



CathedralScript

1440 Union Avenue, Montreal H3A 2B8
cathoff@bellnet.ca
www.montrealcathedral.ca

Editorial Board Krishanu Dasgupta, Ann Elbourne,
Janet King, Joyce Sanchez, Duncan Shaddick
Editor Beth Adams
Design Beth Adams and Jonathan Sa'adah

Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal Vol. 270 Fall 2010

TRAVELS WITH DR. FRED IN SIERRA LEONE

by Fred Wiegand



The World Health Organisation (WHO) studied the maternal mortality rate (percentage of mothers dying at or around the time they were delivering their babies) in 157 nations world-wide, and Sierra Leone tied for 157th! I recently had it suggested to me to do a three-week surgical mission there, at a hospital in the poverty-stricken northeastern sector of this poverty-stricken nation, by a very effective Canadian NGO called CAUSE Canada (www.cause.ca), their name being the acronym for Christian Aid to Underassisted Societies Everywhere.

Total travel time from Montreal to Freetown was 31 hours and the 4x4 trip up-country was 6½ hours. Daytime highs there were 88 – 104 F (roughly 30 – 40 C), so dealing with the debilitating heat is a significant challenge.

The government hospital at which I worked (it has no direct connection with the NGO) was an impressive, almost imposing structure, but unfortunately was under-funded and under-staffed. Sierra Leone's federal government is too poor to afford universal medical care, so patients have to pay for each shot of antibiotic, each bag of I.V. fluid, each test, and each operation, etc. Needless to say, it is under-utilized by the citizenry until their medical status has become critical.

As elsewhere in Africa, mothers that go into labour in an outlying village tend to be kept there too long by the traditional birth attendants, so by the time the mother is brought to the hospital, the foetus has frequently already become stillborn and no foetal heart is audible. The rationale for urgent C-section is to save the mother's life. Women are the economic lynchpin of African families, so while losing a baby is sad, losing a mother is well-nigh catastrophic. Of the 11 emergency C-sections I did there, I only lost one mother, although why she died remains unexplained.

Both the hospital, and the place where I lived, had no electricity or running water. In the O.R., we moved the operating table next to the window to get enough light to operate properly, and with the green

Continued on page 2

FALL 2010

Travels with Dr. Fred by Fred Wiegand.....	1
Music Notes	2
Dear Joyce: Thank You.....	4
Oberammergau, by Bob and Janet King.....	6
Cathedral Life, Rev. Karla Holmes.....	7
Lenten Retreat, Vivian Lewin.....	7
Stir-Up Sunday, Leah Trineer.....	8

surgical gowns, gloves and mask on, one tends to “over-heat” rapidly, and I really didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry on the occasions when I realized the sweat streaming off my face was actually dripping onto the patient! I smiled thinking of I Corinthians 13 which says “Love puts up with anything ... looks for the best, ... and never looks back ...” (from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson).

I got called on my cell phone urgently one night at bedtime to go to the hospital to do an emergency C-section (there are no landlines here, so cell phones are a gift from God for Africans). The hospital 4x4 arrived shortly thereafter, and when I examined the mother in the O.R., I mentioned to the nursing staff that we might be in for a surprise. In western hospitals it is considered ‘de rigueur’ to do an ‘emergency’ C-section within 30 minutes of the decision having been made – so I hustled! To our utter delight both twins came out readily and were okay. I made rounds the next morning and mother and both her lads were just fine. Through an interpreter, I suggested she consider calling one Fred One and the other Fred Two-Two – however, she didn’t seem amused at all, thus revealing that she is not only strong and brave – but wise as well!

Sierra Leone has been stable since 2002 when a peace accord was finally reached with Charles Taylor, the criminal psychopath who led his band of 10,000 brigands for ten years, basically holding the 6 million citizens there hostage, while committing unspeakable atrocities. His rebels, before chopping a woman’s arm off would ask her if she “preferred long sleeves, or short sleeves”. In fact, a woman I saw in hospital had had one hand removed thus.

It was the dry season there (late January), so one has dust for breakfast, dust for lunch, and dust for dinner. In addition to the locally developed dust, there is a strange phenomenon called the “harmattan winds” which actually blow very fine sand dust down from the Sahara hundreds of kilometers away, which is enlarging southwards, thus encroaching on sub-Saharan African nations. Everyone has a cough, so a cough there is, for all practical purposes, a form of address!

