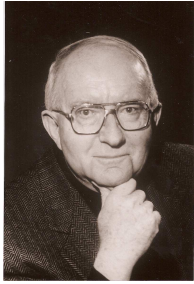


Anglican Fellowship OF **PRAYER** Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER - Vol. 23, No. 1

EASTER 2015



THE WALK

A reflection on Luke 24: 13 – 35

Herbert O'Driscoll

Over the years she had become familiar with the storms of emotion that could sweep her into depression or euphoria. She knew well that the last seventy two hours, the horror on the hill where she had witnessed agony, the ecstasy in the garden where she had encountered a beloved but elusive presence, would send her over the edge if she did not do something to keep control.

She knew also that there were others who were fighting to keep control of their feelings. One of them, with whom she happened to be sharing a thrown together meal, was a local and more recent member of the group from the Jerusalem area. His name was Cleopas. When he suggested a walk to a nearby village where he had family, she responded gladly. She recalled meeting some members of his family a few weeks before.

They had left the city behind and were about half way when they were joined by a traveler. Already they had moved into deep conversation about the recent months in their lives and the ways in which they had felt themselves changed. If anything they regretted the interruption, and at first they were naturally wary, as they would be of any stranger, but there was something about him that made them open to the encounter.

"Well, you two are obviously deep into some discussion. May I ask what it's about or would I be trespassing?" The voice was pleasant, easy, and almost ever so slightly jocular. Perhaps it was that quality of ease that seemed to trigger a nerve in Cleopas. To her surprise his response was petulant and resentful. So much so that she half expected the stranger to be repelled by the tone.

- Continued on page 2 -



Shout Shout and Shout Again

Paul Feheley

AFP National Director

On the Easter just before he died, D. William Sangster painfully printed a short note to his daughter. A deeply spiritual Methodist, he had been spearheading a renewal movement in the British Isles after World War II. Then his ministry, except for prayer, was ended by a disease which progressively paralyzed his body, even his vocal chords. But the last Resurrection Sunday he spent on earth, still able to move his fingers, he wrote: "How terrible to wake up on Easter and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!' Far worse, to have a voice and not want to shout." ¹

What William Sangster wrote, despite knowing he was dying of progressive muscular atrophy, speaks to the heart of what Easter is about. In the resurrection we have God's promise that life is stronger than death, that love is greater than hate, that mercy overcomes judgement and that the sufferings and difficulties of this life, while real and sometimes painful, do not have the last word nor do they represent the final reality.

As I become more deeply involved in the work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, I see in a new and deeper way that same Easter promise of God's in the lives of people. Through prayer to the risen Lord, people are receiving hope. In the quietness of meditation they receive faith and in the dialogue of conversation with God they experience love. The resurrected Lord offers new life energy and delight to each of us as we stand gazing at the empty tomb.

- Continued on page 2 -



*Photo by
Simon Chambers*

THE WALK*- Continued from page 1 -*

However, he persisted with a quiet question that encouraged even Cleopas to continue.

Over the next couple of miles all the despair and agony poured out: the recent years spent with a wonderful person, all the dreams and hopes, the final horror, the tantalizing and mysterious hints of the last few hours, everything. All through it they walked together and the stranger listened.

Then came the response from him. When it did it was so sustained and reassuring and revealing that only long afterwards would they realize he had given them a completely new lens through which to understand the great tradition they had been brought up in as children. As they listened, even the pain and loss seemed to make sense. Healing seemed to begin.

She could see that Cleopas felt as she herself did. They didn't want this encounter to end. Both began to blurt out the invitation at the same moment. "Would he share a meal?" "Of course." "An inn?" "Of course." Being from the area Cleopas knew one nearby.

Every moment of what followed would become indelible memory. The table in the cool darkness of the inn, the wooden platter of fresh homemade bread put down by the landlord's daughter, the relaxed almost languid movement of the stranger's hands lifting a piece of bread, the quiet almost inaudible blessing, the breaking, the offering, their own instinctive reaching towards him, all would remain etched forever in memory.

