



Signs of the Spirit

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Issue 31

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MAGGIE JACQUES- A GUILD SUPPORTER PROFILE

By
Hilda Young



~Maggie Jacques (left) receiving her 25 year pin from Julie McBride

Maggie Jacques has been an active member of our Guild in Petawawa since I have known her. So I asked her for more information about her background. Maggie has been a Guild member for over 25 years. She joined the Guild in Oromocto in 1986 at St. George's Chapel.

From 1987-1992 she joined her husband Peter who was posted to Lahr. While in Lahr she held president and vice president positions. There, the annual Merchants' Fairs were major fund raisers for Lahr and Baden Guilds. She is very proud of the charities those funds help support. These monies supported various charities, including an AIDS hospice in Toronto and Rotel (in Ottawa) – where many families stationed overseas stayed when family members were receiving treatment in Ottawa area hospitals- including NDMC, CHEO and the General. It was also an exciting time as the Berlin Wall came down and many refugees were pouring into Western Germany. The Lahr Guild helped arrange a clothing drive and took the donations to a Refugee Centre and toured its facility.

In Petawawa, Maggie has been President and Secretary at the local Guild level and National Vice-President. She attended National, Regional and Common Ground conferences. She helped organize the National conference held in Petawawa in 2003 and a one day Retreat for the local area Guilds.

Maggie has initiated many local Guild projects including our latest cookbook (to raise funds for a library for the Dalit children). She is the contact person for the unit our Guild has adopted at the Perley Rideau Veterans hospital and retirement home in Ottawa. She has been the contact person for the town library “Festival of Trees” event where we have had a tree featured displaying information about what local and wider missions our guild supports. In the past during the Guild Sunday service Maggie has enjoyed doing the children’s time and the adult message. She has organized our Christmas parties, and contributes to bake sales. In the congregation she reads, is a sides person, and looks after the chapel library. She also reads and attends the local World Day of Prayer service.

Written by Hilda Young, Guild President, Petawawa Guild

Guild Sunday in Ottawa Picture submitted by Christine Maltais



**Don't forget Guild Dues can be sent to:
Fran McCollum,
63 Dufferin St,
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 5R5**

Spiritual Advisors Corner



As I prepare this, it is “All Hallow’s Eve,” commonly known as Halloween. It is so named because it is the day before “All Hallow’s Day” or in common language: All Saints Day. I have always been fascinated with All Saints Day, a day in many Christian traditions that is set aside to celebrate the lives of Christians who showed extraordinary dedication and sometimes sacrifice in demonstrating their love of Christ.

Christians have widely different perspectives on All Saints Day; some feel it is to celebrate truly exceptional individuals who now enjoy a special relationship with God. Others highlight the fact that in scripture, all who are reborn in Christ are to be called saints, and that means all of us who are followers of Christ, and seeking to do his will in the sometimes challenging circumstances of our lives. One aspect of this feast which I suggest we all may agree on is that it reminds us that our journey with Christ is not a solitary one. All Saints Day reminds us of all those other faithful people that went ahead of us, from our Biblical ancestors through the martyrs of the Early Church, through to members of our own families who demonstrated their faith in so many ways. Those days when we feel that life is difficult, it is often helpful to read about the lives of other faithful people and how their Christian conviction helped them through hard times. We may be surprised to read that the lives of most of these holy people were not without doubts or fears or times of sadness and regret. Sometimes we think that truly holy people don’t experience those kinds of negative emotions. Holiness is a journey, not a destination, and a lifetime one at that. All Saints Day helps to remind us that God doesn’t ask us to be perfect; he asks us to be faithful, and to seek both his guidance (always), but also that of trusted witnesses that may have walked the way before. We are on this journey together and in need to learn from and support one another. Faith communities like the Guild are living witnesses to the spirit of All Saints. In all the activities of your local Guild, be it devotional, social or fundraising, you are sharing your Christian journey with others, and therefore, helping both yourself and someone else in their journey “of” (not “to”) holiness.

I know by the time you read this, the feast of All Saints will be passed, but that doesn’t mean that the celebration of all those holy people in our lives, past, present, personally known to us or those we have been inspired by, has to end. May the spirit of this feast day encourage and strengthen you in your own walk with Christ!

Blessings,

Padre Lisa+

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD – 1636

BY JOYCE WILMOT, CFB GAGETOWN

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. “

1 Thessalonians 5:18

And old English preacher once said, “A grateful mind is a great mind”, and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving and some of them are powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 adds, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich handful we do have is “Now Thank We All Our God”. The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the “Doxology”, yet it’s loved on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world.

It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years War was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying and burying the dead.

One after another, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world since.

Now thank we all our God, with heart
and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in
whom this World rejoices.

Extract from Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan

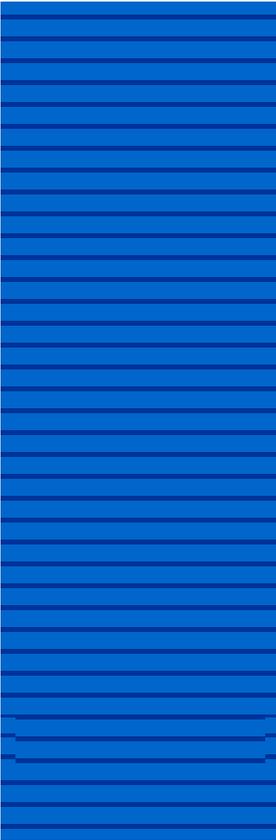
Hi Everyone!!

I'm a Nana!! Mia Emily came into this world on July 19th! People (Grandma's and Nana's) told me that there is nothing like being a grandparent, so I couldn't wait! They used to say how special the birth of your own children is, but grandchildren were even more so!! I have to say they were right! When I held her for the first time, I couldn't believe that I was her Nana, and I just wanted to kiss and cuddle her (Pop was the same).



We really did love her before she was born! The more I look at her and am around her, I just think she is a gift from God! I even said to Allison our daughter and Mia's mom. Now do you understand how much we love and have loved you? She said, "Boy that must be a lot"! Like my Mom used to say, "You won't understand until you're a parent"!

Written by Christine Maltais, Ottawa Guild



Please send us pictures of your Christmas parties or any other Guild events!!

Submissions are always welcome!!

Deadline for the next issue is January 1st, 2014.

You can submit by email: signsofthespirit.editor@gmail.com

snail mail: Dee McCabe Box 218, Denwood AB T0B 1B0

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