Some intriguing idiosyncrasies of the salad of languages spoken here in this nominally Anglophone Republic (they are primarily “KRIO” dialect, but are locally called “creole”).

Hello is “koushay”
How do you do? is “ow de boh-day”? (originally “How’s the body?”
Fine thank you is “Bohday fine”
Pee is “wet”
B.M. is “go to toilet”

Please is “do ya”
Thank you is “tenki”

They do not recognize “pee”, “piss”. or “ka-ka” – which slows down morning rounds when you’re trying to find out how the patients are doing regarding basic body functions!

As ever, it is extremely hard to get a proper night’s sleep in the developing world, not only because of time-challenged roosters that crow at all hours of the night, but dogs maintaining their “bark territory”, motor scooters and motorcycles more or less 24/7/365, and in addition for me, was a mosque across the road! The muezzin started with his handheld megaphone at 4 a.m., and shortly thereafter, other muezzins of nearby mosques joined in calling the faithful to prayer. Heaven knows I’m a hopeless Christian, but I’m not about to become a Muslim anytime soon, besides, I prefer pork to lamb ...!

All nations of the world have problems, although not necessarily the same ones. Some of the main problems affecting a number of developing nations include:

Overpopulation, relative to what the ecology of that nation can realistically support; the high birth rate in several sub-Saharan nations thus leads into markedly high unemployment rates (25-50%).

Charcoal use is working against the well-being of many African nations. While only 4% of all electricity generated world-wide is generated in Africa, 80% of Africans rely on wood or charcoal fuel for energy. In Africa each year, 4 million hectares of forest are cut down; in 2009 the nation of Chad barred the use of charcoal in order to protect what is left of its ecology, with only minimal success.

Well-digging and/or irrigation often works to lower the water table, a phenomenon already underway in the U.S. Mid-west, central California, etc. and a select number of African nations.

Largely related to charcoal-making (and selling), Haiti had only 2% of its forestation left before the recent devastating earthquake.

Near the end of my stay in Sierra Leone, and exhausted by three weeks without a proper night’s sleep, to say nothing of the remarkably enervating heat, I was called to operate on a young mother who had delivered a live foetus successfully at her home village, only to have another foetus’s arm descend through her birth canal and get stuck there. She required an emergency C-section, at which time we were able to deliver not only the stuck foetus, but also a third one as well! Eventually, the mother and her triplets were able to leave hospital, all A & W (medical lingo for Alive and Well!).

Experiences like that make helping the sweet, kind and courteous people of Africa all worthwhile, and the patients exhibit such courage, resiliency and gratitude, you feel deeply honoured to be able to call yourself their doctor.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Wiegand, C.M., M.D.

For those interested: recent books about or touching on Sierra Leone include:

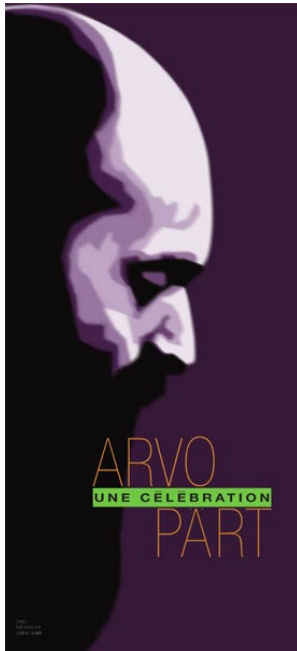
A Long Way Gone (Memories of a Boy Soldier) by Ishmael Beah

The Book of Negroes by Laurence Hill

MUSIC NOTES: TWO VERY SPECIAL CONCERTS, NOT TO BE MISSED!

ARVO PÄRT: UNE CÉLÉBRATION

On Friday, November 5, at 7:30 pm, the Choirs of Christ Church Cathedral will celebrate the life and work of Arvo Pärt in an evening of choral and organ music. Here's an excerpt from what Sheena Gourlay wrote about the concert in a press release for the media:



The music of Arvo Pärt is known for its spare, meditative quality. Drawing on medieval musical traditions and contemporary minimalist styles, his work is both simply structured and at the same time deeply evocative. Everything extraneous has been pared away. What is left is numinous, expressing both enigmatic sorrow and profound spiritual beauty.

