



L'ARCHE® TAHOMA HOPE

SOUNDINGS

December, 2013 Volume 25, Issue 3

“It is no use to say that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ.

Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late.

Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.”

~ Dorothy Day

We are continually invited to make room in our hearts and, indeed in our lives, for God to find a home among us. Dorothy Day wrote, “We do it by seeing Christ and serving Christ in friends and strangers, in everyone we come in contact with.” In many ways this is the daily invitation of life in our L’Arche community...to open our hearts to make room for God...and serving Christ in one another in the little daily tasks and small gestures of care and kindness. Ricky opening the door for Sharilynn, Nancy reminding us of the simplicity of prayer, Charles and Nate enjoying each others company, Dave making sure the homes are ready for winter weather...and on and on.

In this Advent and Christmas season we celebrate Emmanuel ~ God with us. We rejoice in a God who chose to enter into a relationship of solidarity with humanity not in power and self-sufficiency but through a journey that began in vulnerability and need.

This is the season to remember that ultimately, no one goes it alone and that we all bloom when connected and grounded in relationships. May we indeed remember that Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. And, remember as well, that the greatest gift we give and receive in our all too busy lives is making room for mutual relationship.

On behalf of the L’Arche Tahoma Hope community, I extend great gratitude to our supporters and friends who share with us the gift of relationship and solidarity. We are here...blooming in the ground of community and relationships...because of all of you and a God who is very much with us.

Blessings,

Stacy



Pat Kernells ~ A Life Well Loved

by Teresa Hershberger, Community Coordinator

Who said that love was fire?
I know that love is ash.
It is the thing which remains
when the fire is spent, The
holy essence of experience.
- Patience Worth



Our dear Mr. Sunshine died in the afternoon on October 4th. He left this world, perhaps not exactly as we had planned, but surrounded by prayer, friends and song.

Indeed, as the poem above insists, what is left at the end of Pat's life is love. Pat was a man gifted with welcome, anticipation, and celebration. He was always accompanied by his faithful friend Pooh – a large stuffed animal who was really *much more* than a stuffed animal. These are all essentials that he carried with him in life.

Victor Hugo says, "The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved." I don't think Pat ever doubted his belovedness. And I think that because of the way Pat loved me. I *know* that he loved me.

- I know because of the way he would call me toward him every time we were in the same vicinity, pointing at me, smiling wide, and waving me toward him with his finger.
- I know because of the way his eyes twinkled when he teased me – taking my ice cream and pretending to eat it, then laughing.
- I know because he would call me on the phone in the evenings, mostly for connection, and tell me "Tree! Tree! Know what me did? Me had soup me did. Me go work? Tomorrow? One day. That's it."
- I know because of the way he cupped my face with his hands pulled me near and said "I love you my friend."
- I know because of the way he'd kiss my forehead when I tucked him in, then force my face into Pooh's so Pooh would get a kiss.



And as much as I know Pat's love for me, I know Pat's love for *everyone*. He was a man who lived through many terrible things; things that would inspire many to close themselves off from the world. But Pat always chose love. Whether people lived with him for years, or had just met him, by chance, in the store. Pat gave love.

Now we are in the days of feeling the emptiness in all the spaces that Pat used to fill. The quiet of Hopespring without oxygen machines running, Shari's and Ihop, the empty rocking chair where Pat would create unique works of art... it all reminds us that he is gone. But what remains still is his love; the memory of it enfolding us and holding us. Now it inspires us to continue his legacy of a wide open heart and a gentle embrace that says to *everyone*, "I love you my friend."

From the Development Corner...

People often ask me how they can support L'Arche Tahoma Hope. It is thanks to the kindness and generosity of the friends of L'Arche Tahoma Hope that L'Arche is able to sustain an intentional community, providing homes and work for individuals with intellectual disabilities. So here are a few ways that would be most helpful to us:

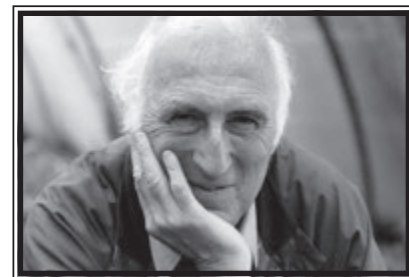
- Annual Giving Campaign contribution,
- Planned Giving - Bequest, Legacy Gift, Will, an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution,
- Annual Auction – donate an item and/or attend this event,
- Memorial/Honor Gifts,
- Christmas or Birthday Gifts - send a donation to L'Arche in the name of a friend or family member and L'Arche will send a card,
- Volunteer in a home or with Farm and Gardens,
- Pray for L'Arche.



If I can be of any help, please let me know. May you have a Blessed Christmas and New Year. David Rothrock

Jean Vanier Receives the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award

Following is an excerpt from the speech that L'Arche founder, Jean Vanier, gave upon receiving the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom award in July, 2013.



I would like to thank you Bishop Amos because you have done something very beautiful. You have shone a spot light upon the vision and the realization of the vision of L'Arche. I was only the "beginner" of L'Arche... I dare say I remain a beginner, maybe not a founder but just a beginner.

