



Double Issue!

DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LAY APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST THE RETURNING KING

A Witness of Love

By Anne, a lay apostle

FALL/WINTER 2008 ISSUE 11/12

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I remember a time during one of life's tragedies when a strange woman ministered to me. I was leaning against a wall in front of a hospital. It was dark and a woman walked by me, hurrying along. I barely noticed her. She stopped suddenly, turned back and approached me with the greatest confidence.



"What's wrong, Honey?" she asked.

I told her in a few sentences. I was not interested in conversation, to be honest, as I had been talked to death in the immediate past few days.

"Well," she said, letting her breath out in a huge sigh, "You need Jesus Christ as sure as I'm standing here. I just knew He was asking me to stop and minister to you."

With that she dropped her purse and shopping bags. She was clearly not Catholic. I am Catholic and as a Catholic I was raised to pray quietly in form. This woman was a big woman, with a wild hat and brightly colored clothes. Even her bags were wildly colored. I couldn't imagine why she was dropping everything there on the street in sub zero temperatures. The whole thing

made me nervous. I remained with my back to the wall. She put her hands over my head and let heaven have it.

"Jesus Christ," said she in a strong, loud voice, "I know You're there and I know You're listening. This poor little thing is looking like she's all alone down here and I don't like it, not one little bit. I ain't going nowhere, Lord, til You give this child the grace she has a right to expect from You. You hear me, Jesus. I know You do. Look how cold she is, Lord. Look how scared she looks. She believes in You, Jesus, and she shouldn't look so cold and scared. We need help right now." She paused in the

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News of the Mission

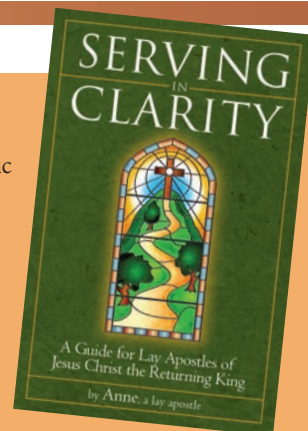
Steve Logan, DFOT Vice President and Treasurer

Summer Wrap-Up



The mission had a very busy summer. There were three highly attended Eucharistic Days of Renewal in Justice, IL; Taylor Mill, KY; and at the Holy Trinity Abbey in Ireland. Two new publications were issued: *Serving in Clarity* and the Climbing the Mountain Book Study. Articles regarding these events and new publications follow in this newsletter.

All of us on staff who work for Direction for Our Times would like to thank all of you who continue to support the mission with prayers, evangelization and monetary support. Without you, all of what we do would not be possible.



New Hire for the Mission – Larry Pauly – Director of Special Projects

We welcome Larry Pauly to the Direction for Our Times staff. Larry started work with us in August and his hiring reflects the continued growth of the mission. Larry will be actively involved in the Holy Trinity Abbey acquisition as well as various other mission endeavors. See the article by Larry on page 8.

Rosary Hill Eucharistic Day of Renewal DVD

We are pleased to announce that a video recording was made of the Eucharistic Day of Renewal which was held at Rosary Hill in Justice, Illinois on July 12th, 2008. These DVDs give lay apostles, whether or not they were able to attend the event, an opportunity to “sit in the audience” and see and hear Anne present two talks on how to be a faithful lay apostle as well as learn about the prophecy contained in her latest book, *Serving in Clarity*. Also included in this DVD set is the powerful testimony affirming the validity of this apostolate given by Dr. Mark Miravalle, Professor of Theology and Spirituality at Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio.

This two DVD set can be purchased for \$24.95 by calling our office or on our website at:
<http://directionforourtimes.com/store/page1.html>

The audio version of these talks is available in CD format. CDs 1 & 2 are recordings of Anne's talks; CD 3 contains Dr. Miravalle's talk. Each CD can be purchased individually for \$6.50 or \$17.00 for the 3 CD-set. To order, please visit our website at:

<http://directionforourtimes.com/store/page3.html>



Anne's Monthly Talk now on Audio CD

Anne speaks at the monthly lay apostle prayer group at St. Anne's Church in Bailieborough, Ireland. We are pleased to announce that these talks are now available for purchase in CD format, so that you can listen to Anne's commentaries whether you are at home or in your car. Each CD also includes the monthly messages for the time period read by Fr. Darragh Connolly.

At this time, there are three CDs available:

- CD #1 is from February, March and April of 2008.
- CD #2 is from May, June and July of 2008
- CD #3 is from August, September and October of 2008

Each CD is available for \$5.00 by calling our office or by visiting our website at: <http://directionforourtimes.com/store/page3.html>

New Video Files Containing Reflections on the Volumes

In early 2008, Anne, a lay apostle, and Dr. Mark Miravalle of Franciscan University of Steubenville, began taping interviews reflecting on the messages contained in the Volumes.

Dr. Miravalle and Anne consider each of the messages individually. They spend approximately 8 to 10 minutes on each message discussing the important details of the call to work for our Lord during this time.

The following videos are now currently available:

- 30 segments on Volume Two: **The Eucharistic Heart of Jesus**

Synopsis: Jesus begins His "School of the Heart" with a poignant reminder of His great love for us – which we all know about but invariably forget over time – and invites us to begin working on critical changes to our actions, thoughts and intentions. He shares glimpses of heaven and of the great reward awaiting us if only we turn from this secular world to His world of love and holiness. *"My children, would you like to know how to please Me?"*

- 24 segments on Volume Seven: **Greetings From Heaven**

Synopsis: Many saints in heaven give practical and loving advice on how to navigate these times and how to progress to holiness.

- 18 segments on Volume Nine: **Angels**

Synopsis: If we could see the impact of angels upon our lives, we would instantly fall down on our knees in thanksgiving to God. Jesus talks about the role of angels in the world, and how they can help us in our journey to eternal happiness in heaven. Did you know that certain houses draw angels to them ... or that, during Mass, the church is filled with thousands of angels?

