



RNDM Earth Community

“We are One, We are Love”

November 30, 2009

“Let ours be a time remembered for awakening a new respect for our earth and all her inhabitants, for one another, for ourselves and for our common destiny.” (RNDM Congregational Chapter, 2008)

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AN INTRODUCTION . . .

We hope this newsletter will be a place to address questions around and communicate updates on the progress of the building project, and a place to share information on eco-friendly options specific to the building project and relative to our day-to-day lives wherever we are.

Even before anything is built or planted, each one of us is becoming an ‘Eco-Centre’—when we learn something new about how to live in an earth-friendly way, when we share our knowledge and experience with others and when we change something in our lives because of our growing desire to walk gently on the Earth.

SISTER TALK . . .

Dear Sisters,

At the regional meetings in September the Building Committee reviewed with us where we are in the ongoing journey of the land purchase with a view to building. At that time we were each given a ‘foot.’ On one side of the foot we were invited to express our excitement(s) and on the other side to note any questions or concerns we carry. The following is a synthesis of content found on the ‘feet’ from both the Manitoba and Saskatchewan meetings.

We say we need a ‘place to call home’. What would make 407 Youville a ‘home’ for the province?



Excitements(s)

1. Offers hope
 - As a prophetic response to the moral and ethical challenge of 21st century
 - To community and province and beyond
2. Offers possibilities
 - For incarnating the Chapter document
 - For communal living
 - For communal outreach
 - Of enabling us to be more green in the way we live
 - For us to address the needs of province (place to call home, gathering space, offices, place for hospitality and community)
 - Of creating green space in the city to open and inspire care for the earth

Concerns/Questions About . . .

1. The purpose/vision for the project
 - Who would live there
 - Outreach – how and who
2. The practical aspects
 - Witness value
 - Money
 - Time line
 - Management
 - Future use (resale)
3. Communication necessary with the Sisters related to all of the above.

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BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE . . .

The closing date for purchase of the land is now set for April 15th. The property is part of a larger subdivision process for that area. We are told the city requires about 3 months from receipt of the plan of the subdivision for the rezoning that is needed. The time delay is due to the fact that the survey work to the north of our land has not yet been completed.

Stay tuned for further news....

MORE ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER . . .

WHY A TREE IN OUR MASTHEAD?

A tree is a powerful symbol of life: it is deeply rooted in the earth and grows out to embrace all who seek shelter in it; it takes in carbon and gives out oxygen which nurtures much life on earth; it bears fruit and shares this with the larger world around it; the many branches of a tree suggest that all life is interconnected; these branches also symbolize a wider vision of life as we grow; the tree is a well-known symbol in our Judaeo-Christian tradition—in the Garden of Eden, in the events of the Paschal Mystery; it reminds us of the cycle of life each year as it journeys through the seasons. . .

AN INVITATION

How does a tree speak to you?

We invite you to respond to the questions you find in this newsletter. Your responses and interaction will help to inform the Committee's day to day decision-making for this project. Please direct your responses to

(GreenSistersTalk@yahoo.com) You will receive a message this week to say that you are member of this e-list. We will look forward to hearing from you.

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience; knowing grass, I understand the meaning of persistence." Har Borland

DID YOU KNOW?

"**Ecology**" comes from the Greek word *oikos* – which means 'home' or 'household' and 'home' refers to the entire house – the whole planet Earth.

"**Economy**" refers to managing the household.

"**Ecology**" means understanding all the relationships that make up the household--the ecosystems.

Placing "**eco**" in front of a noun acknowledges that everything we are as humans, everything we do as humans, is always and only within the context of the whole household, the whole planet.

Next issue:

- Guiding Principles for the Building Project
- Calculating our Ecological Footprint