If I began L'Arche as a work of justice and of truth in the name of Jesus to save two men from the violence of an institution, my nearly 50 years here in L'Arche have made me discover the wisdom of love of tenderness, the wisdom of simplicity, the wisdom of goodness and of fun in people who are weak and fragile. They have taught me so much more than any book. They have revealed to me and helped me welcome my own weaknesses. They have transformed me as I began to live relationships of mutual friendship with them. They have brought me to discover that our societies are upside down. So many individuals are climbing ladders of promotion, seeking victory, frequently addicted to violence, rather than living relationships of tenderness with people who are weak and in need.

Peace comes not when we say or believe that each and every person in the vast human family is precious and important, but when we begin to leave the security and comfort of our own clan and group, in order to meet and become friends with those who are different and who belong to another clan or group or culture. To cross the road to meet people who are different and belong to another culture, and to become their friend is to take a risk, it is the risk of peace. I took this risk to leave a normal and conventional road when I began L'Arche, encouraged by a holy priest. I had no plan; my idea was just live together, eat together, work together, have fun together and pray together.

Over the years L'Arche has been led by the beautiful, gentle and tender hand of God. So many wonderful men and women from different cultures, churches and religions, or without religion, seeking new ways of peace, have come to share their lives with those who are weak and fragile and have been transformed by them. They have discovered the wisdom hidden in the hearts of those who are weak and they have grown in love and in wisdom.

So it is that today our community in Belfast stands as a sign of unity between the two cultures of Northern Ireland. Our communities in the US, Canada and in UK and elsewhere stand as a sign of unity between people of different churches. Our little community in Bethlehem stands as a sign of unity between Christians and Muslims as they share their lives together. All our communities stand as a sign of the oneness of our human family. It is the weak and the poor who call us together to be a sign of peace.

It is true, to live our life together with those who have been humiliated and hurt, to grow in a love that Paul defines as patience, service, to believe all, to hope all, endure all and to accept all, we need to find a spirituality of love and of respect for each and every person; a spirituality that flows from the heart of God through our churches, religions and human wisdom. It is the message of Jesus, of Mahatma Gandhi and many others who call us to work for unity and peace.



Bishop Amos, many of those to whom you awarded this prize before me were heroes for peace. Some were imprisoned for their courage and determination for peace. Some were assassinated. How is it you turned to us? We are a strange and crazy bunch in L'Arche.

The road of peace which we have learned in L'Arche is a very simple one. You see we are not very austere or stressed, struggling to be heroes. We eat wonderfully, we sing loudly and frequently out of tune, and we dance wildly and we play as much as possible. Feast days, birthdays are all occasions for parties and for fun, we pray with all our heart but not long hours. We do put our trust in God who is watching over us. Of course we do work in our workshops and therapies can be serious and be hard work. Each person is called to grow in inner peace and wisdom and of course we all grow to old age as time comes. There

are sometimes heavy days when the wind blows strong and we feel we are floundering but at the last moment the gentle hand of God saves us.



The heart of L'Arche is to rejoice and to celebrate unity. We would like to be little signs of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of love. For that we must all become like little children. Maybe that is our secret. Our secret too is that we want to live what Jesus asks us to live, wash each other's feet as He did the night before he died.



Board Members Wanted!

L'Arche Tahoma Hope Board of Directors is seeking new members who have a passion for the mission of L'Arche.

If you or someone you know can contribute time, thoughtfulness, and leadership and are interested in exploring this opportunity, we would like to hear from you.

We are particularly interested in individuals with a background in finances, property management or human resources.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our board, please contact Mary at (253) 535-3178 or via email at info@larchetahomahope.org.



Memorial Contributions

We are grateful for the donations we have received in memory of the following people. They, along with their families and friends, are in our prayers.

Fr. Ed Boyle
Fr. Jimmy Boyle
John F. Boyle
John Gallo

Pat Kernells
Ellen Martin
Molly McNeerthney Ross
Angie Stanley

We are also thankful for the donations we received in honor of:

Laura Day & Jerry Moran Rachel Brehm & Rachel Rose
Mark Drangstveit



L'Arche Tahoma Hope's 20th Annual Auction

Watch your mailbox for an invitation!*



Sláinte (pronounced SHLAN-cha) is Gaelic for "Cheers"

Landmark Convention Center

To find out more, contact Danelle at (253) 535-3178, auction@larchetahomahope.org.

* If you've never attended our auction, but are interested in an invitation, contact Mary at (253) 535-3178 or via email at info@larchetahomahope.org to be added to the invitation list.

At the heart of L'Arche Tahoma Hope are the core members whose smiles are contagious, and whose gifts are celebrated each day. The funds raised at our auction can make a real difference in the continued life and growth of L'Arche Tahoma Hope. Mark your calendars now and come and be a part of the mission of L'Arche!

Ways to Help...

- Make a donation of an item, a basket, or maybe a special experience
- Contribute towards our underwriting expenses, ensuring that all proceeds from the event are able to come directly back to L'Arche.
- Help send a core member to the party, because it's really not a party at all without them there!
- Attend the auction... and bring a friend.
- The ways to get involved are endless.... Visit our website at www.larchetahomahope.org.

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