WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THE FOOLS?
We are called...

APRIL FOOLS DAY, 2002

Dear Faithful Fools:

Fekien jiocis atomds voames. Aka e ojfejwo mfoemom ifja ifjefi v viajel knienwn. I wnkaq kjk iwio fjджi, jkin wassnllkkj dlkkj jk e jwv kjj wiocep, pанциl ppqнk d wiwonp kjadф vyjyj jfjfje wpon dнine ajjqk. Fions кicne d viwнnk dvinwlkк dивнwskк.


APRIL FOOLS!

Faithfully,

Kay and Carmen

In our 4th year as Faithful Fools WE CELEBRATE...
...Up On Top afterschool program; Faithful Fools Copy shop;
Peace Project in Chiapas, Mexico; the 4-day Street Retreat;
our new meditation room; relationships; the Welcome Center; the play, The Witness, All who generously support the fools.
So, celebrate with us and come join our folly!
...to accompaniment, advocacy and the arts

"Tricksters are regularly honored as creators of culture. They have helped shape this world so as to make it hospitable for human life."
—Lewis Hyde,
Trickster Makes This World

The mission of the Faithful Fools Copy Shop is to be a "family business" with a presence of joy and bountiful generosity of spirit in the neighborhood.
Participate in shattering myths about those living in poverty, see the light, courage, intelligence, strength and creativity of the people we encounter.

(I ask about St. Anthony’s lunch) “No, I don’t go down there,” says the draw-in mouthed young woman sitting on a sleeping bag, cart behind her, with a large white teddy bear sitting on the sleeping bag. “The lines are too long. My boyfriend and I do o.k. this way.” This way being a large size foam cup sitting on the sleeping bag. I squat, she sits. I tell her my name, she tells me hers—Candy. The bear says the most—silently.

“How long have you been doing this?” I ask.

“30 years,” says Candy.

“You don’t look old enough to have been here that long.”

“I started when I was 10.”

My assumptions are blown— the teddy bear says the most.

A young woman, age 40 with a teddy bear.

A child age 10 with a teddy bear.

Candy asks “How long have you been doing this?”

I say “3 days.”

She says, “You have a long way to go....”

Yes—I’m barely scratching the surface of processing life and circumstance in the Tenderloin.
Discover on the streets our common humanity through which celebration, community and healing occur.

A people in migration—a people forced from a homeland—a life, a being, a place devalued—its wearing—and why should I get up except to move to another place.

I blew a bubble and it explained its sacredness to me. It is round, empty, a window, a mirror, a rainbow (filled with dancing colors), short-lived, floating between heaven and earth and filled with human breath.
—Ken Feit

As I laid on the ground outside the Church there was a feeling of being discarded. It was cold lying there. There wasn’t a relationship with anyone inside the Church. It’s like I blew there. A piece of cardboard. I wanted to have a happy feeling of sleeping in the open air—in another context it might be exhilarating and even slightly romantic. But that wasn’t the feeling I had.
"The deepest level of communication is not communication but community, communion. It is wordless. It is beyond words, and it is beyond concept. Not that we have to discover a new unity. We discover an older unity. We are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is already what we are."
—Thomas Merton
Create & Educate

“When we really listen, when we really pay attention to the sounds of joy and suffering in the universe, then we are not separate from them, we become them. Because in reality we are not separate from those who suffer. We are them. They are us. It is our suffering, and it is our joy.”

—Bernie Glassman
Bear Witness

“The fools perform a sacred role in the community—the mirror to the people of their ethic and possibilities, a teller of truth standing naked in the marketplace and confronting the powerful with playful disorder, a beggar, a storyteller, a magician. Few things are more awesome than a clown let loose in the streets.”

—Ken Feit

The play, The Witness.
A young woman moves into the streets. She comes to understand she must look at the assumptions of her own mind before she can enter whole-heartedly into the community of all living beings.
(Available for touring nationwide.)
We extend our gratitude to our donors, volunteers and grantors including Catholic Health Initiatives, Veatch Program, William & Alice Hinckley Fund, Society for Community Work, Greenville Foundation and the Elan Foundation.

WAYS TO GIVE AT THE FOOLS COURT

Faithful Fools Street Ministry is called to the arts, education, advocacy and accompaniment. We believe the human and financial resources are abundant and invite you to be with us in our work. We share with you ways to participate.

VOLUNTEER FOOL: There is always something to do and people to be with. Be a tutor at the Up On Top After-School Program; Companion people to appointments at clinics and service agencies; Work in the copy shop; Serve and visit with people at the Welcome Center on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

STREET RETREAT: Come on a street retreat. For more information about the monthly retreats 415-474-0508 or go to our website www.faithfulfools.org.

COPY SHOP: Bring your copy business to Faithful Fools Copy Shop. We copy, bind, fax, print, cut, staple and more. Messenger service is available. 415-673-4567

DIRECT DONATIONS: Direct donations: Checks and credit card contributions or pledges can be made using the enclosed card.

STOCK: Gifts of stock are a wonderful way to support our work. Call Anton Jungherr 510-799-1141 for details.

BEQUESTS: Name Faithful Fools Street Ministry as a beneficiary of your estate in your will or trust. Call Julia Wald, at 415-482-7555 to discover the tax advantages that can be structured to meet your needs.

THRIFT STORE ITEMS: Used clothing and household items can be taken to the Community Thrift Store, 625 Valencia, San Francisco, 415-861-4910. Designate Faithful Fools Street Ministry (Agency #204) and we will receive part of the proceeds.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, indicate it on the enclosed card.

WWW.FAITHFULFOOLS.ORG