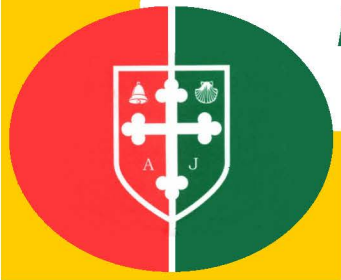


The New Shepherds' Herald

So Who Are These Guys?

by Aaron Strauss



Meet Our New Leaders!

Fr. Carlos Keen and Ricardo Simmonds will visit Saints Agatha and James the weekend of Jan. 18-19. They will host meet-and-greets after the Saturday vigil Mass and all four Sunday Masses.

Who's Who on the New Team?

Pastor

Fr. Carlos Keen

Superior

Brian Shannon

Newman Ministers

Ricardo Simmonds
Michael Gokie
Javier de la Flor

In preparation for the transition into their role as the leadership team of Saints Agatha and James Parish starting in July, some of the brothers of Sodalitium Christianae Vitae visited Philadelphia the week of Nov. 11 to meet with parish staff members and selected parishioners. In an interview during the visit, Brian Shannon, the superior of the team that will lead the parish, answered many of the questions that the parish community has about SCV and his team's plans for the parish.

Shannon began by giving a brief history of SCV, explaining how the society differs from a traditional religious order. SCV was founded in Peru in 1971 by a group of laymen with a desire to evangelize. They started out leading retreats, which developed into a steadily growing number of small faith-sharing groups. By the late 70s, some of the society's members felt a calling to the priesthood or consecrated life. The identity and mission of the society was not yet clearly defined at this time, but its members eventually became settled as a society of apostolic life. Shannon explained that while religious life seeks to serve as a witness to what life is like in heaven, societies like SCV seek to make themselves fully available to their apostolates on earth. In other words, their commitments are the means to an end, whereas religious vows are ends in themselves.

"They discovered that their calling was to be fully available for the apostolate, but as lay. And some wanted to be priests, but most people expressed this desire to be consecrated laymen," Shannon said. "The religious ... sometimes see their vows as a way to manifest heaven and earth. ... So for us, it's more like we live those commitments to be fully available to evangelize."

Shannon was especially emphatic about how he and his fellow brothers self-identify more

as laymen than as consecrated individuals. He said that they prefer to be called simply by their first names and do not wish to be addressed as "Brother."



Brian Shannon

One of SCV's main apostolates is the evangelization of young people. This is why Shannon and his teammates visited parishes with university ministries when Archbishop Charles Chaput invited them to visit Philadelphia earlier this year and choose a parish they'd like to lead. The society's other main apostolates are the evangelization of culture as well as Christian solidarity with the needy and marginalized. Shannon said that he and his teammates chose to be assigned to Saints Agatha and James because they felt that it would be the most strategic place for them to live out all of these apostolates.

When asked what his team's goals for the parish are, Shannon said they would need to get settled here and learn more about the parish before their mission and vision would be solidified. However, he did say that some of his tentative hopes included offering more community service opportunities and increasing the involvement of university faculty in the parish's evangelization efforts. With the help of professors, he wants to make the Catholic faith more intellectually appealing in University City.

"The professors are the ones who have a great impact on the students," Shannon said.

Read more at

<http://tinyurl.com/ohm7c3v>



Preparing for a New Chapter

by Jeff Klein

This past Oct. 16, our parish staff gathered for our usual Wednesday morning staff meeting, but on this particular autumn day we quickly found out that this was not to be a typical meeting. This was the day that Fr. Jim McGuinn announced to our parish staff that in July 2014, a society of apostolic life known as the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, which is affiliated with a larger group called the Christian Life Movement, will be assuming leadership of the parish. We were told that all three of our current priests will be given new assignments for July, and the parish will welcome one priest and four consecrated laymen from the CLM. The initial reaction of our staff was probably similar to that of other parishioners—a mixture of surprise, sadness and excitement.

There certainly was, at first, a host of questions: How would this change affect the structure of the staff? Our individual ministries? Our relationships with the University communities? Our presence in the local neighborhood? In November, our staff had a chance to meet with Brian Shannon, who is slated to be

the local superior of the CLM community, to talk about his plans and vision for the parish's ministries. We had some great conversations that answered many of our questions and left us feeling confident about the transition. Brian, recognizing that there is already a vibrancy in the work of the parish, said that it made the most sense for all of our current ministries to continue as they have been under Fr. Jim's leadership, at least for the beginning of the CLM's transition, and that the CLM's vision for advancing the parish's mission would be carefully crafted as they learned the "lay of the land."

It is said that change is the only constant in life, and the world of parish ministry is no exception. While it will be sad to see Fr. Jim, Fr. George and Fr. Ben go, we know that this new chapter in the life of the parish also will bring exciting new opportunities for outreach, for service, and for developing relationships with our ministerial communities.



Want to learn more?

Check out these resources for more information about where our new leaders come from.

SCV
www.sodalitium.org

Christian Life Movement
www.clmusa.org

Holy Name Parish
www.holynamedenver.org

**Apostolates
of the
Christian
Life
Movement
Youth
Culture
Families
The Most Needy
Life, Dignity
and Human Rights**

Where Have They Been?

Members of the incoming leadership team have lived in Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Spain, Colorado and Nebraska.



The incoming leadership team wishes you a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas!