This year marks Arvo Pärt's 75th birthday, and the Choirs of Christ Church

Cathedral have chosen this occasion to celebrate his contribution to choral music. Pärt has set many religious texts to music for both liturgical and secular settings. These texts form the starting point for a musical exploration which, through its simplicity and beauty, has become an expression of the spiritual in our contemporary world which speaks to both religious and non-religious listeners.

Of course, the annual fund-raising concert is a time to support the music program with our pocketbook, through making donations and placing advertisements in the programme, but it's also a time to support our dedicated musicians—who range from almost 8 to 80—by showing up.

Your presence, giving the choir and organists an audience filled with familiar faces to sing and play for, really matters to the performers. So please buy a ticket, and consider bringing a friend along with you for what promises to be a moving and memorable evening of music.

PATRICK WEDD: 50 YEARS IN CHURCH MUSIC

On November 12 at 7:30 pm, our music director Patrick Wedd will celebrate his fiftieth anniversary as a church musician with an organ concert at the Cathedral. He will play works by Messiaen, Jongen, Stanford, de Grigny, Buxtehude, and Wammes.

Born in Simcoe, Ontario, and beginning his career as a church organist at age 12, Patrick has composed and arranged extensively, and has received a voluntary doctorate of divinity from the Montreal Theological College in recognition of his contribution to the life and work of the Church. He has played cycles of the complete organ works of Messiaen, Alain, de Grigny, Buxtehude, Ligeti and Leighton, and appears on two NAXOS discs in addition to his recordings for the cathedral. Since September 1996 he has been Director of Music here at Christ Church Cathedral, and since 1992, Artistic Director of the choral ensemble *Musica Orbium*.



Patrick Wedd

The concert will be followed by a reception in Fulford Hall. Admission is by voluntary donation, with all proceeds going toward the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Dear Joyce: Thank You

It's hard to imagine the Cathedral without Joyce. And yet, she'll soon be moving on to a new ministry.

Joyce has touched many of our lives in a deeply personal way. And in this issue of Script, we wanted to celebrate that. In the next pages you'll find just a few examples of how much her ministry has meant to us.

I think my fondest memory of Joyce is when she baptized my children. I'd only been attending the cathedral for a few months and I was still getting to know everyone. My family had a couple of baptismal preparation meetings with Joyce and I remember being impressed with the way she explained the significance of the ritual to my two boys. Robert and David were only 5 and 3 years old at the time, but Joyce found a way of speaking to them that was clear and simple and not at all condescending. She took their questions seriously and answered them directly. The boys understood that this was going to be an important event in their lives.

The christening itself was quietly joyful. The prayers, as always, were beautiful and the holy water tickled Robert's head. After the service we invited a few people back to our home for lunch. It was a sunny spring day and we sat on the balcony out back. At one point, David climbed up onto Joyce's lap for a cuddle. I don't know if it was the excitement or the fresh air or the three pieces of very sweet cake he'd inhaled, but he soon fell sound asleep. I remember looking over at Joyce with David in her arms, her lips gently touching the top of his sleeping head, and I remember thinking how perfectly apt the clerical title of "Mother" is for her.

Joyce, I'll miss you. We'll all miss you. You have blessed us with your presence.

Elizabeth Robertson

Dearest Joyce,

I was a relatively recent member of the Cathedral community when the Bishop asked you to help me prepare myself to be received into the Anglican Church, with a view eventually to begin seminary studies. I remember that we met on several occasions to talk about my faith journey. The extraordinary thing was that we didn't just talk about me; we conversed about the ways in which our respective paths were manifestations of God's generous work and presence. You shared



Jonathan Sa'adah

The Rev. Canon Joyce Sanchez

openly and honestly, and your sense of priestly calling became an inspiration for me. You stood by me as I was received into the Church, a gesture that meant a great deal to me.

There are several things I need to thank you for. You were the first woman I saw celebrating at the altar, and that was an especially powerful symbol, coming as I did from a Catholic background. I knew then that I wanted to be an Anglican, and that this was a church to which I could belong, and where I could feel at home. You have always been passionately affirming and accepting of difference, and, as a gay man, I always felt that Christ Church was a place that honoured and respected me. This is due, in no small part, to your sense of welcome and inclusion. I know that there are many like me who have you to thank for this. You have been a strong witness for the acceptance of all people, whatever their orientation. You have also been a generous and gracious presence in the Christ Church community. You have consistently demonstrated great care and concern for everyone: a quality of attentiveness that makes all who come into contact with you sense that they are truly unique. You have ministered with grace and determination, despite

the odds. Thank you for such a fine and compelling example of service.