Angels nurture us, guide us and protect us. Jesus teaches us how to make maximum use of them to achieve eternal happiness. *"Just as saints have enhanced powers during these times, so do angels."*

- 19 segments on Volume Ten: **Jesus Speaks to His Apostles**

Synopsis: Jesus is calling a multitude of souls to serve His Kingdom. All He asks is that we say "Yes," and He will do the rest. Enormous graces are being made available to these souls whom He calls "lay apostles." After you've read the other Volumes, this one provides the answer to "What do we do next?" These are your marching orders.

"As I prepared My original apostles to begin My beautiful Church on earth, I now commission you to reclaim My beautiful Church."

To view these videos online, please visit our website at:

www.directionforourtimes.com

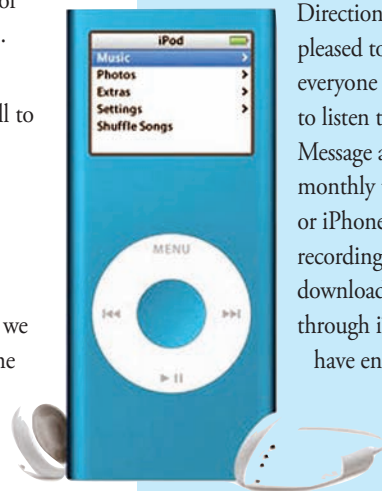
Podcasts now available

Direction for Our Times is pleased to announce that everyone will now be able to listen to the Monthly Message and Anne's monthly talk on their iPod or iPhone. Podcasts of these recordings can be downloaded for free through iTunes. Once you have entered the iTunes website, subscribe for the free, automatic down-

load, by entering "Direction for Our Times" in the search feature of the iTunes store. The benefit of subscribing to the podcast is that anytime a new message or talk is released, the file is automatically sent to your computer the next time you open iTunes.

If you do not wish to make use of this feature, you may continue to listen to the monthly recordings on our website at:

<http://www.directionforourtimes.com/audio.html>



*Dedicated to
Mary, Queen
of Apostles*

silence. The people gathering around us were also silent. I could feel nervous laughter threatening. I figured this was just the sort of thing that would happen to me.

“Help us, Jesus. Help us right now.” She waited again.

“I’m still here, Lord. I’m not leaving until You help her.”

At that point I fervently joined in the prayer.

Moments later, waves of grace came down on me. All of my fears left and strength poured into me. The woman put her hands on my head and warmth flowed from them. I felt such love and peace. I looked up at her in

surprise and her beautiful warm brown eyes spilled over in tears.

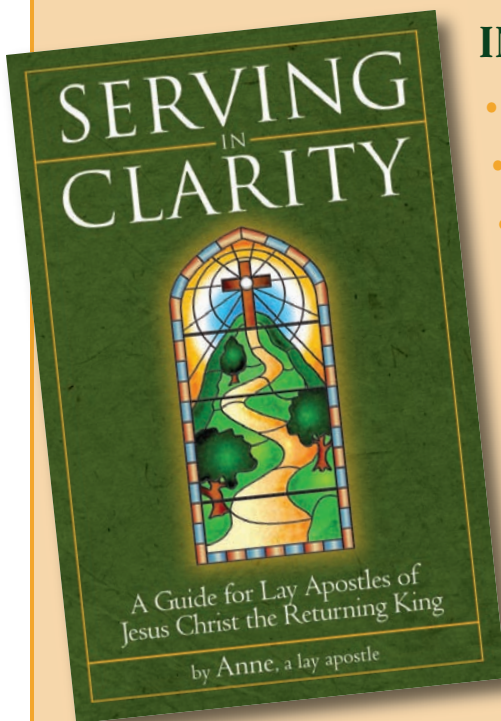
“He was here all the time, Honey,” she said gently. “He wouldn’t leave you. You just couldn’t feel Him.”

With that she picked up her bags and purse and left, leaving me hugely consoled.

I think of her so often over the years. She looked tired and she walked as though her feet hurt and yet she stopped and loved me, a stranger who was nothing to her.

This woman was paying attention.

Serving In Clarity *Anne’s newest book published in July 2008*



INSIDE

- The New Time
- The Lay Apostle Call
- Anne’s Visions of the Mountain of Holiness
- Snapshots of Reality
- In Defense of Obedience and Reflections on the Priesthood
- Monthly Messages of Jesus Christ the Returning King

In this book Anne takes us a step further in understanding the call to the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King. It contains locutions from Jesus and Mary, visions of the Mountain of Holiness and reflections by Anne that will assist us in our time of service to the heavenly kingdom. This writing gives clear examples of how to move further from self-will and closer to union with Jesus in His divine will.

“Confusion is an instrument of the Adversary. Clarity comes from Jesus. Accept this book as a precious gift of clarity from Jesus to you through Anne, a lay apostle, illuminating your path to serving Him in holiness.”

– Dr. Mark Miravalle, *Professor of Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville*

“When I read Anne’s book, *Climbing the Mountain*, I felt as though I was reading a classic like Saint Catherine of Siena’s *Dialogue*. I couldn’t believe that you could describe the path to holiness and true Love any better. With *Serving in Clarity*, it just got that much better. I describe Anne’s earlier works as priming the pump. With this latest work, the pump is really flowing from the wellsprings of Christ’s Light and consistent with the Church’s classics. I highly recommend it for anyone looking for good direction, from busy teenagers or frantic parents to busy parish priests.”

– Fr. Jeff VonLehmen, *Pastor of St. Patrick Shrine, Taylor Mill, Kentucky*

Discerning the Radical Call

By Anne, a lay apostle

Young Vocations Come to the Mission

Recently I looked at the state of our little apostolate and what jumped out at me is that our little apostolate is not so little anymore. I wondered to the Lord how we would cope, given that there was so much work to be done and so many needs to serve in so many countries. I wondered this aloud to Jesus and Jesus said, ***"I am sending help."***

In the weeks that followed we began to receive letters and phone calls from people telling us that they felt the Lord calling them to assist us. This is good news and we rejoiced, of course. However, whenever a family grows there is a certain amount of growth pain. Anyone who has brought a new baby home knows that there are practical considerations to growth. So this is our situation at the moment. We have several young men who have received a call both to this apostolate and they feel to the priesthood. We also have several women discerning a call to serve the Lord full-time in this apostolate.

