

CVV Alumni Letter

December, 2010

Dear Friends,

“There are still some for whom there is no room.” Some of you may remember the banner that heralds this thought, because for many years during the week before Christmas, CVV took its turn holding that banner at the City and County building. What meaning does it hold for us today?



So, many of you have had the opportunity to meet Rodolfo, who lives here in Denver. He is a man of many talents and gifts. He has helped us at CVV to fix things, to do yard work, and at home to repair glass and to paint, among many other hands-on gifts. But Rodolfo does not have his documentation as a citizen. Is there room for him in our country?

Gary is homeless and comes by the house every now and then looking for work. He sometimes ends up in jail for a time and then has to find ways just to sustain his daily living. He's a hard worker who has a problem with alcohol. Where is his room?

Mom is living in an Alzheimer's unit at a care facility. She has lost memory of who she was, to whom she was married, of her friends, actually of herself. What room do we have for her?

Manuel, who grew up at Mt. St. Vincent Home Orphanage, comes up from Pueblo 4 or 5 times a year so that he can visit his CVV “family.” “When people ask me about my trips to Denver, I tell them I have to go and visit family.” Who in my life needs to find family?

Think of your own life. Who is needy? In what ways can we make room for people each day as we encounter the lonely older person, the bus driver who's grouchy, the family member who is hard to be with, the cashier or gas station attendant, ... how do we live in such a way that we truly share God's presence, Emmanuel, in our day to day encounters with others?

As our Board of Directors grapples with the theme of hospitality this year, we have reflected on the meaning of hospitality through those hospitable experiences we have all had. And yet there are too many instances of a lack of hospitality for one we might call “other.” Other culture. Other age. Other race. Other marginal person. Is there room in the inn? Thomas Merton says that there is not. He says:

Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because He cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, His place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak. Those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, who are tortured, bombed and exterminated, with those for whom there is no room. Christ is present in the world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst. It is in these that He hides Himself, for whom there is no room.

Love, Mary Frances & Bill

P.S. There's always room here for you!

Where are you?

If you have moved or have a new phone number or email address, please let us know. 303-863-8141 or email: cvv@covivo.org



CVV's growth to two communities and 20 volunteers has been a graceful and grace-filled transition! The house at 1732 Pearl is now WOHO (Woody's House), and the new house at 1544 Pearl is COHO (Colfax House). The group is doing well: serving, learning, growing, challenging, and always trying to embrace the mission. Thanks for all your inquiries and support.

Companions on the Journey

Did you know.....

- **Pancake Breakfast** for this year's Immersion weekend will be at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 13120 E. Kentucky after all the masses.



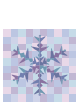
- OR have some spaghetti with us on Saturday, Feb. 5th, at Most Precious Blood after the 4:30 Mass.



- You're always welcome to Monday night Mass & Dinner, 5:45pm (1st & 3rd at COHO, 2nd & 4th at WOHO)



Year 16 at our Fall Retreat



Alumni Gathering in Minnesota

Come join us

2011 Alumni Retreat

"Authentic Companionship"



Year 6 10-year reunion

Stone House at Mother Cabrini Shrine
Friday evening, January 28th
starting with dinner till
Saturday evening, January 29th,
ending with liturgy

*This retreat replaces our annual conference for this year.
Please contact us for more details.*



Alumni Reunion 2010



Colorado Vincentian Volunteer
1732 Pearl Street
Denver, CO 80203-1422