

staying connected

a publication designed for alumni of Catholic full-time volunteer programs
brought to you by the St. Vincent Pallotti Centers

Volume 2, Number 1

Winter 1999/2000

THE INSIDE SCOOP:

- **Breaking the Chains of Debt...** p.2
- **Steps to Nurture Your Jubilee Spirituality...** p.3
- **Former Volunteer Sightings in: the Boston, MA area...** p.3
- **Formers' Community Experience: A Springboard for Leadership...** p.4

Staying Connected in the 3rd Millennium

This issue of *Staying Connected* focuses on a topic we have all been hearing a lot about lately: the millennium. Unfortunately, due to our high-tech based society, most of the buzz out there is about how computers may crash, bank account information may be lost and how the timers on our VCR's will no longer function. In truth, the millennium is a time of jubilee, a time to unify and strengthen community, a time for forgiveness, renewal and celebration.



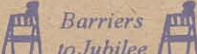
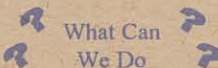




As much as anyone, former volunteers see the need for renewal and reconciliation in our communities, in society and around the world. "Formers" have witnessed firsthand the injustices that keep people trapped in poverty or abusive situations. Having experienced countless successes of people working to improve their lives, formers also know there is great cause for celebrating!

What needs to be renewed and reconciled for you personally? How does community continue to play an important role in your life? What experiences during your volunteer term and afterward give you reason to celebrate? We hope reading this issue will help you think about your jubilee and strengthen your commitment to staying connected to your ideals during the third millennium.

MAKING THE MOST OF THE MILLENNIUM

What concerns you personally, emotionally, spiritually or socially as the third millennium dawns? Do you want to make this New Year different and more meaningful than those passed? The Church offers an alternative set of meanings it calls Jubilee.

In the chart below, as a springboard for thought, discussion and reflection, we present three of the Jubilee themes viewed from five perspectives. In what ways can you turn this year into a jubilee year? How can you make the most of the millennium?

Jubilee Themes	 World Meaning	 Personal Meaning	 Barriers to Jubilee	 What Can We Do	 Prophetic Voices
Forgive Debts 	The removal of massive debts 3rd world countries owe to developed nations is crucial if the basic health, education and housing needs of the world's poorest are to be met.	The Jubilee is a time to lift burdens from others, and yourself, through forgiveness of past wrongdoings and reconciliation.	Some fear: <i>outright forgiveness of debts could drastically disrupt financial systems worldwide, eroding trust between banks and borrowers. Corrupt leaders will profit from debt cancellation. It is difficult to ensure that those hurt most by debt will benefit.</i>	Support debt relief organizations. Write your legislators in Washington (see page 2 for more information). Consider forgiving a personal debt.	"This idea [debt relief], when you really come to grips with it, you can't walk away from it.... This is a billion people. How many lives are being lost... every day?" -Bono, U2 lead vocalist
Restore Justice 	This concept holds that all resources belong equally to the world's people. Serious injustice exists when a small minority control vast wealth while millions lack basic necessities.	Justice is about right relationships. What needs balancing in your life?	Some hold that: <i>the concept of justice in America is based on equal opportunity for everyone, not for equal distribution of goods. The fruits of hard work provide incentive to work hard and be productive.</i>	Commit to supporting employers, educators, leaders and legislators who try to create a 'level playing field' for those seeking employment, housing and education.	"I have a dream... (that) children will... not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." -Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Celebrate 	This is a call to recognize and, as a community, rejoice in Jesus' presence among us. Celebrating the millennium as a jubilee is an act of hope and faith.	The Jubilee is a time to personally recognize God's work in your life and to be thankful for all its blessings.	Contemporary American culture constantly says: <i>to be happy you need something you don't have, whether it be a new car, a better figure or more vacation time.</i>	Make personal and communal prayer a priority in your life. Be grateful for all you have been given and for every new day.	"I will pour out my Spirit on every mortal. Sons and daughters shall prophesy... shall see visions... dream dreams." -Acts of the Apostles 2: 17, 18

