



WHAT THE 'NET HAS BROUGHT IN



RAYMOND O'CONNOR presents a selection of the emails that have come into Central Office in recent weeks

I am a Protestant Minister in the US. I was seeking more education and edification in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and I was also looking for affiliation with others who have entered a lifelong abstinence, as I have, for the sake of my body, my spirit, and my witness to the Gospel. I also continue to study and watch programming in the US, which informs me about the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Therefore, when I discovered the Pioneer Association through my web-search, it seemed to be a perfect match for me. I would like to continue, not only through membership but also through modest financial giving as I am able, to support the work of the Pioneer Association. Thank you for all you do, and for your occasional emails. It helps me feel connected. I do not know if I am a candidate for conversion to Catholicism; but I am prayerful every day as I grow through prayer and meditation, that I will find the fullest expression of my faith in this life and for the Life to come.

Yours truly,

Bob

I am celebrating my 24th year of sobriety. In our church in San Antonio (Texas), is a wonderful Irish nun who wears her pin proudly. She told me of the association and I googled it up. I celebrate with you.

BW, Texas

I was working on starting a Women's Night of Recollection at our local Retreat House and finding out as much as I could about our beloved Matt Talbot when I came across the Pioneer Association. I must have been doing an Internet search...??? I have been most blessed – 33 years sober this past May. I have been a member of the Matt Talbot Retreat Movement here in the United States all of these thirty-three years. I am a Lay Ecclesial Minister here in New Jersey. Please let me know what I can do to help get the word out. I place my trust in the Sacred Heart of Jesus to keep me sober, one day at a time...

LH, New Jersey

I heard about the Pioneer Association living in Los Angeles. I was part of a jury along with an Irish nun who became my friend. During the 2 month long trial we spoke of many things, at lunch etc. One of them the Pioneers. My 94-year-old mother, whose both parents were born in Ireland just died. Alcoholism is rampant in my family. Thus my interest,

Karen, California, USA



I had heard a long time ago about the 'pledge' and was mildly interested in finding out more about it, but the years intervened. I was looking up references to the Sacred Heart, such as magazines and devotions and that is when I stumbled upon the Pioneer Association on the Internet. It was a 'God moment' for me so I read everything I could on the web site, ordered some brochures and then signed up as a Pioneer. I believe an investment in associating the devotion to the Sacred Heart along with our consumerism and hedonism would be one way to effect the cause and the ideals of the Pioneer Association. I believe this could be introduced to college campuses, especially here in the States as many of our younger people are searching for spirituality and a sense of denying themselves for the Gospel.

Sincerely, in Him.

JB, D. Min, M.A.

Over the years I have been impressed with the joy and spirituality of Pioneers. Before I was married I sought a social life that would support my Catholic way of living and found it to some extent with Pioneers. However, for some reason I never thought of becoming a Pioneer. A couple of years ago I saw Fr. Bernard McGuckian, SJ being interviewed on ETWN and his explanation of the objectives of the Association made so much sense, I decided to become a Pioneer. My wife and I have eight children and have been married forty-eight years. We now have fourteen grandchildren. I am also a cancer survivor and the experience has led me to write a book, *Rule for Retired Persons-The Wisdom of Catholic Teachers*. I have received an imprimatur from my bishop and I am now trying to get it published. It is a guide for retired persons and those still working who are called to be active contemplatives. That was another aspect of Pioneers, they were to some extent active contemplatives on a very practical level. They also fostered community.

In the United States today there is a hunger for genuine joy, a reflective life style, and community that fosters solid values rooted in a prayer life. Pioneers seem to have a spirituality that fosters these three values.

Deacon JPC

I was vaguely aware of the Pioneer Association for a long time. I read Mary Purcell's biography of Matt Talbot when I was 18. When I was in my 20s I was active in the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann and heard some of the members mention it. In my mid 30s I was teaching high school on a the Sioux Indian Reservation. Alcohol abuse has been a problem for many Native American tribes for two centuries. I don't drink but I took the pledge as a prayer for those who were fighting to become sober or clean.

About five or six years ago I read some comments about Matt Talbot by Dallas Chief Eagle, a leader on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, so there are some in Indian Country who know about the Association. God bless.

JH, USA

My Grandmother was a Pioneer and several other members of my family are also members. I am also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I wanted to join the Pioneers as a way of staying in touch with my roots and to support an organization that attempts to help others to abstain. Best Wishes in broadening the membership to this wonderful organization.

MC



COMMITTED TO THE EUCHARIST

**DIDACHE
(Instructions)**

This document of the early Church includes texts of a rite of "the breaking of the bread." Some scholars accept them as referring to the Eucharist, while others do not.

'On the Lord's Day, come together and break bread and give thanks ... but first confess your sins that your sacrifice may be pure. No one at odds with his friend is to join your assembly until there is reconciliation: your sacrifice must not be defiled. For the Lord has said: "let a pure sacrifice be offered to me everywhere and at all times, for I am a great king and my name is to be held in wonder among the nations.'

Stephen Redmond SJ