



THE CURRENT

Living Water College of the Arts

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK : CALLING by Kenneth Noster

"Why in the world would you do this?" Why would a person with plenty on his plate launch himself into a project that nobody else in our century is doing: a project sure to cost him plenty of resources and personal sacrifice, with a guarantee of no personal gain? I've been asked these questions so many times that I've forgotten who first asked them; but it's easy to understand why people continue to ask: "Why?"

From a worldly perspective, only the foolish or deluded would throw themselves into launching a Catholic fine arts college, inviting so many ways to fail and so many chances for humiliation. But as the lustre of my hair colour has slowly grayed, my understanding has steadily grown. So when people ask me, "you're doing what...?" I respond by asking: "Well, why do we do anything at all?" The answer of course is, "Because of His calling," the heart of our vocation.

Living Water College of the Arts is little different from most of the work I've undertaken in the past, selected not because they are popular choices or pay well; although it is important to apply sound business practices to all our work. In my professional acting career in the 1970's, while my friends were harvesting the riches of a booming economy, I was driving an old Chevy to theatres across Canada, gaining a wealth of cultural experiences, but confident that I would never afford my own house. How wrong we often are. By the end of the decade, thanks to abundant grace, artistic creativity and good business practices, we had paid for our first home.

So why should we do anything at all? To be fair, practical factors such as personal need and interests, and that persistent duty to feed oneself and family are always part of the answer; but isn't there always something deeper? We are never rewarded as fully as when we work on something to which we are called. The leadership of Living Water College is one of those calls. I admit, I didn't hear it clearly at first; or to be more honest I didn't listen to it at first. Both Marlane and I had hoped we could get the idea of the college going, push it out to sea, and watch it sail off with other people's efforts. On a pragmatic and practical level, this job didn't fit into my plans. However, the Lord had other ideas, and He persistently called me to be Living Water College's first president.

In the course of my life as a business owner and father of six, I have become well practiced in the art of saying "No." But, hard as I tried, I could not say "No" to God. As we all should have learned by now, He does not give up easily. When the point came where I was certain of His call to found this college I simply dropped the "No" and began to figure out the "How."

That's where I encountered the biggest surprise. Within days of my "Yes," many things fell into place, and real progress was

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Man thirsts for truth, he seeks truth; this fact is illustrated by the attention and the success achieved by so many publications, programmes or quality fiction in which the truth, beauty and greatness of the person, including the religious dimension of the person, are acknowledged and favourably presented. Jesus said: "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (Jn 8:32). The truth which makes us free is Christ, because only he can respond fully to the thirst for life and love that is present in the human heart. Those who have encountered him and have enthusiastically welcomed his message experience the irrepressible desire to share and communicate this truth...Let us ask the Holy Spirit to raise up courageous communicators and authentic witnesses to the truth, faithful to Christ's mandate and enthusiastic for the message of the faith, communicators who will "interpret modern cultural needs, committing themselves to approaching the communications age not as a time of alienation and confusion, but as a valuable time for the quest for the truth and for developing communion between persons and peoples" (John Paul II, *Address to the Conference for those working in Communications and Culture*, 9 November 2002).

- Pope Benedict XVI, Message on the 42nd World Communications Day, May 4, 2008

MICHELANGELO ~ CARAVAGGIO ~ VIVALDI ~ RUBLEY ~ FRA ANGELICO ~ SASSOFERRATO ~ WILLIAM BYRD ~ BACH ~ LEONARDO DA VINCI ~ DVORAK ~ GIOTTO

INTRODUCING: OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT by Kenneth Noster & Jeff Gardner

I am pleased to welcome to Living Water College of the Arts our newly appointed Director of Development, Jeff Gardner. Raised Mormon, Jeff converted to Catholicism as an adult and has embraced the call to live and spread our faith.