In response, we have opened a house for men and a house for women in Bailieborough.

These young people have made a one year commitment to live in community, serving the apostolate and further discerning the radical call that God is sending them. They have already proved themselves invaluable to this apostolate.

My friends, we have many things to do to spread God's mercy. As an example, there are many priests who have asked us to come into their parish to introduce the apostolate. We don't have the manpower. We simply can't do it. However, soon Fr. Darragh Connolly, with this team, will be able to respond "yes" and go out into these parishes and introduce the apostolate directly to the people. This is one part of how we will begin to fulfill God's plan for evangelization through this apostolate.

In the month of November Nora McCarthy, who heads up our Youth Division, provided retreats for sixteen high schools in

Ireland. This is being done with the help of this team. Please pray for these young people.



These seven young men and women are now living in Bailieborough serving the mission and discerning their call to serve.



The Re-Charge Retreat Team travelled to 16 high schools in the Kilmore Diocese to teach about vocations in the Catholic Church. This retreat program is now available in the US.

Eucharistic Day of Renewal at Rosary Hill

By Crystal Sullivan

Eucharistic Day of Renewal, Justice, Illinois

At 5 a.m. on the morning of July 12, the prospects of a successful outside Eucharistic Day of Renewal in Justice, Illinois seemed bleak. Thunderstorms had surged through the area, with a spectacular display of lightening and massive amounts of rain. The main tent that was to hold 1,500 of the attendees was taking on water, seemingly about to burst. All of the smaller tents were leaking, and soaking-wet staff and volunteers were running about trying to keep things dry. Fortunately, that did not stop lay apostles from around the country from pouring into the convent grounds at Rosary Hill. As cars lined up and people flooded in, the rain started tapering off. Little by little the sun began to peek out and by the time Anne walked

to the podium, the clouds had dissipated and the sun began to shine.

Anne's tone and demeanor exuded calm and joy. She reminded all of the attendees that we are a people standing at a well. The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King is a new well. Those who drink from this well are refreshed and restored to good spiritual health.

Anne acknowledged that there are going to be people who are suspicious or skeptical about this apostolate, but she assured us that this is acceptable.

Caution is a good thing. Once others see the fruits of this mission, they recognize God's hand in it. She quoted Thomas Paine, who once

said ... "Time makes more converts than reason." Over time, the love and faithfulness of lay apostles around the world will bring many people to this mission.

Anne urged us to take the call to become a lay apostle seriously. Each person can make a difference in how God's plan will be fulfilled. We might not know what is in the King's mind as to the specifics, but as long as we know that love is in the King's heart, we should move steadily onward.

Anne spoke about St. John the Apostle and the two things he did the day Jesus was crucified. He showed up and he stayed. We are

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Consecration at Eucharistic Day at Rosary Hill.



All were warmly welcomed by the Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who opened up their home at Rosary Hill to host our Eucharistic Day of Renewal.



Our day closed with an hour of Eucharistic Adoration.



Confessions, Confessions and more Confessions.



Fr. Cooney prays with the Re-Charge staff before the Youth Event on Friday night.



Fr. Kevin Scallon, C.M. delivers the homily.

Abbey Update

By Larry Pauly, DFOT Director of Special Projects



Buying the Abbey, Beginning the Holy Trinity Centre for Prayer

As many of you may know, Direction for Our Times – Ireland signed a contract on January 24, 2008 to purchase Holy Trinity Abbey in Kilnacrott, Ireland. The abbey is currently owned by the Norbertine order and serves the needs of the faithful in the area. To date, DFOT has raised about a third of the €2,500,000 purchase price.

Direction for Our Times supports the purchase of the Abbey by the Irish Corporation, Direction for Our Times – Ireland. As such, Direction for Our Times has committed to help fund the purchase of what will be known as the Holy Trinity Centre for Prayer.

We are scheduled to close this purchase on December 8, 2008, Feast of the Immaculate

Conception. There is an active, dedicated group of volunteers who have been working since January to raise these funds, with some success, but it is clear that we need your help.

Recently we emailed lay apostles throughout the world to ask them to discern their support for the Abbey purchase. The response has been gratifying, especially from several who helped us with a gift match, dollar for dollar.

As we approach the actual closing date we still do not have the entire amount necessary to complete the purchase of the property, so your support is appreciated.

Please consider offering a decade of your daily Rosary for Direction for Our Times as we continue to seek sufficient funds to complete the purchase of the Abbey.

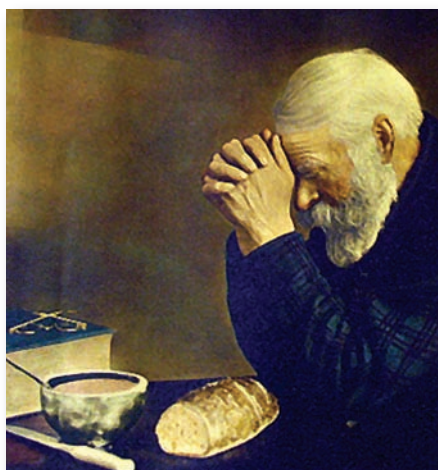
If you have determined that you can make a gift for the Abbey, please go to our web site at: <http://www.directionforourtimes.com/store/htadonations.html>

An Opportunity for Thanksgiving

By Larry Pauly, DFOT Director of Special Projects

Fall is traditionally a time when we offer thanksgiving for all of our blessings. It is also a time when we discern what we might offer to nonprofit organizations before the year is over in order to obtain the benefit of any personal tax deductions.

Direction for Our Times is a fast growing, vibrant organization that needs your support. The Direction for Our Times organization in the United States is 501(c) (3) charitable organization. Direction for Our Times – Ireland is an Irish charitable organization under the laws



of the Republic of Ireland. Therefore, your gifts to DFOT qualify for tax deductibility to the extent provided by law.

At this time of Thanksgiving, DFOT is

grateful for the support of the many generous individuals and groups who have helped us in the past. Consider the tax saving opportunities available to you by making a gift to DFOT before December 31, 2008.