Staying Connected:
Assisting in the
continued formation of
former lay volunteers

Editors: Andrew Thompson,
Alice Hogan and John Driscoll
Production Editor: John Driscoll
Advisors: Pallotti Center Directors:
Elisabeth Allen, Kate Carter,
Patrick Marcham and Joan Smith.
email: pallotti01@aol.com
webpage: <http://pallotti.cua.edu>

©2000 Volume 2, Number 1
The Saint Vincent Pallotti Center

These materials are copyrighted.
Unauthorized reproduction is pro-
hibited. The Pallotti Center hereby
gives permission to reproduce all or
any of the contents of this publica-
tion so long as proper credit is given
to the Saint Vincent Pallotti Center
and so long as reproduced materials
are distributed gratis.

**St. Vincent
Pallotti Center
for Apostolic
Development**

Mission: To promote lay volun-
teer service that challenges laity,
clergy, and religious to work to-
gether in the mission of the Church.
Our goal is to support lay volun-
teers before, during and after their
term of service.

Local Pallotti Centers are in
Boston, Paterson, St. Louis and
Sacramento. The National Office
is in Washington, DC.

The Centers take their inspiration
from Saint Vincent Pallotti (1795-
1850) who believed passionately
in the laity, in each person as being
an image of God and as called to be
missionary.

**We want to hear
from you! Please
contact us:**
Pallotti01@aol.com
<http://pallotti.cua.edu>
1-877-VOL-LINK
or 202-529-3330

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF DEBT



The enormous burden of international debt has resulted in widespread hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and disease. It is the cause of increased migration/displacement, drug trafficking, and extensive environmental damage.

Is it fair to keep developing countries in massive, unpayable debt, when doing so strongly contributes to the suffering and misery of millions of people? Most people in these heavily-indebted poor countries (HIPC's) never chose to borrow in the first place and may not have benefited from loans which irresponsible creditors often made to corrupt borrowers.

Debt Around the Globe

50 of the world's poorest countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, pay \$47 billion *per year* to the richest nations and institutions - on debt service alone, rather than on health, education and nutrition for their own struggling citizens.

Oxfam International estimates that 21 million children's lives could be saved in sub-Saharan Africa alone by redirecting resources to nutrition and disease prevention programs rather than servicing international debts.

Making a Difference

Grassroots organizations, such as Jubilee 2000/ USA and the 50 Years Is Enough Campaign, have brought this international issue to the American agenda with some success!

- ❖ In June, 1999, in Cologne, Germany, the G-7 (wealthiest) nations *promised* to work with the International Monetary Fund (the IMF) and the World Bank to cancel the debts of 33 HIPC's.
- ❖ In Nov., 1999, the US Congress agreed to fund the *first year* of the Clinton plan to cancel all bi-lateral debt (loans due directly to the US). This bi-lateral debt represents only 3% of total world debt.
- ❖ There is much work yet to be done!

Take Action! (See "The Pages & The Links" below for contact information.)

- ❖ Download, sign and distribute the Jubilee 2000 petition, *Breaking the Chains of Debt*.
- ❖ Be part of 100,000 participants expected in Wash., DC, at the April 9, 2000 "Jubilee 2000 National Mobilization."
- ❖ Organize a church or community discussion about debt relief using the Jubilee 2000/USA information packet.
- ❖ Encourage policy makers, the IMF and World Bank to support debt cancellation. Call, write or email them *today!*
- ❖ Join the nationwide letter-writing campaign, called the Offering of Letters, sponsored by Bread for the World.

Pope John Paul II states, "In the spirit of the book of Leviticus (25: 8-12), [35-37, and Deut. 15: 1-11] Christians will have to raise their voice on behalf of all the poor of the world proposing the Jubilee as an appropriate time for reducing substantially, *if not canceling outright*, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations." (TMA, par.5-51)



THE PAGES & THE LINKS

~ references for open minds ~



Proclaim Jubilee! A Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century by Maria Harris (Westminster John Knox Press, 1996). An ideal starting point for anyone who is seeking a more conscientious and soulful way to live in the 21st century.

The Biblical Jubilee and the Struggle for Life by Ross Kinsler and Gloria Kinsler (Orbis Books, 1999). An extremely valuable resource!