As I find myself getting closer to ordination, I can only hope that I will become the priest and servant that you have so beautifully modelled for me. Merci.

With affection, Donald Boisvert



Eva Brebner sent us this photo, writing: "This is a tape dispenser on Joyce's desk in the shape of a brilliant red high heel shoe. It was given to her by Dean Michael Pitts who liked to tease her about her fondness for swanky footwear!"

I have two stories about Rev. Joyce.

They involve particularly memorable services over which she presided last year.

The first was the traditional Remembrance Day service. The soldiers from the church's Regiment, I believe they're called the Grenadier Guards of Canada, were there.

I was struck by the great variety of cultural backgrounds from which the soldiers came.

The heart of Rev. Joyce's sermon was about her father, a British citizen. As a young man, he was sent as an orphan to Canada by the Barnado organization. He went to the Eastern Townships and worked as a farm labourer. When WW II started, he went back to England and enlisted in the Army. As to when it occurred, I'm not sure: was it at Dieppe, or was it during the Normandy invasion? In either event, her father

Continued on page 8

One of the stories about Joyce that comes to my mind, and that clearly captures who she is, is the occasion when a former Bishop of Montreal (to be unnamed) asked her to call him Lord. Joyce's prompt reply, "I have one Lord, and you're not Him."

Diana Bouchard

Dear Joyce,

This feels like a huge change in our world as well as yours. You were such a central part of this place when we arrived, and are as integral to what feels like "our church home in Montreal" as any other member of the community, the music, or the building. Nevertheless, everything changes in life, and a big aspect of faith seems to be accepting that fact, learning to deal with it, and helping one another as we go through life's transitions.

I have three particular memories of you that will always stay with me. The first is working with you to plan the first OutMass, and the joy and celebration of that event when it finally happened, knowing that people's lives were being changed and that the church was moving forward.

The second memory is of seeing you, one Sunday morning, going down the aisles greeting parishioners before church, and watching you go up to a person sitting way over on the side – someone poor and marginalized in their own life, no doubt – and immediately putting your arms around them, looking at them straight in the eyes with a warm smile, and engaging in heartfelt conversation. Over the years I've seen that kind of encounter repeated many times.

Continued on page 8

Joyce never ceases to amaze me. In a short span of time, she dealt with many important issues, recognized and utilized everyone's individual talents, created a sense of teamwork among staff, acknowledged many important works that went unnoticed before, provided a sense of community, etc. She's creative and full of new ideas. Among them were the events held for the Cathedral's 150th Anniversary Celebrations. The Cathedral Artist's Exhibition was a huge success and brought out many talents from our very own community. She arranged to bring Juan Ramon and Nerva to Montreal and organized activities for them during their stay to make it such a memorable event for them and for us. She fought for justice, for the rights of the gay and lesbian people even when it wasn't a popular cause. She also supported women's issues and held a Remembrance Service commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Ecole Polytechnique massacre. Last Easter, she organized the Stations of the Cross which now adorns the walls of our Cathedral. Every year, she welcomes students of different religious backgrounds from McGill University and answers all their questions about the Anglican church and its traditions. The list goes on, but most important of all, she cared about her congregation, ministered to them, visited them, and was there to support them in their time of need.

Rene Sanchez

OBERAMMERGAU 2010

by Robert and Janet King

In 1652 the Black Death, a plague rampaging through Europe, killed nearly 20% of the population. The small village of Oberammergau, nestled in the mountains of Bavaria, tried to prevent its spread to its community in 1633 by enforcing a quarantine, and the Parish Elders vowed that, if the village were spared, a Passion Play would be performed every ten years. Even though one man infiltrated the village to visit his family, bringing germs with him, the vow persisted and to this day the Passion Play is the significant centre of every 10th year in and around Oberammergau.

We attended the 41st. summer session of this Passion Play in May 2010. Nine out of ten years, Oberammergau is a very pretty Bavarian village much used as a convention centre by business and NATO. For centuries it has also been famous for its woodcarving, both religious and secular, and its cobblestoned town centre has remarkable frescoes on buildings, the paint being applied while the plaster is still wet – scenes of the Passion, of Hansel and Gretel, *trompe l'oeil*, beautiful. The logistics of housing and feeding 4720 visitors seeing the play 5 times a week are very efficiently handled.