Nothing further was said. She felt captive – willing joyful captive – to this moment. She knew the same was true for Cleopas. The silence continued for what seemed an eternity of deepening wonder and inexpressible joy.

Held in the silence, they were dimly aware that the stranger was gently excusing himself and withdrawing from them. Neither she nor Cleopas moved. It seemed somehow right for them to remain still within the mystery of the moment. The open doorway darkened for a moment at his leaving, and he was gone.

Hours later they would arrive back with the others, exhausted yet alive with boundless and wondrous joy.

This joy and wonder comes to you and to me.

For we too are called to set out for Emmaus,

And by grace to meet a Stranger

who is no stranger, by Whom we are fed.

Shout Shout and Shout Again*- Continued from page 1 -*

The leadership of AFP has been working very hard and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is seeking that same new life and energy for you and I to share the hope and grace that come from prayer. In this newsletter you will find details of our conference in June. It will be a critical one for our future as we seek to be faithful in "encouraging, facilitating, and promoting the use, understanding and discipline of prayer."

Please join us in St John's if you are able and we ask you to join us in fervent prayer as we all seek to both honour and celebrate Our Lord this Easter. May we always be ready to shout, 'He is risen!'

On behalf of the executive committee and my family, I wish you a glorious Easter.

¹ *James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 167*

***We welcome our
New Diocesan Representative***

Diocese of Moosonee**The Rev. Deacon Richard Moore**

The Diocese of Moosonee, which is centred on James Bay, and covers much of northern Ontario and Quebec, has appointed the Reverend Richard Moore, Deacon, as their new diocesan representative to the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer - Canada.

Richard, a retired public-school educator, and a grandfather to eight, served forty-nine years as a lay reader before his ordination on March 1 of this year. He has also been heavily involved in community service, as well as with provincial and federal organizations. The church, however, has become the focus of most of his "work" in retirement, and he states he is most pleased to be a more formal part of the Fellowship.

Membership In The Anglican Fellowship Of Prayer



Val Kenyon
AFP National Chair

Go to any English dictionary and you will find the word "Member" defined as someone who belongs to a particular club or group that gathers around a shared interest or passion.

For the past number of years the

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer has encouraged individuals and parishes to become members by paying a suggested membership fee of \$35 per year which entitled them to receiving three newsletters in a year. So many have been faithful in this membership and we are very grateful for the generosity shown and the obvious wish to support prayer in our dioceses.

As our central and ongoing interest at the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer is to promote and support the development and discipline of prayer as we move forward in an ever changing church environment, we are considering a broadening of the idea of membership. In a very real sense we would like anyone who is interested in the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer to consider themselves a member, by both actively engaging in personal and corporate prayer, and in supporting the work of the AFP in their diocese and at the national level.

The reality, of course, is that it does take funds to continue our work and so while donations will continue to be solicited, we anticipate that they will not be tied so specifically to membership. More details of this new understanding will be considered in June as Diocesan Reps from across Canada gather to consult on this and other issues. So, please watch for news. In the meantime, we would welcome any thoughts that you might have on this topic and of course will gratefully accept donations as there continues to be costs associated with our newsletter and other events. Donations can be made either online through **Canada Helps**, which can be found on our web site, www.anglicanprayer.org or by mailing a cheque to:

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada
P.O. Box 78084
NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2E 1B1

Many thanks,
Val Kenyon

A Prayer for Veterans

Paul Dumbrille



"Jesus, you said, 'There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Today we pray for those men and women who have, in their military service, sacrificed their time, strength, ambition, health and even their lives to benefit 'friends,' known and unknown.

Many of our veterans carry scars in their hearts as well as on their bodies. Dark memories haunt their dreams at night. Fears cloud their waking hours. Jesus came to give us abundant life by providing a way for us to release our pain. On the cross he bore our sorrows and brokenness and when we trust him, we can exchange our wounds for his joy in a future unhindered by despair. Bring this gift now to the veterans of our nation who bear tangible and intangible wounds.

