

May 5, 2004

Dear fellow islanders,

The day of the departure of the Franciscans is fast approaching. There was an overwhelming and generous response to the idea of an all-island group parting gift. More than \$1400 was received which created an unexpected, albeit nice, problem about how to spend it.

The Shaw Inc Board proceeded with the idea of a \$400 gift certificate to the Italian restaurant in Portland. It is apparently wonderful, is in an old house and serves a seven course meal. The Herrmanns recommended it and have agreed to provide transportation for them and join them (at their own expense). Hopefully the nuns will feel spoiled, a little bit indulged and have a wonderful experience.

As I mentioned before, we had four Coonie Cameron prints framed. Like Coonie, the nuns have become part of a rich Shaw history. We hope they will find places for the prints in their new homes and will remember their years on Shaw when they see them.

For the rest of the money, we considered symphony tickets and a gift certificate for the Orcas Hotel so they can come back to visit. This was starting to seem a bit overwhelming for them and perhaps not feasible as Mother Kateri and Mother Dorothy (we heard) will be going to the Music Conservatory in Michigan at the end of the month.

Allison Lengyel made what we thought was an excellent suggestion. Apparently the nuns use Land's End to buy such things as shoes, socks, parkas, sweaters, etc. Land's End also carries household and garden items that might be helpful to them in their new homes. So we bought four separate \$300 gift certificates for them to use as they wish.

Today I made a several page card for them with pictures of Shaw Island (thanx to Diane Walker). I included all of the names and/or cards of those of you who responded and also took the liberty of including my good-bye poem (below if you want to read it). There is still time to have your name included on the card if you would like. Just let me know. If you DO make a donation, please make it small, so that we do not end up with excess monies. (If we do, I will suggest to the board that we put it in the medical fund) As soon as the gift certificates arrive, I will present the pictures, the gift certificates and the cards to them. We know that the nuns do not want a public goodbye, so we decided that this should be done privately. Emotionally, they are having a very hard time with this whole process. Aren't we all?!!

Despite their reluctance to have any kind of community gathering in their honor, they have agreed to one event. This Saturday at 11:30 all islanders who can make it will convene at the ferry landing for an all-island photo with them. We will hopefully make this a fun low-key event with no speeches or tearful good byes. Our excellent resident photographer Kath Melville will take the pictures. We hope that you can make it.

The board joins me in hoping that you like the decisions we made regarding the good bye gifts for the Franciscans. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Carole Davis

President for the Board, Shaw Islanders, Inc.

Oh heck, oh me, oh dear, oh my  
The time has come to say goodbye  
It's hard to think of you not here  
To us you've been so very dear.

Your patience long, your smiles so broad  
Your faith so strong in loving God  
Your helping hands to all our needs  
Each day was filled with your good deeds.

You made our copies, ordered hams  
And stocked the store with loving hands  
You answered questions, cashed our checks  
You brought us soil and things complex

You met our boats each time with smile  
You ran the store with gracious style  
You cleaned the bathrooms, kept our bills  
You ran the "bestest" mercantile

You suffered thru construction blues  
You kept us up on daily news  
You worked and worked on summer days  
Your diligence did us amaze

You're in our hearts, you're in our veins  
You've lived with us through all the rains  
And as you go to lives anew  
Please know we'll always think of you!

