his special interest in Islam, is preparing for a year of Arabic studies in Cairo starting in September.

We wish each of them a fruitful life in ordained ministry and in their personal relationships with the people of God with whom they find themselves.

2nd Annual Regis College Book Sale a Success!

More than 20,000 gently used (and some new) books were on sale at the second annual Used Book Sale held at Regis College April 24 – 27. Over 950 people browsed for their favourite authors, and many went away with a treasured book or two. There was something for everyone. Close to $13,000 was raised for Regis College. And the Library added 125 books to its collection! Revenue will continue to come in year-round as the College receives income from leftover books that are being sold on our behalf through a book sale charity. “An extraordinary group of Alumni, students and volunteers spent months planning, promoting and organizing the book sale, and Regis could not have accomplished this success without people like Catherine Von Zuben and her dedicated group of volunteers,” said Jack Costello SJ, President of Regis College. “We would like to thank everyone who donated books, volunteered, and bought books at the sale.”
Alumni/ae News

Alumni/ae have expressed an interest in keeping in touch. If you are interested, contact Wilma Scherloski at regisdean.students@utoronto.ca

Alumna Profile

Helen Butlin-Battler

MDiv, Class of ‘99
Co-author of Just Say…A Couple’s Last Journey Together by Jennifer Fazakerley, Helen Butlin-Battler and Grace Bradish

“When I am sitting with people in the dark night, I tell them that I have no answers but I am here to walk with you.”

Helen Butlin-Battler

Helen Butlin-Battler says that our life is a series of threads of relationships that weave together to form our life. It was while Helen was working at L’Arche that she met Professor Desmond Buhagar SJ who encouraged her to study theology at Regis. After graduating from Regis, Helen entered the chaplaincy program at St. Michael’s Hospital. Today she works as a spiritual care specialist with the London Regional Cancer Program. It was in this capacity that she developed a unique spiritual program called “Soul Medicine.” Helen explains in her own words that the program, “targets the experience of fear and despair with the teachings and practices of different spiritual traditions and supports people living with cancer.” Her aim is to help cancer patients and their families find ways to live each day with hope.

So it was that the ‘thread’ of Regis College led her into a profession in spiritual direction in palliative care and the opportunity to meet cancer patient Rob Fazakerley, inspiration of her latest book: Just Say…A Couple’s Last Journey Together.

Helen recalls her studies at Regis: “The Ignatian Exercises taught me the capacity to discern from within. The rigorous formation in academics trained me to think and articulate a spiritual language. Spiritual direction encourages you to find a spiritual path and follow it in your own way.” Helen has just been offered a PhD candidacy to research soul medicine in health sciences.

Left to right: Helen, Grace and Jennifer.

Alumna Profile

Kathryn Perry

MDiv, STB Class of ‘08
Author
The Courage to Dare:
The Spirituality of Catherine Donnelly
Founder of the Sisters of Service

To order visit www.novalis.ca

“Now is the time to dare fearlessly with all your might and trust in God.” These words, spoken by Catherine Donnelly, founder of the Sisters of Service, express the theme in alumna Kathryn Perry’s insightful new book: The Courage to Dare.

Kathryn Perry says that Sister Catherine Donnelly S.O.S. was a visionary. “Her wisdom was prophetic, and her radical fidelity to her vision for the Church in Canada is legendary.” In the 1920s, as large numbers of immigrants arrived from Europe, and at a time when most nuns were cloistered or worked in religious institutions, Catherine was suggesting that religious women, armed with teaching and nursing certifications could step over both civic and religious boundaries to serve the poor. Kathryn explains that the work of people like Catherine Donnelly influenced the reforms of Vatican II. Catherine arrived in the West as a fully qualified teacher in the 1920s. A pioneer in many ways, “she recognized that the rural public school could serve as a base of operations for mission work.”