- Gifts of cash – by check or money order – impact the mission immediately
- Gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds are of special benefit to the donor
- Estate gifts have a decidedly long-term impact for the mission

I want you to know that as the Director of Special Projects, I am capable of helping you plan your year-end giving. Feel at liberty to call me to discuss any gift you would like to make in support of this organization at (513) 321-2945.

A Pilgrim's Conversion Experience at Holy Trinity Abbey

By Nicholas Guevremont

In August 2008 I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Ireland to participate in a Eucharistic Day of Renewal at Holy Trinity Abbey at Kilnacrott, County Cavan, Ireland, with 20 other individuals in our group, including two wonderful priests, Father James Kelleher from Corpus Christi, Texas and Father Bill Gaffney from the Bronx, in New York City.

Prior to my pilgrimage to Ireland, I was in a crisis of faith. I had recently left the U.S. Naval Academy, an institution that up to that point had been my total focus and sole reason for existence since childhood. At the beginning of the 2007 Fall term I had started to neglect my studies out of a sense of rebellion for the perceived injustices I had endured the previous summer. Slowly I dug myself into an inescapable hole; I stopped going to mass and I began to openly question God and my faith. I was angry and upset that I wasn't perfect and had to struggle with my tasks, though intuitively I knew these attitudes were silly, childish, and immature. Indeed, I always believed that one measure of a man is to constantly struggle and not give up, regardless of what life may bring.

Up until that point in my life I had never failed at anything or had any significant trouble, in the sense I was able to get by, no matter the difficulty. I thought to myself "if I have a little faith, that is sufficient and I am ok." My world collapsed when I was asked to leave the Academy at the end of the semester, having failed two classes. The main source of my motivation and interest in life since the 7th grade had slammed shut and I was left confused and dejected. I ended the semester by working part-time and taking a couple of classes at a community college.

It was at this time that my mother and father began to introduce me to Anne's writings about Jesus, including traveling to Chicago to meet Anne. They explained how these messages had positively touched their lives and those of



Nick with Fr. Jim Kelleher, SOLT, and another pilgrim in Ireland.

the rest of the family, but my heart remained unmoved. They also recommended that I seek a medical explanation for my academic failure and current attitude towards life. I was soon thereafter diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), conditions that I either had never noticed, or had not previously suffered. As I slowly began to understand what was wrong with me, I was able to get a better handle and focus on my daily life.

Following the Spring semester I busied myself with part-time jobs and applying to four-year universities, a depressing task, since I had already been accepted to and attended one of the world's finest institutions. The last half of July I spent in Poland with my family, who took the opportunity to both tour the country and engage in a pilgrimage to the various holy sites, including Częstochowa, and Saint Faustina's Convent, the site of the original "Divine Mercy."

Upon arriving in Ireland, we spent the first 3 days traveling along the western coast. It

wasn't until the end of the third day that we motored to the hotel where we would lodge while visiting the Abbey at Kilnacrott. The day we arrived at the Abbey was rainy and cold. The building itself was full of people and it was almost impossible to navigate around the complex without jostling with the crowds. I made it to the confessionals when the queues were at their shortest, and I didn't have to wait long before a priest was available. As I stepped into the confessional I couldn't help but feel a slight apprehension.

I knew I was at a holy site and that God had designated this area as a place for pilgrims to receive special graces. I was half expecting maybe a ray of light or some sort of mystical communion, but then again I had always expected that at the previous holy sites I had been to, such as: Fatima and Lourdes. What I experienced was quite the contrary and unexpected. As I knelt down, I felt an overwhelming urge to be completely honest

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Rain Down Your Love on Your People

By Crystal Sullivan

Eucharistic Day of Renewal at Holy Trinity Abbey, Ireland

Great preparations were made in advance of the August 16th, 2008 Eucharistic Day of Renewal at the Holy Trinity Abbey in Kilnacrott, Ireland. Long before that day, dedicated lay apostles worked hard to accommodate the pilgrims who were expected. An outdoor altar was erected, chairs donated from local churches were set up, and the sound system was ready to broadcast the speakers' messages across the vast grounds. Ireland had been experiencing unprecedented flooding in the week before the event, and lay apostles from many countries were praying for an end to the rain.

Just as the Eucharistic Day of Renewal was about to start, there was an enormous downpour. The organizers quickly realized there was nothing to do but usher everyone inside the Abbey. The church was quickly filled, the chapels were filled to the brim, the halls were a sea of pilgrims, and the aisles were lined with dripping lay apostles. Through it all, the 1,700 lay apostles in attendance were calm and polite. The Rosary was spontaneously begun and steadily continued as the volunteer crew adjusted to the change in plans.

As soon as Anne began to speak, a joyful calm descended on the crowd. Anne observed that it was not just raining, it was pounding. It was clear to her that the pilgrims in attendance hadn't just shown up for the day, they had been assembled by God. And when we are called by God, we may have distractions thrown our way. Anne reminded us that just as we may look at the rain and ask, "How can this be a good plan?", the early apostles may have looked at Jesus at the time of His arrest and asked the same question.

Anne explained that as lay apostles, we must remain intimately connected to the directions given to us by heaven in the Volumes.



Fr. Darragh Connolly processes with the Blessed Sacrament during the Holy Hour at the Abbey.



Jim and Mary Ellen Gilboy at the Abbey.

In these Volumes Jesus communicated three beautiful messages. One: I am with you. Two: I will make you holy, and Three: I need your help. We must read them slowly, stay with them and, in living them, be gentle to ourselves and with others. We will need this heavenly sustenance as we move from the Age of Disobedience to the Age of Obedience. Change is difficult and we are now in a time of transition.

Anne then spoke of the difference between

St. Peter and Judas. While it is true that Peter denied Jesus and Judas betrayed Him, Peter repented. God let Peter make mistakes because Peter's job was very big and important, and God needed Peter to be humble. God needs little people to do big things. Anne drew the parallel that just like Peter, if we are going to evangelize, we need to be humble. Lay apostles should pray the Litany of Humility daily, and learn that humility is the path to holiness. The holier we become, the more we can become our true selves, and in our uniqueness, we give the most glory to God. We will know that we are truly listening to Christ if we begin to have the desire to raise up the Catholic Church.