He received his MA in Medieval history from the University of Kansas where he also pursued his doctoral studies. He has taught courses in History (ancient through modern US), Culture, Literature and Religion at the high school and University level in programs and schools in the United States and Europe. Writing and lecturing widely on a variety of religious and cultural issues Jeff has worked in Catholic education for many years as a teacher, principal, and assistant director of Catholic schools. Over the last several years he has become involved with the growth of Catholic media, working for a national radio network and running a radio station in Wisconsin. Jeff also has a wealth of experience in Development, raising money for schools, parishes, and working as the Director of Development for a state-wide pro-life organization.

In addition to his background in education and development Jeff Gardner is actively pursuing the power of the Internet to advance the Catholic faith and culture of life. In 2006 Jeff was president of ProLifeSearch.com, the Internet's first pro-life search engine, and in 2007 he co-founded and is CEO of Catholic Radio International.com - an Internet based Catholic radio network. Jeff is the creator and host of *UltraSound*, an Internet based pro-life program and the voice behind *Heart of the Matter*, Catholic Radio International's biting Op Ed show. Jeff has been a guest on Relevant Radio's *The Drew Mariani Show*, on Fr. Thomas Loya's *The Light of the East*, on the Guadalupe Radio Network.

Jeff and his wife Kristi live near La Crosse, Wisconsin with their four children. Please feel free to contact him at: jeff@livingwatercollege.com.

A WORD FROM JEFF



It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you. My name is Jeff Gardner and I am the new Director of Development at Living Water College. Let me start by telling you a little about myself.

I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. Utah is one of those large square states in the Western part of the US, very hot and home to the Mormon Church. I was raised Mormon, as was everyone I knew. It was not until much later in life, while studying for my MA in medieval history at the University of Kansas, that I converted and was received into the Catholic Church. At that same time I was teaching at the Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas, Missouri. As a newly baptized Christian, I began to notice that one of the characteristics of my students, Christian and secular alike, was a certain "drift." What I mean is: as young artists they often had great talent and ambition to match, but were not sure what to do with the two. Now, a certain amount of "now what do I do with myself?" is a normal part of youth. But this was something different. What my students lacked, and the more conscientious among them felt it keenly, was a clear picture of what or rather who to serve with their talents. Artists, it is assumed, must serve themselves, and doing so, some how serve the rest of us. But no body can revolve around itself; it needs a center. It needs God.

When I heard that there was a new fine arts college going up in Canada, one that understood that God is Truth and Truth is Beauty and beauty is the business of the artist, I immediately picked up the phone. Several calls and a trip to Alberta later I am honored to be part of the development office at Living Water College.

We have an important task ahead of us: building this college, bringing in students from everywhere, and sending them out to take part in our cultural renewal, our springtime of faith. It is a blessing to be part of this great work, and there is much work to do: much to be prayed for and much to be paid for.

In the days ahead you will hear from us often about the progress of Living Water College and the many opportunities to be part of its growth and success. I look forward to speaking with as soon as I can. Until then, feel free to email me (jeff@livingwatercollege.com) with any questions or suggestions that you might have about the College. May the Lord bless and keep you, and thank you for being part of Living Water College.

"The world is hungry not only for food, but also for beauty..."

~ Blessed Mother Teresa

FROM THE GROUND UP: ONE STICK AT A TIME by Leon Unland, Administrator

Spring is here and with comes new hope, new promise and new life. In that spirit, let me share with you a little about the many projects that are underway as the college takes shape.

Colin Minish, owner/operator of Clandonald Plumbing, and his crew have been diligently working in the water treatment building and the tie-ins to our new Superior Water treatment system, servicing the boiler system, and installing mop sinks and outside hose bibs for the main building.

Our main entry continues to take shape to welcome future students, staff and visitors alike. The magnificent pillars are in place and the construction of the front steps is finished and ready for paint.

Of course spring brings the inevitable needs of lawn and garden care; mowing, tilling, planting and fertilizing are all underway. To move this work along over the considerable college grounds, let me invite you to check your tool sheds for good, usable lawn and garden equipment such as mowers (ride-on or walk-behind), trimmers, weed whackers, garden hoses. To put the landscape together, we have a lot of ground to cover (yes – pun intended), and your gift of equipment or financial support toward this activity will make a



big difference.