Over the years, the text and presentations have been revised and updated. In 1811 a new text “incorporated contemporary issues”; in 1990 exegetical, theological and historical facts associated with the Passion were analysed for a “sensitive view of the text” (quoting the official souvenir book): principal actors went to Israel, and changes were made to ensure that Judaism is appropriately portrayed in symbols, costumes and so on. 500,000 visitors saw the play in 2000, with 4,720 people at each performance, 5 times a week, May till October. Figures tell only a part of this amazing saga: in a village of 5,000, some 2,400 are directly involved – and to be in the play one must have been born in, and currently living in, Oberammergau. In 2010, performances started at 2.30, broke at 5.15 after Jesus’ arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, resumed at 8 till 10.45 pm. There were on stage, at different times, three large sheep a donkey, a

horse for the Roman centurion, 2 brilliantly arrayed camels (one for Herod’s wife), and crowd scenes with up to 400 people; a choir (chorus) of 48 singers with a narrator, amazing choreography and discipline. *Alles auf Deutsch*, of course, but we were provided with an English



word-for-word translation, which we read in advance and could use for quick glances to check where we were so as not to interrupt the visual effects and atmosphere.

Each Act of the Play was prefaced by a still-life image in glowing colour relating an Old Testament link with the New. For example, the Ten Commandments and the dance around the Golden Calf came before the scene when Jesus cast out the money-

changers from the temple, followed

by Judas’ decision to try to fulfil the prophecy as he saw it (Matthew 5.17, Mark 14.10). Another connected Cain’s despair with Judas’ suicide. During this staged presentation, the chorus and/or narrator sang or chanted at length.

The Play offered us different perspectives on the events familiar to us. It was an intense and profound experience, It brought the whole story of Holy Week and Easter into a new perspective, and at times, such as the crucifixion, was extremely emotional. And it ended, with no curtain calls, with a very moving depiction of Mary’s response to the resurrection.

We highly recommend a visit to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play, when it will be next presented in 2020.

Robert and Janet King
September 30, 2010

CATHEDRAL LIFE

by the Rev. Karla Holmes

It has certainly been an eventful year in the life of the Cathedral Parish, with new ministries, new social activities, and of course the naming of our new Dean. We have managed to weather this transitional year with aplomb, all the while rejoicing in the sense of community which is one of our greatest strengths.



The new year found us busy with such activities as the pot luck lunches, followed by Books and Ideas. The delicious gastronomic contributions of the Potluck-ers were enthusiastically received by all the participants. And all who participated in the Books and Ideas discussion

group which followed were unanimous in their praise of the good work done by Bill Converse and his team. We are pleased to say that we will continue this tradition of potluck and discussion into the present year.

Another important activity was the Parish Retreat. The community was very glad to reinstate this tradition, and we hope that we can offer retreats regularly. In fact, the next retreat, led by Revd. Ralph Leavitt, will take place in November—all are welcome to participate!

We also came together during the Lent and Easter season with various projects, including a pancake supper to start it all off, a Lenten Study, and a special project for the artists in our midst: the Stations of the Cross as a creative meditation. Our beautiful Easter celebrations were followed by our Strawberry Social, complete with a string trio, and then the annual bazaar, where we were able to aid the community all the while helping with our budget.

The Cathedral remains a vibrant vital place to worship. Since January, there have been 6 baptisms and 6 weddings, not to mention Sunday school, Bible study and confirmation class. Parishioners have helped beautify the worship space through donations to the flower fund. This is a time to thank God for the life of this community. May we continue in joy!

Retreat to Advance in Advent

As long as we are alive, new things come to life in us. Loves, losses, projects, understandings have the potential to bear fruit if we allow it. The weekend before Advent is good time to take stock of such things, and pause in preparation for the birth of Christ. Our fall retreat will be led by the Reverend Canon Ralph Leavitt, an experienced spiritual director and pastor of our neighbouring parish, St. George's Place du Canada.

The theme, Magnificat, will allow participants to “walk with Mary as she learns she will be the mother of Jesus, contemplating her movement from confusion to clarity, from confirmation to celebration, ending with her wonderful song of praise, the Magnificat: “My Soul doth magnify the Lord.”