In her second talk of the day, Anne encouraged lay apostles to concern themselves with two things: personal holiness and the coming of the Kingdom. Monthly Confession is important for our holiness and God's plan for us. We should make use of the Sacrament of Confession, as this is a gift to us from Jesus.

Lay apostles must also accept that we have a role in the Catholic Church. Priests are dwindling in numbers, and those who remain devoted are overworked and isolated. We must learn to serve alongside our priests and offer



them our love and support. Jesus wants us to listen to this: We must learn to step up. Anne exhorted all of us to go to our priests and offer assistance in any way they needed it.

Despite the conditions, all of the lay apostles remained in the afternoon to listen to Dr. Mark Miravalle, Professor of Theology and Marian Spirituality at Franciscan University, Steubenville. After listing the three criteria that the Church looks at regarding private revelations, Dr. Miravalle pronounced that from a theological perspective, Anne and Direction for Our Times could not do more to be in full obedience with the Church. He reiterated that the world is transitioning from an Age of Disobedience to an Age of Obedience with the coming of Jesus Christ the Returning King, which is an unprecedented generosity on Jesus' part. Dr. Miravalle told the crowd that we need to thank God that He continues to intervene in our world with miracles and divine gifts. We will receive graces in proportion to the openness of our hearts. Jesus sees our woundedness and need for healing. Jesus knows He must heal us, His lay apostles first, so that we can get out of our spiritual sickbeds and help Him to heal the world.

Dr. Miravalle then offered valuable insight into the five duties which Jesus asks of His lay apostles.

Dr. Miravalle then answered the question
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with God and to leave nothing out of my Confession. I began to feel a warm wave of emotion sweep over me and an uncontrollable desire to break down and cry. But being a man, I opted for biting my hand and trying to stifle my tears and stopping my nose from running.

My emotional experience did not end with the Confession. After receiving absolution, I went to a quiet corner of the chapel and as I began to say my penance, and to pray for the intentions of my family and for myself, I could no longer hold back my sorrow and for the next half hour I sobbed uncontrollably. I felt God consoling me and encouraging me. The sensation was that of a large hand on my shoulder gently soothing me. During that time I found myself saying things to God that at other times I would have left buried deep within my soul. I told God I was extremely sorry and ashamed for the way I had lead my life, particularly in the past year.

I was left with an indelible impression that I wasn't "healed" in the sense that after this experience I would immediately return to the mental and physical condition I had enjoyed prior to my sophomore year at the Academy,



because God did not want me to become complacent. In fact, the stronger and more impactful impression I was left with was that I should continue to struggle for holiness and to be persistently faithful to God; and that God would always be there for me no matter what.

I can see that my experience at Holy Trinity Abbey was consistent with Anne's messages about the place, as well as having a connection to Jesus' instructions to Saint Faustina in the Divine Mercy: "Trust in Me."

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

October 1, 2008

Jesus

Dear apostles, how strongly you desire holiness. This desire pleases Me and I will bless this desire. I will increase your holiness. There are times when you despair of becoming as holy as you wish. At those times when you are tempted, I would like you to know that I can make you holy in an instant. If you require heroic holiness in a moment, I can give it to you. The Holy Spirit blows where it is both welcomed and needed so if you welcome the Spirit, the Spirit will sanctify you. I, Jesus, lived on earth and in My humanity I understand the struggles that plague you. I

understand the frustration you feel when you examine yourself and find that you have work to do in virtue. Dear ones, consider life like a walk. If you are taking a walk on any given day, you walk. You do not sit down on the path and call that action walking. That would be sitting down and that is different from walking. Your spiritual life is meant to be active. If you look at yourself and find that you need to work on holiness, then you are looking at yourself in truth. You are on the path and you are walking and you see that ahead of you the path continues on into the unknown as far as the possibility for your holiness. I, Jesus, am comfortable with this for you. I am not pleased, however, when you move backwards on the path or leave the path altogether. You were meant to serve Me and you were meant to serve Me in this time. Please, do not be distracted. Do not

believe that My plan can do without your service. My plan does not require your perfection, My dearest one, but it does require your presence. If you remain with Me during your time on earth, My treasures are transmitted to you. You can then open your heart to others and allow these treasures to be distributed to them. Ask Me for these treasures for others. I will send them to others through you. Have no fear that this prayer will go unanswered. It will not. It will be answered more generously than you can imagine. Draw closer to Me in holiness, dear apostle, so that I can sanctify you and move into the world through you. Do not be afraid of changes. Just as you must always be moving on your path, so the world must always be moving through time. As the world moves through time it changes and it is changing now. You, dearest apostle, are a part of that change.

Gathering in Grace in Kentucky

By Jeanne Clephane

Eucharistic Day of Renewal at Taylor Mill, Kentucky

Lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King gathered for the Eucharistic Day of Renewal at St. Patrick Shrine on August 16, 2008 in Taylor Mill, Kentucky. Since this date fell right in the middle of the parish's nine-day novena to Our Lady of Knock (the shrine's devotion), each of us truly felt the gentle presence of Our Lady surrounding us. The day seemed to focus on the peace and calm and clarity that is poured out to us through the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

Five days before this event, St. Patrick Shrine received an original reproduction of Jesus Christ the Returning King, painted by Janusz Antosz in Poland. The graces that accompanied this painting certainly helped make the event special for us all. As the golden-framed picture of Jesus stood gleaming on the altar, it was an absolutely beautiful sign that Jesus is with us and He is working in our midst.

Knowing we were joined with Ireland in celebrating this Day of Renewal made it all the more special. The blessings that came from a video message from Anne, recorded especially for this event, were amazing. She gave clear and inspiring direction on how we, as apostles, can serve our Jesus well. Anne gave us a gentle reminder that it is in our families, in our parishes and in our own spiritual lives that we must serve with steadiness each day.

With much humor and insight, Fr. Jeff VonLehmen, pastor of St. Patrick Shrine, shared how the Volumes have impacted his spiritual life. Fr. Jeff spoke about what this mission is all about from the viewpoint of a pastor and priest. Other speakers included a wife and mother who shared how the Volumes have touched her spiritual life and the life of her family, as well as a father who shared his post-abortion experience and how the Volumes have helped in his healing process.