Gracious God, bless the families of soldiers who bear their pains vicariously. Give them patience and wisdom and strength to endure, and more than endure, to hope in faith for a blessed life. God, not everything that happens in life is good. But you promise to work all things together for good to those who love you and align their lives with your purpose. Create good in the families of veterans who have experienced pain and loss. Do this, we pray.

We honor our veterans in your name. We thank you – as we thank them – for their service and sacrifice. We ask you to give them your blessing, a gift we on our own could never offer. We ask that you would give our veterans a peace beyond the peace they served to secure, a peace in their own hearts, wrapped in the joy of a life touched by your strong hand.

**The resurrection of Jesus
changes the face of death for all His people.
Death is no longer a prison,
but a passage into God's presence.
Easter says you can put truth in a grave,
but it won't stay there.**

Clarence W. Hall



SOME GOOD ADVICE

Val Kenyon

We Canadians do love to talk about our weather don't we? (Do you ever wonder what folks talk about who live in climates with very little variation in the temperature? It is hard to imagine.) Whole conversations can

take place between two complete strangers as they muse over the extremes we endure, with escalating tales of frozen pipes, outrageous heating bills, even debating just how many minutes does it take exactly for skin to freeze? I realize there are more cheerful conversations that can also be had around the weather such as the fact that winter provides us with opportunities to ski, snow shoe or skate outdoors. And there is nothing quite as lovely as the scene of the sun in a bright blue February sky as it glistens down on snowy lawns and house tops. But as we stand on the verge of Easter 2015, we know that spring is right around the corner, and while it will bring with it mud and melting, I don't hear a lot of complaining as we watch winter disappear in our rear-view mirror.

Spring as it wakes up all around us becomes the season that turns sadness to joy, death into life, gloomy grays into brilliant colour, as trees and plants begin to shake off the hold of winter, pushing their way into a warmer world, each day bringing us a moment more light, with the mercury slowly but resolutely, making its way up the thermometer.

At the same time we as Christians will soon be celebrating the season of Easter, the centre of our Christian year. Emerging from our Lenten observances and special services of Holy Week, Easter is for us a season of hope and of possibilities. As we recall and celebrate the incredible events of the first Easter Sunday, we are reminded that in Christ, love triumphed over evil, darkness and death. Humanity was set free from the slavery of the fear of death.

Because of this as we go through grey and gloomy times in our own lives, challenged by health, financial or relationship issues, we know that in the midst of it all the gloom, there is God, even when and perhaps especially when it is not immediately apparent.

I love these two verses from 1 Corinthians 13, especially in this new paraphrased translation, The Message. It expresses the perfect sentiment as we move out of gloom into light, *and* as life pushes us back and forth in and out of the gloom, catch Paul's advice in the last verse ...

¹² *We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!*

¹³ *But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.*

...trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, and love extravagantly! Always good advice. Every blessing of the season.

Val Kenyon+



If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically, and don't receive it in your inbox already,

please email our editor,

Win Mizon

newsletter@anglicanprayer.org

PRESS RELEASE

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada) to hold National Consultation in Newfoundland in June 2015

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada), exists to encourage and enable the ministry of prayer in Canada. It is inclusive of all forms of expressions of Christian church life, whether they be lay or clerical, catholic or evangelical, monastic or secular, formal or informal. AFP (Canada) seeks to be a teaching resource to assist both individuals and congregations to grow in the life of prayer. It seeks to increase and strengthen the companionship of Christian prayer throughout the world.

From June 1st to 5th, 2015, AFP diocesan representatives will be gathering at the Lavrock Centre in Newfoundland for a National Consultation conference. At this Conference, attendees will have opportunity to meet with the National AFP Executive as well as share in fellowship with other diocesan and parish representatives.

The purpose of this AFP National Consultation meeting is for members to participate in an exercise to further its ministry. The AFP seeks to be relevant to the needs of church and wants the input of participants. Ultimately, the AFP seeks consultation from its many supporters to ensure that the organization continues its focus on promoting the practice of Christian prayer by all as well as bringing people into a full redeeming, sanctifying communion with God through Jesus Christ.

