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also poor. At St. Vincent DePaul, he turned the residence into a treatment center for late-stage alcoholics, the largest in the state at the time and a service virtually unheard of in the late 1970s.

"With any other disease, the people at the latest stage would get the most treatment. And that was not true with this disease," Newton says. He stayed with St. Vincent for nine years, establishing himself as a specialist in the field. In 1986, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Portland. In the course of his recovery, Newton says he matured in his faith. He returned to the seminary and ultimately took his vows.

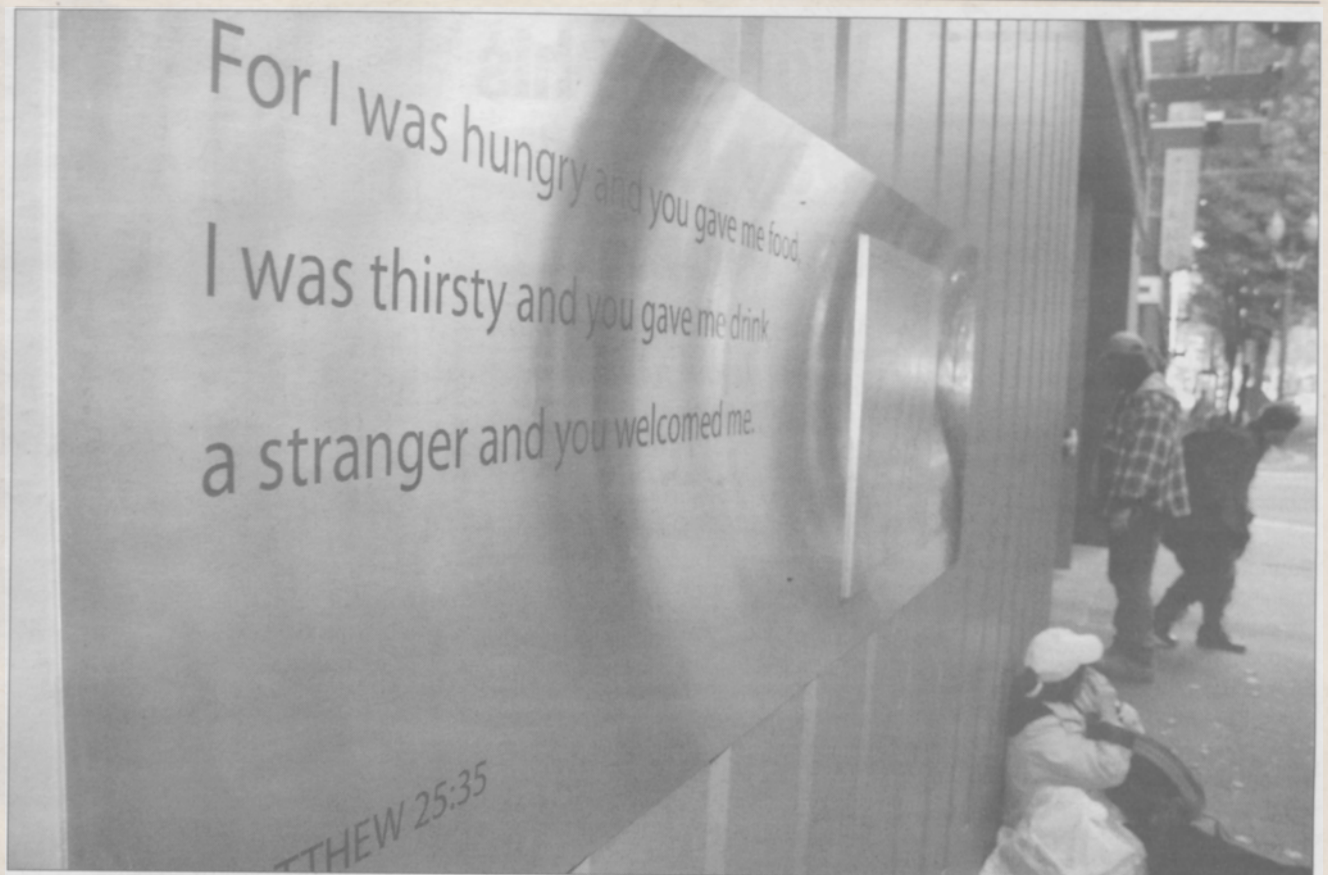
In the early 1990s, after he had been ordained, he was invited by the Archbishop of Panama to visit and consult the community there on how to address alcoholism in their country. While in Panama, he met the District Superior for Africa, who called on his help as well. The next year, he traveled to Africa to help establish treatment centers in Zambia and Kenya. The three centers he helped create in Africa, along with the DePaul Treatment Centers, continue to treat late-stage alcoholism to this day.