Throughout the day, lay apostles were treated to beautiful music, as Michael Miravalle



Fr. Jeff VonLehmen, Pastor at St. Patrick Shrine in Taylor Mill, KY.



Catholic Rappers Flip and Sammy Blaze perform at the Friday night Re-Charge event.

lent his fine piano skills to the day's experience. Nora McCarthy spoke about the need Jesus has for youth to become involved in this mission, and how the Re-Charge event the night before helped to inspire young people. Nora also gave an update on the mission as a whole.

As the Holy Hour approached, we were all feeling blessed to be in this place and we certainly knew the true presence of Jesus was loving us and caring for us. The peace that came into each of our hearts by the time this day was complete is something that has remained despite the sometimes hectic pace of our daily lives.

Since then, several lay apostles have commented on the overwhelming sense of calm and clarity they have experienced as a result of attend-

ing this event. The spiritual fruits are already evident. New prayer groups have been formed. Old ones are growing and are energized with new members. Some lay apostles have reported that they now understand the need to make life-changing decisions, and still others now have the clarity to "bloom where they are planted" knowing Christ is with them in each moment.

A special grace was that Keith Wagner, a young man who attended, heard God calling him to the priesthood. He is currently living in the men's community house in Bailieborough discerning this call.

What a blessing this day was for the lay apostles who attended! Thank You, Jesus. Thank you, Blessed Mother.

called to do the same in our service each day. Each day when we pray the Morning Offering and the Allegiance Prayer, we are showing up for duty. Then, throughout the day, we remember to follow the example of Jesus Christ as set out in Holy Scripture, treating all others with His patience and kindness. That is how we stay.

Anne also gave a thorough explanation of how to make an examination of conscience in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As lay apostles, we commit to monthly Confession, and we must make use of the graces available to us by searching our hearts for whatever way we are not living lives of holiness.

Dr. Mark Miravalle, Professor of Theology and Mariology at Franciscan University at Steubenville, presented a powerful explanation of how this mission fits into the confines of our Catholic Church. He explained that the fruits of the mission, along with the complete parallel to Catholic teaching, make this a good thing in the Church's eyes.

Mary Sue Eck, editor of *Medjugorje Magazine*, shared how she came to believe in the authenticity of Anne and the mission, even



Over 1,500 lay apostles listened intently to Anne's message.

though she had always thought that her only focus should be Medjugorje. Jim Gilboy shared on the improbable success of his bringing the Volumes to Pope John Paul II, even though he had no connection to the Vatican. Steve Logan gave an update on the mission, sharing how evangelization efforts have spread to all corners of the world. John Lang encouraged all lay apostles to help bring special graces to the world

by helping to fund the Abbey purchase.

As the day closed with the Eucharistic Holy Hour, Anne led all present in prayer and petition, beseeching heaven for the personal intentions of all lay apostles, the success of the rescue mission, and for an increase of love, faith and obedience.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

September 1, 2008

Jesus

Dear apostles, I want you to know joy. Eternal joy will be yours in heaven, of course, but I want you to know joy now, during your time of service. If you do as I say, as I am asking you, this heavenly joy will become more and more available to you and you will share this joy more and more freely. You will be a true representative of heaven in your joy and others will be attracted to the heaven that you represent. I want you to believe Me when I tell you that you can trust Me. If you could not trust Me, dear apostles, why would you

continue to follow Me? The answer is that you can trust Me, of course, or you would fall away as others have fallen away. You do trust Me. You rely on Me and you are safe with Me. You have made a wise decision by putting yourself into My care. It is always the best decision to rely on the One who loves you perfectly and holds, in His heart, the perfect plan for your time on earth. Why would you let fear diminish your joy? Why would you let anxiety for yourself or others eradicate the joy that is available to you in the present moment? My dearest apostles, you live in the present, not the future. If the present is difficult, I am there. If the future becomes difficult, I will be there, too. You will not be abandoned and your loved ones will not be abandoned. Ultimately, the greater the trust in Me, the greater the joy in

each moment. I want you to abandon fear. I want you to cast yourself into the providence that surrounds you. Fear is a snare for you or I would not treat it so seriously. Ask Me now for greater trust and I will give it to you. Ask Me now for greater joy and I will give that to you, also. It is important that others see in you an accurate reflection of the graces heaven makes available to apostles. Do not hide these graces away. Let these graces flow out from you to those around you. Share what is good, dear apostles, not what is bad. Share what comes from Me and you will help to draw others back into our family. I am telling you that I have greater graces available to you so make your Jesus happy and ask for these graces. You will be blessed with all that you need and joy will be yours. Be at peace. I will never abandon you.

Do Not Judge Others

By Anne, a lay apostle

How reverently the Lord views us. How perfect is His vision. Jesus Christ sees our condition with perfect clarity. Because the Lord is God and created us, He knows exactly what our life, lived in unity to the divine will, could and should look like. Jesus sees the beautiful potential in each of us. He sees the reality of the present condition of our soul and He sees the way our soul will look when it is completely united to Him, completely accepting of the divine will.

If we were to dwell on the distance between what we are today and what we could be if we were in perfect union with the divine will, we might become discouraged. I should remark that many of us do become discouraged. Certainly, each honest examination of conscience illuminates for us the distance we have yet to travel.

Is Jesus discouraged? No. I believe that Jesus is one who looks on the bright side when it comes to His apostles. I believe Jesus looks often at the distance behind us, in other words, the gains we have made in holiness. He then looks at where He would like us to go and prompts us in that direction. Jesus always encourages us to move further, to advance in holiness.

With regard to discouragement, each apostle should be committed to daily work in the soul, it is true, but with a respectful acceptance of the place in which he finds himself. If Jesus Christ has reverence for our process, our movement, our journey in holiness, so must we. We must be reverent of the fact that we are imperfect. We must be kind in the consideration of ourselves.

Does this mean accept our sinfulness? Yes and no. We accept that we are prone to sin. We reject that we are helpless against sinfulness.

