



SOUNDINGS

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“Those who are willing to be vulnerable
move among mysteries”

~ Theodore Roethke



We are in a season full of story and hope as we approach Christmas. We think about an angel coming to a woman of faith named Mary and how she was told that she would bear a son, Jesus, who would “be great and called the Son of God”. And, after Mary had asked one small practical question regarding the HOW of such an event, her response was, “Let what you have said be done unto me.”

Whenever we’ve allowed anything to be “done unto us” (and here I think of dental drills and medical procedures), we realize how very vulnerable we are in the hands of another - so easily hurt. I think too of our core members at L’Arche who live this risk of vulnerability by the very nature of their bodies and their enormous needs for daily support.

Our culture doesn’t condition us to value the experience of vulnerability as having any potential to promote something as positive as self knowledge or healing. Yet, it is with these people that, so often, I have been “rebooted” out of my self absorption into relationship, where my reluctance has been transformed into availability. It is in the gift of their trust that I’ve been blessed over and over again by the soft refuge of a smile, some sweet kindness witnessed, the pleasure of growth, and the blindsiding moments of resurrection. Even the wise could not have imagined it, much less planned it.

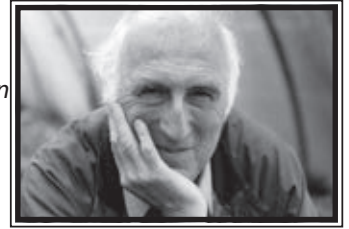
It’s the believing, trusting, openness of Mary to be “done unto” that invites each of us to enter the mystery of vulnerability and the meeting place of the divine.

Jane MacNeil, Long Term Assistant,
December, 2014



Jean Vanier & L'Arche Receive the Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity

*This award was formally presented on October 23rd, during the Kellogg Institute's Conference on Human Dignity and Human Development at the University's Rome Global Gateway in Italy. Below is an excerpt from the online article from the **Kellogg Institute's website** by **Elizabeth Rankin**. To read the full article, go to kellogg.nd.edu/faculty/news/dignity2.shtml*



L'Arche and its visionary founder Jean Vanier have received the 2014 Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity in recognition of the organization's groundbreaking work in service of the poor and vulnerable around the world. In making the presentation, Faculty Fellow R. Scott Appleby, dean of Notre Dame's new Keough School of Global Affairs, cited L'Arche and Jean Vanier for promoting a deeper awareness of the inherent dignity of every human being, showing how human beings flourish when they are embraced and loved as they are, demonstrating that all human beings are capable in different and complementary ways, and establishing communities that value the capabilities of each member and bring out the best in all.

Jean Vanier, who was unable to travel to Rome, delivered remarks filmed in home in France.

"The whole meaning of L'Arche is to reveal to people that under their disabilities, under their difficulties and violence, there is a you, your person, and you are beautiful," he said, explaining that what the organization does in terms of programming pales next to this power to reveal the value of each person."



Thank You For the Lives You Change!

The uniqueness of L'Arche comes from the insight and inspiration of Jean Vanier who, 50 years ago last August, (yes, this is our Jubilee Year!) welcomed Raphael and Philippe from a large psychiatric institution into his home to share life together. Little did Jean Vanier know at the time that his decision would change his life, the lives of Raphael and Philippe, and the lives of countless other people around the world.



We at L'Arche Tahoma Hope want you to know that you continue what Jean Vanier began. You change lives by your support, friendship and partnership with us. What you do for L'Arche, you do for Ricky, for Bobby, for Carie, for Nancy and for all the core members at L'Arche Tahoma Hope. They are the heart of L'Arche, and your support makes it possible for them to have the home, work and community that gives them so much life. Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!

David Rothrock, Development and Outreach Coordinator



Please remember L'Arche Tahoma Hope in your will. Contact David Rothrock at development@larchetahomahope.org, (253) 535-3178

Our Journey of Solidarity: When “Not Bad” is Better than Great

Patrick Toohey and Doug Creek, Western Regional Delegates on the Jubilee Pilgrimage to Querétaro, Mexico

Long Term Assistant, Patrick Toohey, interviews Core Member, Doug Creek, about their shared adventure...