The Sunflower by Simon Wiesenthal (Schocken Books, 1998) is an uplifting narrative about the importance of forgiveness.

Tertio Millenio Adveniente ("As the Third Millennium Draws Near") is an apostolic letter issued by Pope John Paul II in 1994 outlining a six year program of preparation for the new millennium.

Check out www.j2000usa.org/j2000, the official website of Jubilee 2000 in the United States. You'll find the Jubilee 2000 petition, the Jubilee 2000 information packet and a number of great links.

Cancel the Debt, Now! The Jubilee 2000 Campaign. This excellent 24 min. video explains the origins of the debt, its devastating impact and why it should be cancelled. To order, call 202-783-3566.

Learn more about debt relief and what you can do about it by visiting these websites:

www.bread.org
www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
www.catholicrelief.org
www.nccbuscc.org/jubilee.htm
www.oneworld.org/jubilee2000

Encourage your legislators to support debt relief for the world's most impoverished. Visit www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

Spirituality~ the search for the discovery of God's transforming presence in our lives.

Steps to Nurture Your Jubilee Spirituality

What's your spiritual approach to this millennium time? Are you actively "seizing the moment," setting priorities, striving to serve others, living life to the fullest? Or are you more passive, quietly discerning events, letting the new calendar year happen to you? Perhaps there is value in balancing both approaches.

Let's consider the major scriptural bases for this millennium jubilee year. In the Old Testament (Leviticus 25:8 ff) we read:

"You will declare this fiftieth year sacred and proclaim the liberation of all the inhabitants of the land.... This fiftieth year is to be a jubilee for you...."

Jesus, in Luke (4:16-18), supported this jubilee tradition which urged that in a jubilee year of favor, farmers give the land a rest (don't plant a crop), owners allow slaves to go free and everyone forgive debts. Most of us are neither farmers, slaveowners, nor bankers. But maybe each of us has other kinds of spiritual seeds, keys and coins over which we can exercise our stewardship. Jesus extended the meaning of Jubilee to bring Good News to the poor, sight to the blind and liberty to captives.

Here are ways we can extend Jesus' Jubilee into our lives:

"Give it a rest" - What aspects of my spiritual, personal, family or professional life need to be healed?



Commit to deepening relationships with God, family, self and community. Within me, what needs a sabbatical rest? Take personal "fallow" time for meditation, quiet prayer and solitude.

"Give yourself/others a break" - Sometimes we put



ourselves in jail cells of our own making. Are there material items or unhealthy relationships that keep your spiritual growth captive? Have you imprisoned others who need your forgiveness? Explore ways your spirituality can foster reconciliation with society's captives: the imprisoned, homeless, disenfranchised.

"Give it away" - Society urges that we work hard, build wealth and prosper. But there's a sense of freedom that comes with being unencumbered with material things, by traveling lightly. What things can I give to others? Are there spiritual aspects of my own life I can share with others and thereby bring them "Good News" and Christ's love?



FORMER VOLUNTEER SIGHTINGS IN...



the Boston, MA area



For this issue, we asked former volunteers in the Boston, MA area about what's going on there for formers & to give us ideas to share!

Monthly former volunteer gatherings:

Boston has one of the country's highest numbers of former volunteers, so there's a lot going on there. Former Jesuit Volunteers (FJV's) meet monthly, usually the second Friday, at 7 pm in Harvard Square for a potluck dinner followed by a reflection. They always welcome former volunteers of any organization to all of their events. For more information contact Michelle Hamil at mhamil@ma.delttek.com. FJV's also gather at the Crossroads Jesuit Urban Center at 761 Harrison Ave. Call 617-536-8440.

Some parishes where "formers" attend:

- The Paulist Center for the 6 pm liturgy on Sunday located at 5 Park St. 617-742-4460.
- St. Ignatius Parish located near the BC campus at 28 Commonwealth Ave. Many young adults and activities. 617-332-1104.
- St. Francis Chapel at 800 Boylston St. #21 (inside the Prudential Ctr.). Great homilies and music! 617-437-7117.