The fact that we have sinned and will sin again should not inspire in us helplessness, but rather determination. The fact that we may fail Jesus today means that we must be on guard, not complacent. We must never lay down our sword when it comes to perfecting our behaviors and attitudes. If we want to become saints, and this is God's plan, the plan on which He has hinged the renewal, we must do battle daily for holiness. We must do battle daily for humility. We must do battle daily for detachment from our will and attachment to His will. People look at someone who evidences a high level of holiness and they think to themselves, If I were as holy as he it would be easy.

This is the opposite of the truth. The holier one becomes, the more intense the battle, and the greater the necessity for vigilant struggle.

The opposite of this might be someone comparing himself to another and saying, "Thank God I am holier than that person." But how does he know where the other is doing battle? How does he know the place of departure in the holiness journey for another? Perhaps this person has made vast gains in holiness over time.

People must remember that the authentic struggle for holiness is completed in the privacy of the soul.

Holiness is not a competitive sport.



that was on the minds of all those in attendance, "Why did God bring such a powerful rain that day?" Dr. Miravalle believed that Jesus wanted everyone inside the Abbey. Lay apostles were reminded that when Jesus requested that the Abbey become a place of pilgrimage, He promised two specific graces to those who come and pray: clarity and an increased capacity to love. The clarity will be of an interior type, which will allow us to see the state of our soul in the light of God's truth. The increased capacity to love will help us to love everyone regardless of their faults.

Several other apostles were asked to speak as part of this extraordinary day. Fr. Darragh Connolly, Chaplain of the apostolate, spoke of the evangelization efforts that were bringing this mission to all corners of the world. Steve Logan, who is responsible for the administration of this worldwide apostolate, gave an overview of the various means Direction for Our Times has used to make the messages known, including translation of the books into many languages, audio and video materials, and free website access to the Volumes, Heaven Speaks booklets and Anne's monthly talks. It is clear that the mission is growing quickly, and it is humbling to be part of God's plan to renew the earth.

Anne introduced the Holy Hour of



Abbot Gerard Cusak and Dr. Mark Miravalle at the Eucharistic Day of Renewal at Holy Trinity Abbey.

Adoration. She encouraged all apostles by saying that graces are being poured out at this time as miracles. There is reason for great hope and joy. Jesus is asking that we become compassionate listeners to those around us. Jesus is a compassionate listener. Ask Jesus to open our hearts, and He will minister to us in a powerful way. We have all of His attention. As Anne concluded her comments, Fr. Darragh processed through each corner of the Abbey, bringing

Jesus to all the lay apostles present. Knees were bent, prayers were whispered, hearts were opened. To see this beautiful procession of the Eucharistic Jesus, another reason that God may have allowed the rain came to mind. Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, had now been brought to each corridor, room and meeting space in the Abbey.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

August 1, 2008

Jesus

My dear ones, I am with you in your struggles. How can I help you to understand that your struggles are necessary to your holiness? Perhaps you should simply trust Me and view your struggles as evidence that I continue working to perfect your soul. If there were no struggle, My little apostles, there could be no possibility of advancement. This is a time to make great gains in holiness but gains are only possible with effort. I am making every effort toward you. Are you making efforts to move closer

to Me? Ask yourself today and each day, "Where is God asking me to be holier today?" Perhaps it is charity, perhaps patience, possibly trust, maybe you should practice concentrating on your holiness and refrain from examining the work needed in other souls. Oh, My dear apostles, if you could only see how desirable holiness is to heaven. If you could only see how beautiful you are when you are looking up to heaven with an honest desire to become holier. When you become distracted, My heart sighs. And yet I am patient with you. I know that My little ones want to serve Me. I know that My little ones struggle to absorb the truth about holiness. And that is why I am patient. I am patient because you are trying. Continue trying, dear apostles. Walk bravely into holiness. Be

fearless in examining your condition. If you do so, I will surround you with love so that you do not become discouraged but emboldened. You will become emboldened to strive for greater and greater heights of holiness and greater and greater heights of humility. How heaven will rejoice as the King's apostles relinquish their ties to the world and attach themselves more fully to heaven's work. Heaven's work will always involve two goals, one, the holiness of the apostle, two, the coming of the kingdom. My apostles must concern themselves primarily with their holiness and then I, the King, can best see to the coming of God's Kingdom. Be at peace. Rejoice. I am with you and My plan is advancing.

Climbing the Mountain Study Guide

By Crystal Sullivan

The Journey of Six Unlikely Apostles

It all began at St. Monica parish in Dallas, Texas in the fall of 2006. Several women who were participating in a women's study group began talking about Anne, a lay apostle and the Volumes in their small group discussions. As a result, the group asked Margie Giangiulio, a lay apostle who had attended several Eucharistic Days of Renewal, to give a talk about the apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King. As a result of the talk, many women developed an intense interest in reading the Volumes. After reading the messages, many were deeply moved by the simplicity of the words and the sensation that Jesus was speaking directly to them.

As the women's study was drawing to a close, Mona Simons, one of the participants, began spending more and more time in Eucharistic Adoration. By sitting quietly and listening to the words of Jesus in her heart, she was inspired to develop a study on the book *Climbing the Mountain*. Mona knew that she had neither the time nor the knowledge to accomplish this task, so she asked Jesus to confirm His will by having Margie (whom she barely knew) call her. Within six minutes of arriving home, the requested call came in. Seeing the hand of Our Lord clearly and distinctly, Mona asked for help and received enthusiastic "yes" responses, but with much trepidation from nine women to help her in the project.

When the group met for the first time in January, most of them strangers to each other, they learned that none of them had ever tackled a project such as this. Undaunted, they agreed to do their very best and let God's creative hand guide them.

Over the next several months, the group met to determine how to develop and write the study. Along the way, four women had to



The core group of the Climbing the Mountain Study Guide.

drop out due to family issues or illnesses. Of the remaining six, it was discovered over time that each member had a specific gift from God that contributed to the final product. The Climbing the Mountain Core Team, as it came to be called, would have been unable to complete the study without each individual's "yes" to Jesus' initial request. A major goal of the group was that the study would teach the truth of the Catholic faith without any apology or dilution. They wanted to include inspiration from the saints and from the documents and writings of the Church. Above all, the study had to be meaningful and teach others about the beauty of the Catholic faith.

