

PRESS RELEASE

Panel Discussion on Homelessness in Toronto Responds to Jesus the Homeless Sculpture at Jesuit College

April 2, 2013 – Regis College has installed an extraordinary life-sized bronze sculpture of "Jesus the Homeless" on the plaza of its Queen's Park location. The work of the Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz, made possible by the benefaction of Mr. Peter Benninger, the sculpture invites those approaching the main entrance of the college at the corner of Queens Park Crescent East and Wellesley Street West to reflect about their relation with the homeless poor, among the most vulnerable of the marginalized people living in Canadian society. The installation interprets the educational mission of Regis College and its commitment to advocacy for justice to its Queen's Park neighbourhood and the City of Toronto.

To mark the installation of this thought provoking sculpture, Regis College will host a panel discussion on homelessness in Toronto on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00pm. Three panelists will offer reflections on themes related to the sculpture. Timothy Schmalz will be in attendance and will be recognized during the proceedings.

Edward Penton, S.J., a Master of Divinity student at Regis College, will speak on his experiences of being on pilgrimage and in solidarity with the homeless.

Bruce Rivers, Executive Director of Covenant House Toronto, will speak on youth homelessness in Toronto and beyond.

Gordon Rixon, S.J., Dean of Regis College, will speak on the relation of beauty and justice, especially in regard to the sculpture.

After each panelist speaks for 10-15 minutes, the members of the panel will exchange with each other and the assembly. A modest reception will follow the discussion. The panel discussion, which is offered at no cost, will be conducted at Regis College, 100 Wellesley Street, West, Toronto, at the corner of Queen's Park Crescent East. Museum is the closest subway stop. The 94 Wellesley Street bus stops in front of the college. Street parking is available. The venue is accessible.

Information and registration are available by visiting www.regiscollege.ca/homelessness, emailing inquiries@RegisCollege.ca or calling 416-922-5474 x221. Seating is limited.

Regis College is the Jesuit School of Theology in the University of Toronto.



About Timothy Schmalz

Timothy Schmalz is a world-renowned sculptor. He studied at OCAD and had a studio in Toronto for five years. His most notable works are the Quite Moment in Bethlehem Israel, Mat Talbot in the pro Cathedral Ireland and the Sudbury mining Monument Sudbury Ontario. Most of Timothy's work is created in Bronze and stone. The Jesus the homeless was inspired two years ago when the sculptor was in Toronto, where he saw many homeless people and envisioned a sculpture that would show the connection between the homeless and the Gospels. The sculptor has created similar works for Ottawa and Rome. There are plenty of bronze sculptures in Toronto of many great people, this one is the only one that honours the marginalized and rejected. Timothy currently works out of his two studios in Beijing China and St. Jacobs, Ontario.

About Edward Penton, S.J.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Ted Penton studied philosophy for several years. Two years working with the Farmworker Unit of Legal Aid of North Carolina set him on the path towards law school. Following a short legal career with the Canadian federal government, Ted entered the Society of Jesus in 2009. He has recently completed two years of theology studies at Regis College. In September, Ted will begin a two-year internship placement in Chicago with the Ignatian Spirituality Project, a small organization that offers Ignatian retreats and spiritual direction to the homeless population.

About Bruce Rivers

Bruce Rivers, a highly regarded child welfare expert and advocate, assumed the post of Covenant House Toronto Executive Director in 2011. Bruce has held a number of senior executive roles, including 16 years as Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto. Bruce served as a director at the local Catholic Children's Aid. Most recently he was the Chief Executive Officer of Community Living Toronto. Bruce was seconded to the Child Welfare Secretariat of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services where he was Executive Director from 2004 to 2006. He provided his experience and leadership in the policy division of the ministry. He has been an active member of numerous national and international boards, forums and task forces devoted to research and advocacy.

About Gordon Rixon, S.J.

Gordon Rixon, S.J. completed undergraduate studies in philosophy and mathematics at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, a Master of Divinity and Licentiate in Theology at Regis College, Toronto, and doctoral studies in theology at Boston College. Gordon joined the Regis faculty in 1996 after working on the program staff at the Jesuit Center for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto. He has been a Senior Resident at Massey College at the University of Toronto and Resident Scholar at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. Gordon represents the Canadian Catholic Bishops on the Churches' Council on Theological Education. He complements his academic work by preaching regularly in local parishes and doing popular education.

About Regis College

Regis College is the Jesuit College at the University of Toronto and one of the founding members of the Toronto School of Theology. The college offers post-baccalaureate and graduate programs in theology each year to about 260 students from over thirty countries. Known for its spiritual integration of academic research, advocacy for social and ecological justice, and appreciation of beauty, the college was founded in 1930.

For more information contact:

Gordon Rixon, SJ, Dean
Regis College
100 Wellesely Street West
Toronto, ON, M5S 2Z5, Canada
Telephone: (416) 922-5474 x225
Email: gordon.rixon@utoronto.ca
www.RegisCollege.ca

About the Jesuits in English Speaking Canada

The Jesuits are the largest men's religious order in the Catholic Church. The Society of Jesus was founded in 1540 by St. Ignatius Loyola, a Basque nobleman and soldier, and seven of his companions, who placed themselves at the disposal of the Holy Father for the service of the Church wherever the need was greatest. Today there are almost 20,000 Jesuits serving the Church in 112 nations on six continents. The Jesuits in English Speaking Canada, as part of the international Society of Jesus, serve the English-speaking people of Canada in schools, colleges, universities, parishes, retreat houses and chaplaincies across Canada. They number 165, including 30 young men in training, and are committed the integration of Ignatian spirituality, action for justice and learned activities.

For more information contact:

Jesuit Provincial Office
43 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3, Canada
Telephone: (416) 962-4500