To allow these considerations to yield their full benefit for each of us, and for each other, we will strive to observe a gracious and respectful silence from Friday evening until lunchtime on Sunday.

What is the silence about? Time to reflect on the meditations. To walk outdoors, absorbing the pause in nature during this fallow time of the year. To journal, or paint. To simply rest. To get in touch with your own urgencies and the places without words—however challenging or consoling. To gently allow what's most important in your life to surface. To make sense, perhaps, of an event in the past. Or to comprehend what's calling you forward. All you need to do is to pack a change of casual clothes, Bible, alarm clock, and toiletries...and to be open to the possibilities.

The Auberge Schweizer will welcome us to the hills overlooking Sutton in the Eastern Townships. There will be good food (and a vegetarian option) and regular times of corporate prayer—eucharist daily, plus the offices including compline. There will be opportunities for spiritual conversation. Participants will arrive on November 19 (Friday afternoon) or after work. The silence will end with grace at Sunday lunch, and we will return in the afternoon of November 21.

If this Retreat interests you, please speak to Ann Elbourne or Vivian Lewin. Bursary support is available, and car pools will be organized to accommodate everyone's schedules.

lost his arm in combat. He returned to Canada a disabled veteran whose prospects were not great.

She described how he remade his life and with Joyce's mother, raised a healthy and committed family in Lennoxville.

As only Joyce can do in her sermons, she took a very personal experience, and without making it maudlin, showed the congregation, the importance of commitment, sacrifice, and resilience. At the end, there was not a dry eye in the house.

I was impressed by the actions of her father, who was safe and sound here in Canada, and yet volunteered to go back and fight for his former homeland. I looked around me and saw the reflection of Joyce's father in all of the young soldiers who-from immigrant families- made their own individual commitment to fight for Canada. That parallel will remain with me forever.

The other service that sticks out in my mind is the one that Joyce organised regarding the Montréal massacre. The service had both music and dance. There was a dance scene depicting the shooter amongst the female engineering students. At the end, a single gunshot rang out. You could have heard a pin drop in the Cathedral.

I had taken my daughter Claire to the service. Joyce's sermon about violence against women and the importance of all Christians to seek to eradicate this and other violence is a memory that I think will always stay with Claire, and I know will remain with me.

Joyce was able to weave her sermon around both this important event and the dance performers that provided interludes throughout the service.

It was a second example of how Joyce was able to take something very personal to her-the violence against women that she'd seen through her work in the women's prisons-to the Montréal massacre and translate that back to us as Christians.

Joyce is one of the finest speakers I have ever had the pleasure to hear. She has a great gift for ministry and a rare ability to connect with people. Her wisdom and her life experiences as communicated through her sermons have changed and moulded my viewpoints, both on Remembrance Day, on violence against women, gay rights, and inclusiveness. Translating Christian values into the modern idiom is something Joyce does very well and has made me proud to be an Anglican in Montréal and at the Cathedral.

She has been a "game changer" for the Cathedral. I sincerely hope that her next posting gives her the opportunity to provide to a parish the emotional and spiritual guidance that she has shown to us over the years.

Mark G. Peacock for the Peacock family

Stir-Up Sunday
 Sunday, November 21, 2010
 12:00 p.m. in the Undercroft
 Dark Fruitcake \$35.00 each
 Contact: Leah Trineer for information
 & other details to follow
wanda.leah.trineer@sympatico.ca
 514-912-3435

And the third memory is of you baptizing babies! Anyone who's watched this knows what I'm talking about – you welcome everyone you baptize into the church, but if those babies could talk, I know they'd say they had really felt "a love that would never let them go!"

These memories are examples of the way you live your faith and uphold your baptismal vows: not just by words, but by deeds. You've demonstrated your commitment to justice for all people, and shown courage in speaking and leading prophetically. You really believe in loving one's neighbor and treating everyone equally. This unusually warm, genuine love, combined with personal humbleness, radiates from you and has touched all of us. These are the most basic qualities we're called to embody as Christians, but so few of us – including priests! – manage to live them openly and fully, because, as I'm sure you know, it's very difficult. I have enormous respect for the way you do this, and your example will stay with me always.

with love and best wishes --
 Beth Adams