Kathryn says that it was her work as a teaching assistant at Regis College with Sister Kathleen McAlpin RSM in her Integration for Ministry seminar that gave her the confidence to write the book. Kathryn’s wish for the reader is that through this book we are touched and challenged by the wonderful spirit of Catherine and that we appreciate her legacy to the Church, our Country and the world.
Regis Happenings - A year in pictures

Royackers Lecturer Cardinal Peter Turkson.

Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher SJ (right) delivered the 2012 Chancellor’s Lecture.

2012 Convocation in the Regis Chapel.

Gala dinner guests: Anne-Marie Jackson, Greg Kennedy SJ and Sister Evanne Hunter IBVM.

Some of the incredible faculty, staff and volunteers who made the Gala a huge success.

Fr. Michael Kolarcik SJ serves his happy Slovak-Canadian guests.

Professor David Novak, Rev. John Pawlikowski, Rev. Ron Schmidt SJ and Dr. Mary Jo Leddy, panelists at The Labyrinth evening that featured a video presentation of the drawings by Polish artist Marian Kolodziej memorializing the horrors of Auschwitz.

Regis College’s annual Donor Recognition Tea at which Fr. Scott Lewis SJ presented the Gospels and Acts volume of the Illuminated Edition of the St. John’s Bible.

Guests of all ages enjoying the afternoon tea.

Left to right: tea co-hosts, Michele, Wilma and Julie.
**Faculty Updates**

**John D. Dadosky** convened the Lonergan Studies Panel at the Catholic Theological Society of America on June 8 in Miami, Fla. He received a publication grant from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada for his forthcoming book: *The Eclipse and Recovery of Beauty: A Lonergan Approach* (U of T Press).

**Joe Schner SJ** will be busy for part of this summer directing the three week Summer Intensive for the Doctor of Ministry students, and giving retreats for the Year of Faith at Queen’s House, Saskatoon (July 1 to 5) and at Villa Loyola, Sudbury (August 11-16).

**Jack Costello SJ** will be lecturing at the CCVT Conference on ‘Religion, Peace and Violence’, to be held in honour of the International Day of Solidarity with Survivors of Torture on June 26th in Toronto. He will be part of a multi-faith panel representing Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Baha’i traditions.

From June 19 to 23, he will serve as a facilitator and consultant on refugee sponsorship in the RC Diocese of Charlottetown PEI.

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Regis Happenings...

For more information about these and other Regis happenings visit our website at www.regiscollege.ca

Windows on Theology Continuous Learning Series - Fall 2013

For more information about the Windows on Theology Continuous Learning Series, visit our website: www.regiscollege.ca/Windows_on_Theology or contact inquiries@RegisCollege.ca or call 416-922-5474 x221. Cost is $175.00 for each eight-session series. The two courses are independent; it is possible to take either or both. Speakers and topics are listed on our website, www.regiscollege.ca/Windows_on_Theology.

Spirited Conversation I
Eight weeks starting Wednesday, September 18, 2013 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
This first part of a two part series will introduce and employ the art of spiritual conversation to explore challenging issues in the dialogue between religion and contemporary society.

Spirited Conversations II
Eight weeks starting Wednesday, January 15, 2014 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
This second part of a two part series will also introduce and employ the art of spiritual conversation to explore challenging issues in the dialogue between religion and contemporary society.

Fall Film Series Announced: Redeeming the Time

This year’s series looks at the stories we live out of in our personal lives. To live is to be a pilgrim in time and as we journey into mystery, we discover we are constantly entering into one story and leaving another. We live our lives in stories. They shape our lives, our responses to life, and even our expectations about life.
To register visit www.regiscollege.ca/Film or call 416-922-5474 x221. Freewill donations to cover the cost of these evenings will be gratefully accepted. For fall film listings see our website, www.regiscollege.ca/Film.


November 22 at 7:30 pm in St. Joseph’s Chapel
Please pre-register at www.regiscollege.ca/Chancellor or call 416-922-5474 x221.

monthly e-newsletter
Keep up to date on all the happenings at Regis College!
To sign up contact Michele Clemo 416-922-5474 ext 231 or michele.clemo@utoronto.ca

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