



RuralStyle reMonk with attitude

THE
StrongTower
Community



Where People
Can Run For Safety

-Proverbs 18:10

StrongTower Community



Community

for us starts
with a
Eucharistic
Presence to each
Other in the
Breaking of the
Bread shared with
Each other
And those living
Together in our
Virtual and
Rural neighbourhood

The Eucharistic Meal Says it All

We are fundamentally a Eucharistic community, that is giving thanks for Jesus sharing Himself with us and our world. We celebrate in the spirit of a Festival of Joy in which we seek to share by our inclusive worship and music. Our life is a 'breaking bread' together as we seek to grow into the fullness of Christ. It is to discern the giftedness in each other and for each other. As part of this we seek mentorship and spiritual discernment in growing into the fullness of the Body of Christ. Our Faith Life is thus an overlapping of the circles of community/communion/ and mission. We seek an earthy mysticism grounded in real life that yet has a prophetic subversive orthodoxy of praxis. Our Liturgical Life seeks to be creative and in touch with the sacred sacramental reality that touches every aspect of everyday life (like the Celtic rites). Come explore with us and taste a liturgical and biblical spirituality of life.

Visit also our Day-Stringfellow Centre of Spirituality and check out upcoming events via our web site at www.strong-tower.ca

Real Com

How do we 'live Church' on the margins of society? Many Christians today are seeking ways to deepen their personal commitment to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6) as an integrated life choice. It is to experience and live a spirituality in synch with the reality of today's world. It is to be transformed by cultivating the Sacred Presence in the Christ Reality of the Gospel stories and teachings. So then, how do we create this authentic spirituality as intentional Christian Community?

The StrongTower Community is part of a new and growing movement of people learning about a new monasticism that works with and challenges today's churches to answer the question "Who is my neighbour?" These 'new friars' are asking what it means to be faithful

in a new time, and living lives of radical Christian discipleship in some form of community. In reflecting on the prime messages of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount we explore aspects such as: what is compassionate hospitality and active peacemaking? And how do we see God's alternative economy as practices for the Church? In today's world we strive to live a model of grassroots ecumenism, that reads scripture as the People of God in marginal situations as rather from the bottom up and not the top down. We then see signs of a culture of grace discovered and lived in a community ethic of simplicity.

The Church in much of the Western world is in exile, alien in a strange new post-modern world. What spiritual resources, patterns of community and ways of living do



WORSHIP

Is a weekly service, a justice seeking community gathering...



DISCIPLESHIP

It's all about holding each other accountable...



MISSION

How do we see those around us who are the least, the last and the lost...

Community

we need to sustain faith, inspire discipleship and energise mission? We hear stories now of 'emerging churches' and 'fresh expressions of church' but we need models to see here in the Ottawa-Gatineau area. We need examples of those drawing on monastic traditions finding resources for a post-Christendom culture. New Monasticism is the term many are using to explore these attempts to rework old rhythms of prayer, rules of life and liturgical resources in creative life-affirming ways in a new era. For more about what this is all about, you can check out the 12 Marks of a New Monasticism at www.newmonasticism.org/12marks.php

Contemplation and Prayer

Much of the profound search into a genuine spirituality for today is for deeper forms of prayer that transforms and heals the brokenness and woundedness we find in ourselves and in society. This inner cultivation of the 'Mind of Christ' in the heart is often called contemplative prayer. Our Mission to be 'sent out', issues from our inner discipline to connect with the Spirit and thus be able to live out and proclaim the radical Reign of God as a compassionate solidarity of justice with those in the neighbourhood and our world who are the least, the last, and those who have lost their way in brokenness. And this is best effected in living a base 'communal ethic' that can take many forms as we prefer to choose to



LIFESTYLE

Our Rule of Life gives a structure and support for a 'Rhythm of Life' lived...

live in closer proximity rather than our usual individualistic indifference.

Fully Alive Fully Church

Faith community refers to the deliberate living of our pilgrimage, prayer, meditation, justice-seeking, peace-making, outreach, and learning in our daily lives together in the Body of Christ we call the church community.

In the **StrongTower Community** our commitment to live intentional community in our Rule of Life gives us such a structure and outlines the principles of the community. Likewise, the Spiritual Rhythms of a prayer centered life is also defined for us by the practices of a community inspired by the 2nd century pastoral leader Irenaeus of Lyons. His influence from Eastern Christian spirituality defined a 4-fold life paradigm of spiritual growth: the discovery of selfhood in community; education in the Divine as growth in being human; touching the Cosmic Christ in everyday creation; and entering into the power of Eucharistic unity—are all vital links to the life of this Community (see our web site www.strongtower.ca for more details).

We believe in the former Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams notion of a 'Mixed Church Economy' as inter-relating with traditional historic local churches with new forms of visual media and contemporary cultural resources in striving to be open to learn from each other as mutual influences to explore the full growth of the Church fully alive.

Another core principle that issues from all this is that we seek to live out the Christ Presence with a deep commitment to our local neighbourhood in its diversity through intentional community. This is an important part of the relational context to our surrounding culture and society. As followers of Christ our mission is defined by the needs of those amongst us locally and internationally. We recognize that this journey together entails different levels of commitment and a respect for various backgrounds, spiritual or otherwise, that people bring to the common life of places such as StrongTower Community.

SEE ONLINE

...The renewal of the Church will come from a new type of monasticism...with the old an uncompromising allegiance to the Sermon on the Mount. It is high time men and women banded together to do this.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

And all believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common...They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful as they praised God.

-from Acts 2 (The Message)

If you're interested in exploring getting involved in some way with The StrongTower Community or if you want to get on our email list (see below) or call us

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