Diocesan AFP Representative for Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, The Rev'd Greg Mercer, states that his hope for this national gathering would be, "A time of renewal and affirmation." To learn more about the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada) National Consultation, you can contact: Valerie Kenyon at vvkenyon@rogers.com.

The work and mission of the AFP (Canada) is supported by the prayers of many and by donations which are always welcome and appreciated. For those seeking to learn more about the work and ministry of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada) or to view our Newsletter, visit their website at:

<http://www.anglicanprayer.org>



Easter People

The Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz

One of the ways I exercise my ministry is by writing a blog on the national website, The Community. I invite folks to ponder with me ways that Christianity is an everyday thing, extending beyond the 4 walls of a church. "The very way we live our lives is worship", part of the introduction reads, then asks "How does that inform the choices we make? How do we respond to God's grace in our daily lives?"

This framework seems especially poignant as we get ready to journey through Holy Week; from the jubilation of Palm Sunday through the Triduum to the joyful Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. It's an emotional week, a busy week, a prayerful week.

It's a week that should, if we take it seriously, change our lives. And it does this because it defines who we are, at our core, when we call ourselves Christians.

As Christians, we are an Easter people. That means we are the people who live in hope, in faith, in ultimate trust of the promise of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and his ascension into heaven. It means that the Resurrection is a reality for us.

So here's something for us all to ponder: how has THAT reality making a difference in our everyday life? How will we continue to celebrate that great gift, that miracle, that joy that surpasses all expectation?

It's not always easy; we have bad days, we are faced with difficult challenges, we face opposition. Yet we are called to be Easter people, to bring that joy to the world, to live every moment in the profound bliss. We are called to delight in the proclamation that "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" long after the chocolate is eaten and the lilies have died.

I propose that the way in which we might do this is through prayer; I invite us to intentionally keep Easter in our hearts and minds by giving thanks to God for all the blessings of this life: for the things that bring us joy, and for the things which inspire us to grow. May we recognize every day as a new day, full of new possibilities to see and share God's love, full of new inspirations waiting to be realized, full of new prayers to be raised. May we feel in our hearts the truth of the Resurrection, sustaining us and uplifting us to greater joys than we have ever known. May we truly celebrate being the Easter people that we are, and let the celebration inform all we say and do.

PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS CD

Thank you Antony Day



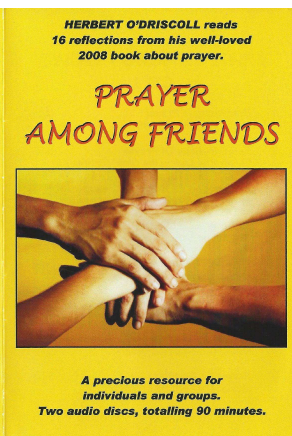
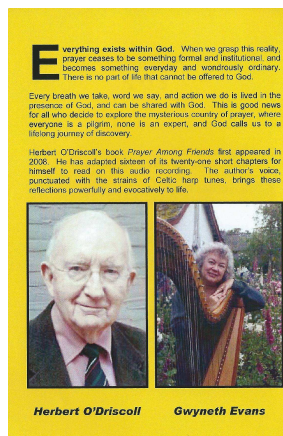
This is a CD resource consisting of 16 talks by Herbert O'Driscoll. The title and length of each talk is shown on the accompanying sheet.

It has been used as a lunch time study and as an evening house group study. In both cases the participation of the attendees has been "very good". We

have found that the best way to lead a session is this: the leader should listen to the talk before the larger group hears it and jot down points that are of interest to the leader. These notes may be handed out before the talks begin.

After the group has listened to the talk, allow a short time of silence for personal reflection and perusal of the prepared notes. Folk are then invited to share with the group some things of interest to them. Occasionally people may ask to hear the CD for a second time. Once the conversation is finished play another talk. Three talks can be comfortably listened to and discussed in one hour; four will take slightly more than an hour.

A prayer or prayers before and after the group session is recommended.



PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS CD 1

- | | | |
|---|---|------|
| 1 | Everything Is Prayer
Music: Kingsfold (Irish) | 5:07 |
| 2 | The Simplicity Of Prayer
Music: The Lark in the Clear Air (Irish) | 6:59 |
| 3 | Surrounded By Prayer
Music: The Ash Grove (Welsh) | 5:12 |
| 4 | Lighting A Candle Of Prayer
Music: The Lark in the Clear Air (Irish) | 5:54 |
| 5 | Objects Of Prayer
Music: The Ash Grove (Welsh) | 5:56 |
| 6 | Prayer – Our Spiritual Geography
Music: The Blackbird (Welsh) | 5:01 |
| 7 | Prayer On The Run
Music: Over the Hills (English) | 5:24 |
| 8 | Prayer As Gratitude
Music: The High Hills (English) | 5:28 |

PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS CD 2

- | | | |
|---|--|------|
| 1 | Prayer And Honesty
Music: The Blackbird (Welsh) | 5:35 |
| 2 | Prayer As Action
Music: Over the Hills (English) | 5:30 |
| 3 | Sustained Prayer
Music: Gentle Maiden (Irish) | 5:22 |
| 4 | Night Prayer
Music: Suo-Gan (Welsh) | 5:36 |
| 5 | Prayer As Loving Thought
Music: Gentle Maiden (Irish) | 5:36 |
| 6 | Constant Prayer
Music: The High Hills (English) | 5:25 |
| 7 | Prayer In The Moment
Music: Suo-Gan (Welsh) | 5:28 |
| 8 | Thin Places Of Prayer
Music: Kingsfold (Irish) | 6:21 |

Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference 2015 Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Huron) Presents

GOING BROADER ... GOING DEEPER Experiencing

A Variety of Prayer Practices SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

Church of the Ascension, London

2060 Dundas St. East

10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

\$20 Lunch Included

Special Gift

*For Registrations Received Before
April 18/15*



WORKSHOP TITLES

Prayerful Movement

Lectio Divina

Walking the Labyrinth

Prayer and Fasting

Prayerfully Imagining the Scriptures

To register please contact
Rev'd Kim Metelka : kametelka@gmail.com
2896 Old Lakeshore Road
Bright's Grove, Ontario N0N 1C0
519-869-2403 or text info to 519-464-8892

**O Father,
Your power is greater
than all powers.
O Son,**

**Under Your leadership
we cannot fear anything.**

**O Spirit,
Under your protection there is
nothing we cannot overcome.**

KIKUYU PRAYER (KENYA)

APCI NEWS**Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior
British Columbia****Gord & Mary Dove**

We are still trying to get the word out to APCI about AFP and find it slow as we're trying to help parishes realize what the ministry of a parish rep would be. So far we have about 5 parish reps. We have taken displays and brochures to diocesan events and at each event there was some interest.

We are very excited that on May 1, 2, 3, at our Assembly (Synod) we will be having Mark Perrin with us to help with a diocesan vigil for the Assembly and he will be there to tell us more about the depth and breadth of the vision of AFP and to field questions. We ask for your prayers for this event.

**Diocese of Rupert's Land****Diane Guilford**

Our Diocesan AFP group generally meets once a month to pray for the church, world issues and prayer requests. Most months we have a guest who is either ordained or a lay professional. We feel that often spiritual

leaders pray a great deal for others but do not receive many opportunities to have prayers and spiritual support for themselves. This is an opportunity for them to share confidentially and for us to support them in prayer. They are also invited to bring their spouse if they wish. Before our synod in the fall we had the Secretary of Synod come for prayers and spiritual support. Our requests by the clergy for this ministry has declined the last few years. Perhaps it is because more clergy have their own spiritual directors. There is also a group of people from AFP who meet on a monthly basis with our Bishop, Don Phillips and his wife Nancy. They provide a meal and prayers. Bishop Don and Nancy have been grateful for this ministry of care and support. Both these ministries were started several years ago by Mary Duff, a clergy wife, who was the AFP Diocesan Representative at the time.