Retreat opportunities:

- Franciscan Center (Andover) 978-851-3391
- Salvatorian Center (Methuen) 978-683-2929
- Foyer of Charity (Scituate) 781-545-1080
- Espousal Center (Waltham) 781-647-0033
- FJV annual retreat. Contact Anne Batcheller at abatchm@prodigy.net or 617-242-4890

Peace and Justice organizations in the area:

- Campaign for Human Development and Social Justice Office. Contact Rev. William Joy at 617-298-0080.
- Catholic Charities Volunteer Office is the largest social service provider in the state and has numerous volunteer opportunities in hundreds of areas. 617-482-5440.
- The Paulist Center helps run a food pantry and is involved with other social justice activities. 617-742-4460.

Other valuable resources:

- The Office for Young Adults coordinates one-day volunteer projects each quarter, trips to Kentucky and Peru and many other activities. Call Jim Breen for their newsletter: 617-746-5850.
- The St. Clement Shrine at Boylston and Ipswich offers a quiet place for prayer in the midst of hectic downtown Boston.
- For people who are just starting to go back to confession, the St. Anthony Shrine at 100 Arch St. in Boston can be a great place to start. Call 617-542-4255 for a daily schedule.

Who to contact for more information on Boston Area gatherings:

For more information about any of these places and other connections to formers in the Boston area, contact Patrick Marcham at the St. Vincent Pallotti Center in Boston at 617-783-3924 or Volservice@aol.com

**Next Issue: Former Volunteer Sightings in...
San Antonio and Houston, TX**

staying connected



The Saint Vincent Pallotti Center
for Apostolic Development
Cardinal Station -- # 893
Washington, DC 20064

Change of Address Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT NO. 3188

In this Issue
The Millennium:
Exploring a personal
perspective... How it
relates to your spirituality...
Boston formers...
and much more!



Staying Connected is printed on recycled paper. Please do your part by passing on your copy to another former volunteer or by recycling the paper. Thanks!

Formers' Community Experience: A Springboard for Leadership

COMMUNITY
LIVING teaches us
how to be in
relationship with
one another.
LEADERS are
people who see
and appreciate
relationships and
help others to do
the same. **BEING**
IN RELATIONSHIP
leads to healing.

For many formers, living in a small, faith-based community was a core part of the volunteer experience. 'Community Living' means dealing with struggles, challenging one another and celebrating successes. Not only can it mean arranging a bathroom schedule for five people each morning, but also having people to share your faith, who lift you up when you are down, and who help you celebrate life's blessings and triumphs. Community living is all about being *in relationship*.

One theme of the Millennium and Jubilee 2000 is the commitment to a renewed effort to strengthen and unify communities - locally and globally. For formers, this can mean making a commitment to apply the skills we learned as volunteers: taking risks, advocating for others and working for the common good. It means connecting the parts into a whole.

For some, community living involves learning to be vulnerable and letting others come close to the real you. This can definitely be a frightening experience, not knowing what people will find! Community living is often a time to embrace differences in those around us. The millennium calls us as a society to let go of our fears and differences, discover the gifts of our diversity, and affirm all we have in common. It invites us to see beyond *what is* and strive for *what can be*.

As volunteers, we were challenged to put aside differences, work together as a team and depend on one another. The millennium is a time when we formers are specially called to renew our collaborative efforts to heal family, neighborhood, parish, government and global communities. How can you translate your community experiences as a volunteer into helping to heal the wounds of the communities you're a part of today?



Please Send Us Your Input for Our Next Issue of *Staying Connected*:

Spirituality: In our next issue of *Staying Connected* we will explore spirituality, one of the pillars of faith-based volunteer programs. How do you pray? What does it mean to be a spiritual person? In what ways do you stay spiritually focused in our contemporary, fast-paced electronic world? Give us your input! Please contact us with your insights, ideas and resources on spirituality.

San Antonio and Houston, TX former volunteer sightings -- Tell us where formers are gathering, going to church and attending other events of interest in the San Antonio and Houston, TX areas!

Pallotti01@aol.com or call toll-free: 1-877-VOL-LINK