Lastly, but by no means least, we are in the process of subdividing an adjoining 70 acre parcel of land that was donated this last spring for the future home of the staff residences. The construction of staff housing will be a major undertaking – one with many opportunities for

sponsorship and help.

In the next newsletter, I will tell you about this project and how we can get it off the ground in no time. I am excited about the coming year and the promise of blessings it holds for these projects and our development as a whole. We welcome and are thankful for your past and future support. Right now, an investment from you of \$1000, \$500, \$100 or any amount will positively impact the future of this great and growing college. To find out more about supporting Living Water College, visit our web site www.livingwatercollege.com or call Nicole Dunn at 780-741-2488.

Christ is Risen !
Indeed He is Risen !

FIRST ANNUAL SPRING GALA by Nicole Dunn



On a clear and sharp April evening, Living Water College hosted its first Annual Spring Gala at the historic Lougheed House in Calgary, Alberta. More than 30 guests were welcomed to the lovely mansion nestled in the heart of downtown and built by one of Calgary's most influential senators, James Alexander Lougheed. The venue was appropriate as Senator Lougheed was an art advocate as well as a leading statesman, building Calgary's Lyric and Grand Theatres.

The event began with champagne cocktails and a silent auction which continued throughout. A pleasant variety of items were available for bidding, including a handsome icon of Our Lady of Sorrows, written by our Director of Fine Arts, Frank C. Turner; a charming watercolor by Alberta artist, Glenda Beaver; and several sets of Ted Byfield's excellent voluminous histories, *The Christians: Their First Two Thousand Years*. The guests were enthused over the auction and enjoyed themselves in conversation, fine food and complementary tours offered by the Lougheed House.

With the evening underway, Kenneth Noster addressed those attending in a presentation speaking to the need for active advocacy in renewal of the Arts. He stated, "It seems to me that the most valuable of all the gifts that God gives us is the gift of free will. Most valuable because we can, unlike with any other of God's gifts, use our free will moment by moment, at any time and in any way we want....Art, too, stands as an excellent example of how someone might use their Free Will... as a uniquely human activity, (Art) draws us together and can educate us, communicates ideas among us and inspires plans and dreams. Since Art has this distinct power, artists and patrons of the Arts have a particular obligation to use and promote Art, as Aristotle said – 'to represent the inward significance of things:' truth, beauty, goodness and even God's presence among us. Art that does these things is "good Art."

Introduced as an annual event, the first Spring Gala was a success. The evening was filled by supporters whose enthusiasm and investment made an immediate impact in fundraising, and whose continued encouragement inspires the work of the College. These guests made the occasion doubly enjoyable by their presence, enhancing the atmosphere with their liveliness and good spirit. We thank all for attending; your contributions are indispensable to the larger success of all efforts to invigorate our culture with new life.



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made toward launching the college. Speaking engagements seemed to fall into my lap, and we received offers of help from new volunteers. My part in responding to the opportunities and people placed in our path was important, but by no means the source of our progress. Clearly, the Lord had an armful of graces He was waiting to pour out on us. Graces, I have come to understand, only flow after we put ourselves in a position to receive them.

In all things, whether we choose to see it or not, our life's work is really God's work: He is the master builder and we are merely the tools through which He

works. An old adage comes to mind: "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called." More than just a cute saying, this is simply the truth.

"Our duty is to attend to his call, no matter the cost. In response we can smile, get up and take on each day, no matter the work..."

The other day I was reflecting on our first pope, the Apostle Peter. On that moonlit night in the garden, he certainly was not aiming for the ear of the High Priest's servant: he wanted to split his head open. So there was Peter, with all his inadequacies, all

his denials; and yet through submission to the Lord's call, he became the leader of Christ's fledgling Church.

Your life and mine are no different. "Why would you do anything at all," if it wasn't a calling from our Lord? You shouldn't. Our duty is to attend to His call, no matter the cost. In response we can smile, get up and take on each day, no matter the work; and we can expect to become sustained in our task as the Lord takes the helm. Here is the ultimate *fiat*. Dying daily to self is our job, the rest is His.



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"If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink, He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:37-38