We have continued to enjoy traveling to parishes in the rural areas and hosting prayer services. These are designed to provide prayer support for the parish and a chance for the parish to pray for their clergy and leaders. We were pleased to be invited to Lac du Bonnet in the fall. This is a new parish in our diocese since the Diocese of Keewatin has disbanded and the southern region has joined with the Diocese of Rupert's Land. It extends east to Ignace, ON, south to the US border, and north to Sioux Lookout and Red Lake in Ontario, and Lac du Bonnet in Manitoba. We hope to visit other churches in our new partnership. For myself, this has been quite significant as I used to live in Keewatin and was the Diocesan Rep there in the 1980s.

The Diocese of Keewatin has undergone significant transitions the last several years. The Holy Spirit has done powerful work in this huge diocese that extended from Hudson Bay to the US border and covered a great deal of the north in North Western Ontario and Northern Manitoba. We pray that as God's people in these areas transition that the Holy Spirit continues to provide vision and energy and hope. Here in Rupert's Land we welcome Keewatin's presence and anticipate what God can do through us in this new partnership.

News from the Diocese of Montreal**Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale**

After being commissioned in our mission by the Bishop of the Diocese of Montreal, the Right Reverend Barry Clarke, at the 2014 Synod Eucharist, we continued our work of promoting the AFP-C here and there. We presented the Alongsiders' Program to the Lay Readers' Association at its Study Day in November. This group of committed lay people is often called upon to lead worship services in seniors' residence where this program might naturally flourish. We sold the 20 kits that Paul Dumbrille assembled for us with care. Our many contacts have been asking us questions about the AFP-C, so word is spreading. We are pleased to announce that the parish of Trinity, St. Bruno has joined the AFP-C and we welcome Betty Ross and Carol Hutton as the Parish Representatives.

**Be Lord Jesus, a bright flame before me,
A guiding star above me,
A smooth path below me,
A kindly shepherd behind me:
Today, tonight, and forever.**

St. Columba (6th century)

Children's Ministry

Elizabeth Short

Easter Prayer Stations



Easter is such a special and important part of the church year. I was looking at a variety of activities for kids, wanting to find something besides the

jelly bean poem. I came across a really good Easter activity for children, using prayer stations. This is great because it can be tailor-made to suit your circumstances. It could be used at home or Sunday School and it could be used all at once or over a week. You can use it as is, or use it as a starting place to develop your own prayer stations - or a bit of both. You can find it at flamecreativekids.blogspot.ca. Click on **Hands on Easter Story**. Enjoy!

I wish you and your kids (your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and students, friends) a blessed and joyous Easter.

Generous and loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have is gift from you. In faith and love, help us to do your will. We are listening. Speak your words into the depth of our souls, that we may hear you clearly.

We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home, at work, or at school. We seek to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us and the fervour to carry out our good intentions.

We offer our gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbours. Help us to reach out to others as you have reached out to us. Amen

*Taken from AFP-C website – Selected Prayers
Prayer #2 of Corporate Stewardship Prayers*

Our postal address
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada
P.O. Box 78084
NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2E 1B1

Check out our AFP-C website:

www.anglicanprayer.org

I invite you to check out our website, as new items are regularly being added. The **Audio and Video Resources** under Resources has new items you can watch for inspiration and information.



In particular, the **“Encounters on a Journey”** series of video and audio recordings are intended to help the audience discover their connection with God. They are stories from the journeys of Anglican clergy and lay people, about times when they felt connected to God and inspired. Some of them have made significant decisions and life changes as a result of these experiences.

More videos and recordings will be added in the coming months.

A list of pamphlets, cards, and books can also be found on the website. Some of these resources are free or can be purchased at a minimum amount.

Please let us know what kind of resources you would find useful. We will try our best to provide them.



Soon, information and registration forms for our upcoming **consultation in St. John's, Newfoundland** will be added.

Remember, you can find current and past **newsletters** on the site as well. You can always go back a few years to check for a prayer or an article. I'm sure you would find this much faster than trying to remember where you put your newsletter.



Donations can be made by clicking the icon on the website under membership to help with the work of the AFP-C to provide resources, newsletters and of course our website.

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