Doug, did you like going to Mexico? Not bad, you know not bad. We had fun, it was a big plane, they gave us food and we watched a movie. I liked visiting Vegas, I was born there (*technically Nevada*). *This was our first stopover on the trip.*



Doug, when we landed in Mexico City, what did you think? Not bad, big, really big, not bad at all. *Indeed it is Ranked 20th in the world for its size. The Four Pilgrims Xavier (Spokane), Patty (Portland) Doug and myself were picked up by Mirreille (Querétaro) and her friend Theresa and quickly whisked out of the city to the small town of Texcoco. We had a great first dinner together as a team and awoke to enjoy a fantastic breakfast. From here we ventured out of town to the archeological site of the Pyramid of the Sun.*



Doug, what did you think of the Pyramid? Not bad, it was hot, it was really tall, way up there. **Doug, was it an easy walk?** It was hard getting up there, and it was hard getting down. It was pretty when we were on top. I had help. I liked being on the ground most. *We joined the community late on the second day and it was a L'Arche welcome that didn't disappoint...*

Doug, was there a particular person you enjoyed meeting? You know, that guy, the friendly one... the guy who calls me Dooglas, *Yes of course Ivan. Ivan was the grand ambassador of our group, welcoming us, asking questions and listening to us tell about our home communities. He asked us how to say words in English and taught us words in Spanish. Ivan called Doug by his full name Douglas in a very endearing way. I now fondly refer to him by the same name now when we are working together...*



Doug, how was getting ready for the pilgrimage? Yeah, not bad, not bad, lots of work. **What jobs did you like doing best?** The cooking, yeah, I liked the cooking (*Doug and I were asked to be part of the cupcake making group*). **What did you think about making cupcakes?** Not bad, the oven is hot, we mixed ingredients. I learned we need to cover our mouth when we sneeze; I put my bandana over my mouth so I would not get the batter dirty. We had to put a lot of sugar in our bowl. (*Doug is Diabetic. We did bring some sugar free treats to share with the group anticipating the sweet opportunities that would come.*) *Doug and I learned we are better suited for the Farm type work; our first batch came out half burned and half uncooked. It amazed all; we were soon moved to the clean up crew...*

Doug, what part of the pilgrimage did you enjoy? Everything! **Was there one thing that you liked the most?** I liked the little chapel. I liked praying for my friends back at my house. I prayed for you all (Our group) too. **Did you like the walking?** Not bad, not bad, long, it was wet, I had lots of friends with me. I liked holding the banners. There were songs people sang, many people. *Doug and I walked in song, in prayer and silence. It was a powerful experience to be together, on L'Arche International Family Day and the Feast of St Francis, walking in solidarity with all the supporters, those from L'Arche Queretaro and the delegation from L'Arche Mexico City.*



What did you think of the trip Doug? Not bad, not bad. We should go back, go back and see all those people - my friends. Maybe they could visit us; we could show them around, I could show them the Farm, our house, my room and go swimming. We could go out to dinner, see a movie, go bowling and take them to the Catholic Worker to meet all my friends there. *Doug I feel the same way; we will hold all of them in our hearts and remember this experience forever...*



To read this complete interview between Patrick and Doug, and to read their blog from the pilgrimage, go to www.larchetahomahope.org/pilgrimage.html



Simple Ways to Help

We are actively requesting that our supporters do any or all of the following things to help us be a stronger presence in the lives of others.

- Share your email address with us so we can be a more consistent presence in your lives (you can choose "how consistent" we are).
- Designate L'Arche Tahoma Hope as your nonprofit of choice through Amazon Smile, Fred Meyer Rewards and/or iGive.
- Follow us on Twitter: @TahomaHope
- Become a fan on Facebook: L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community and L'Arche Farm



For quick links to all of the above, scan the QR code to the right, or visit the url below:

www.larchetahomahope.org/4SimpleWays.html

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.

Kathie Manville

Molly McNerthney-Ross

Brady Twobly



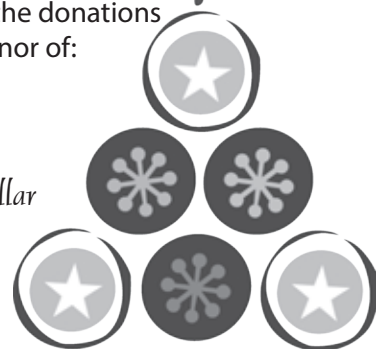
We are also thankful for the donations we received in honor of:

Pietro Boffeli

Mark Drangstveit

Danny & Terese Millar

Beth Stone



Watch your mailbox for an invitation! ...or email/call Mary at the office to be added to our invitation mailing list.

L'Arche Tahoma Hope's 21st Annual Auction

Jubilee



Gala



For more information, scan the QR code to the right, or visit www.larchetahomahope.org/auction.html.

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