

Jean Vanier

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, was born in Canada. After military service he pursued his studies in Paris, France, where he wrote a thesis on Aristotle and completed his Ph.D.

In 1964, through his friendship with a Dominican priest, Father Thomas Philippe, Jean became aware of the plight of thousands of people institutionalized with developmental disabilities. Jean Vanier invited two men to leave the institution where they resided and share their lives with him in a real home in Trosly-Breuil, France. The home was named L'Arche, French for "the Ark," a symbol of refuge, life, home, and covenant with God and humanity. From this original community in France, 120 other communities have been founded worldwide, including L'Arche Heartland in Overland Park, Kansas.

Jean Vanier has been a visionary practitioner of community for people with developmental disabilities for nearly 40 years. He also knows what it is to be tired, burned out, stressed, and ... renewed again and again. Jean comes to share renewal with those who serve people with developmental disabilities and their families.

A prolific author, some of his books include: *Community and Growth*, *From Brokenness to Community*, *An Ark for the Poor*, *Becoming Human*, *The Heart of L'Arche: A Spirituality for Every Day*, *The Scandal of Service*, *Finding Peace*

While in Kansas City, Jean Vanier is being honored as the tenth recipient of the Community of Christ International Peace Award.

"Community is not built upon heroic actions, but rather upon the love shown in the little things of daily life."

"I have come to the conclusion that those with intellectual disabilities are among the most oppressed and excluded people in the world."

—Jean Varnier

L'Arche in Kansas City

L'Arche Heartland has welcomed persons with disabilities since 1987. Core members (persons with disabilities) and assistants live in a community, sharing a home. Core members choose employment as well as social and recreational activities that they find interesting and challenging.

Relationships are at the heart of our community, with emphasis placed on sharing lives, responsibilities, and welcoming others. Each person is considered sacred and unique and is encouraged and supported to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and vocationally according to his or her gifts.

Our community is governed by a local volunteer board of directors and licensed by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services. We work closely with families and guardians of persons with disabilities as well as professionals to ensure a high quality of life.

Becoming Human

Talks by Jean Vanier

Founder of L'Arche,
Communities for People with
Developmental Disabilities

Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
For professionals at Pierson Auditorium,
University of Missouri at Kansas City

Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 5:00 p.m.
For young adults at Stone Church
Independence, Missouri

Wednesday, June 11, 2003, 6:45 p.m.
For all at the Community of Christ
Auditorium, Independence, Missouri

*"Humanity will be able
to live only if
we discover
that our
differences are
our treasures."*

—Jean Varnier



Talks in Kansas City Metro by Jean Vanier

Tuesday, June 10—Professional Event

10:00 a.m.–noon **Becoming Human:**
The Deeper Side of Developmental Disabilities
Pierson Auditorium, University of Missouri
at Kansas City

Who: residential and vocational service workers, case managers, social workers, special education teachers/exceptional educators, board members of not-for-profits, counselors, nurses, psychologists, etc.

Purpose: renewal of vision, paradigm of wholeness, self-determination, and shift from handicapped to gifted through community

Welcome: George A. Harris, Ph.D. (licensed psychologist in private practice in Kansas City and founding board member of the local L'Arche home, L'Arche Heartland)

Format: talk followed by questions and discussion; books for sale afterwards

Sponsors: L'Arche Heartland; Jackson County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled; Sunshine Center School; Midwest Christian Counseling Center; Graceland University School of Nursing; Missouri Federation Council of Exceptional Children; Kansas City Regional Center; Research College of Nursing; Special Neighbors Inc.; Community of Christ

Cost: \$15 including light refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

Certificate of Attendance available for continuing education credit.

Tuesday, June 10—Young Adult Event (ages 18-35)

5:00–6:45 p.m. **Becoming Human:**
Discerning Your Calling... Pizza and dialogue with young adults of all faiths or none.

Where: Stone Church, 1012 W. Lexington, Independence, Missouri

Cost: \$5

Wednesday June 11— Community Event

6:45–8:00 p.m. **Becoming Human:**
The Weak Can Be a Sign of Hope
Community of Christ International
Peace Award Ceremony

The Auditorium, River Blvd. and Walnut Street

Independence, Missouri.

Book signing following the Award Ceremony.

If wheelchair accommodations are needed, please register to guarantee a location. See registration form to make reservation.

“To some it may sound strange for me to say that it is the weak, and those who have been excluded from society, who have been my teachers. I hope that I can reveal a bit of what I have learned - and am still learning - about being human, and about helping others to discover our common humanity.”

—Jean Vanier

For more information visit
www.CofChrist.org/peaceaward

Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone: (____) _____
E-mail: _____

Register for the following:

June 10, 2003–10:00 a.m. **Becoming Human:**

The Deeper Side of Developmental Disabilities

___ Number of tickets - \$15 per ticket
(includes light refreshments)
___ Certificate of Attendance requested

June 10, 2003–5 p.m. **Becoming Human:**

Discerning Your Calling...

Pizza and dialogue with Young Adults
___ Number of tickets—\$5 per ticket

\$___ **Total Cost**

June 11, 2003–6:45 p.m. **Becoming Human:**

The Weak Can Be a Sign of Hope

Community of Christ International Peace Award
___ Number of wheelchair accommodations
(no charge)

Payment (U.S. funds only)

___ Check (*Payable to Presiding Bishopric*)
___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover

Account #: _____ Exp: _____
Signature: _____

Credit card payment can be completed by phone at (816) 833 1000, ext. 1356, or fax completed form to (816) 521-3016.

Mail completed form with payment to:

Jean Vanier Talks
Peace and Justice Ministries
Community of Christ
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