Along the way, Newton has served as the founding director of South Bend's Center for the Homeless, rector of a residence hall at Notre Dame, executive director of Life Treatment Centers in South Bend and president of the Institute for Central and East African Rehabilitation.

Newton arrived at the Downtown Chapel Roman Catholic Parish like a lot of people do — sick and exhausted. He recovered to be sworn in as pastor two days later on Saturday.

"I knew that when I arrived here, sick, but still somewhat conscious, that this was really going to be a transformative experience for me," Newton says. "I just sensed that. I didn't know what that meant. I knew it was going to really deepen things considerably."

The Downtown Chapel serves 100-150



The sign outside of the Downtown Chapel reflects the philosophy of the Chapel's work in providing meals, food boxes and other resources for people in need in the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood.

community members daily in its Hospitality Center, providing basic needs, emergency services, transition assistance, and hospitality. Its daily food pantry provides nearly 100 food bags each week to its neighbors living in low-income housing. The Chapel serves more than 200 warm meals every Friday night during its Brother Andre Cafe. All of these programs require more than 100 volunteers each week, and they rely on donations of food, adult clothing, hygiene items, blankets, sleeping bags, hats, and gloves from the larger community.

There is also a bit of urgency to emphasize the Chapel's work as not just congregational, but universal within the

Church. There is a cost to running meals, classes, hygiene services and hospitality for hundreds of customers every day. It costs \$9,100 a week to run the Downtown Chapel. They take in about \$2,000 a week through Sunday donations.

"That's a gap that needs to be filled," Newton says. "It's been filled by depleting some resources that we had, and if we continued to do that, we would have four more years and then we'd be out of business. We'd be bankrupt. So I've got to turn that around."

Newton says he wants to reaffirm the Downtown Chapel as a part of the Catholic church in Portland as a whole — and to offer

the experience of the Downtown Chapel, with its unique environment, as a service to all members of the church, not just its own congregation. Newton is exploring working in partnership with other churches, having sister churches to expand the opportunities for Catholics to participate in the work done in Old Town.

This is far from the Catholic Ghetto of his youth.

"We are not the Old Town Church. We are the Catholic Church in Old Town," Newton says. "And it sounds subtle but I think it's an important distinction. The Catholic Church is universal, it's not congregational, it's not parochial. We are one."

Astonishing Universe

By Richard Wolfe

What does this conjure up in your mind, I ask
I'll tell you what I have guessed about it
This concerns man's final days on Earth
I had a premonition of how it will all end
According to science, there was a "Big Bang"
We came along eons later and took over the planet
As the dominant species, we've had a long history
Rich, colorful and eventful
Accumulated much knowledge about how things are
And the way it all works and supposedly just is
From caveman to Cleopatra, later Obama
And there shall be a few more yet great leaders
We never have really all got along,

What with wars and other forms of chaos
Much altering of the environment to suit us,
Our needs as well as our whims
Polluted every corner of Earth, on land, sea and air
Destroyed countless forms of life, both plant and animal
They say all good things must come to an end. It will.
I know not if it has a name or not as of yet.
But we go the way the dinosaurs went, late Cretaceous,
An Asteroid. Then within a short while, it'll be lights out.
For all. Across the board, that's all she wrote.
For us. The planet will recover, and the universe will
go on. In enough time, everything will be gone.

Take Action. Get Tested!

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value

"Where to go
so you know"

Multnomah County Health Department's
HIV Community Test Site offers
confidential HIV testing
with or without your name
at these locations:

Downtown Community Test Site
Call 503.988.3775 for an appt.
Mon | Thurs | Fri
426 SW Stark St., 6th Floor,
Portland, 97204

Northeast Health Center
Just walk in
Tuesdays | 5:30 - 7:15 pm
5329 NE MLK Jr. Blvd, 2nd Floor,
Portland, 97211

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