The study started as planned on September 10, 2007. The Core Team had assumed that the group would be comprised of women only, but many men were clamoring to join as well, so the team decided to include everybody. In all, 120 men and women signed up for the study. Meetings were

held every Monday evening for one and a half hours each. The study began with large group prayer, then broke out into smaller groups of about eight people. The Core Team occasionally featured a speaker on relevant topics, or played one of the DVDs of Anne speaking at a Eucharistic Day of Renewal. This was followed by small group discussion, where the participants were able to share their insights into what they had learned through the study that week. Towards the end of the study, the Core Team added additional time for witness talks, during which a person who felt called could get up and share how they had been influenced by the study and how Jesus was working in their lives. The evening would close with a prayer or short audio meditation on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.

The participants truly loved to listen to the DVDs of Anne and were awed by her
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Prayer Group Successes

By Crystal Sullivan, Lay Apostle Prayer Group Coordinator

A few months ago, Direction for Our Times sent out an email to prayer group coordinators, letting them know that we would be corresponding with them on a regular basis. We hope to share information that might help them lead their fellow lay apostles. As a result, we received many beautiful responses and suggestions. The Holy Spirit is certainly alive in this mission and within our prayer groups. We would like to share a few of the letters with you so that you can be inspired as well.

Starting a New Group

"I started a lay apostle prayer group in Georgia. We started with 5 people and now have 15-17 and we're still growing. Our priest said we could meet in the church once a month with his only condition being we meet in the Chapel with the Tabernacle present at every meeting. What an AWESOME condition!

"One thing we do that everyone loves and has grown from is each meeting we pick one Volume to read, and then the following month we all discuss and share the fruits we obtained from it. Most have read them all anyway, but reading them again and discussing with the

group brings so many fresh ideas and since everyone gets a little something different from reading the same thing, we all grow tremendously.

"The husband of one of our lay apostle's had been very sick. His prognosis was very grim at first. But remembering how the Lord takes care of His apostles, we never lost faith. We all prayed often for him and he has overcome great odds to being well on his way to perfect health again.

"Our group is more than a group, it is more like a really loving family. Everyone truly loves each other and helps in any way needed. This group is so awesome and we are thankful that the Lord called us all and gives us the privilege of serving as His apostles.

"My only regret is not starting this group sooner. We have been together for just over a year, but long before that Jesus asked me to start it. I kept saying 'no' though because I'm shy and not much of a leader. I would tell Him often, "Let someone else start it Lord and I'll be the first to join." He didn't go for that idea. I know Jesus always gets His way and now wish I would not have been so stubborn. Anyway, He persisted. I gave in and now we have a beautiful group that is so amazing on so many levels. I would like to

encourage others thinking about starting a group to JUST DO IT. If I can, anyone can. Plus, if you're called to do it and don't, you will end up doing it anyway if it's God's will. So do yourself a favor and don't fight it."

— Tony Paradiso, Kennesaw, Georgia

Prayer Group Tuesdays

"In 2006, I was at a family reunion when my uncle gave *Climbing the Mountain* and *The Mist of Mercy* to me and my family. How these books spoke to us! I began living out the guidelines that Jesus has requested of His lay apostles ... except one. I had not figured out what to do about the participation in a Lay Apostle Prayer group. I figured, if Jesus asked for it, it must be important. I wanted to fulfill this final element of my pledge. So, I decided that I needed to start a Lay Apostle Prayer group in my home. I didn't know who would come or how many.

"Our first prayer group was in March 2007 and attended by 12 people. We have had as many as 26 in attendance. Our prayer group is filled with a variety of women with ages ranging from 20-80, and an occasional man.

"There are many blessings that have been mine along the way because I took those first few uncertain steps of forming a prayer group. Talking about the prayer group has allowed me the opportunity to invite people to join our group and, therefore, the mission. I see the impact this mission is having in the lives of these people.

"Also I feel so blessed to have my children exposed to "Prayer Group Tuesday." This past July our prayer group volunteered to provide the manpower at the Eucharistic Day of Renewal in Justice III. We did everything from parking lot management to providing first aid and passing out lunches. Imagine how delighted I was when my daughter Megan, 14, (yes, a teenager) asked if she could come with us. I was so touched, and grateful to heaven for this grace.



The Cleveland Lay Apostle Group volunteering for a couple of days of hard work at the Eucharistic events in Justice, III., July 2008.

"We continue to pray for all our fellow apostles. We hope that our next road trip will be to Ireland to visit the Abbey!"

— Mary Frances Monroe, Cleveland, Ohio

Prayer Group Holy Hours

"Our prayer group is getting great support from our pastor. He has allowed us to lengthen our prayer and include Adoration. Our service now includes 30 minutes of meditation on the monthly message. The message is broken into pieces and music is played quietly in between.

"After the meditation, we have a family rosary. Recently, we have started to use parts of the Contemplative Rosary by Bob Hurd. I am in the process of working with our music and liturgy director to get members of the choir

Climbing the Mountain Study Guide, continued from page 17

humility, grace and spiritual insights. They also considered the witness talks a very powerful portion of the study and were amazed and inspired by the stories they heard.

Here are some comments from participants that confirm that God was working through the Core Team in order to accomplish His will, just as He works through each of His children for the benefit of His kingdom:

"I can't begin to tell you how much this has meant to me. Every week I get something new from the study and the small group."

"I feel like I'm in the infancy in my

faith, but this has helped me to grow."

"This particular week of study made me realize that we are here on earth at this time in history for a heavenly purpose. We are to join our seemingly boring days, our joyous days, and our days we suffer to Christ's life, passion and death."

If you are interested in bringing this experience to your community, both the Climbing the Mountain Study Guide and the Climbing the Mountain Facilitator's Guide are available for purchase for \$15.00 each on our website www.directionforourtimes.org or by calling the office at 708-496-9300.

to lead it.

"At the conclusion of the rosary, we have 15 minutes of silent meditation. The entire service runs for about an hour and a half. At our last prayer service, we had about 20 people.

"I am going to be meeting with our pastor next week to ask if we can start a second meeting simply to discuss the monthly message and perhaps form a group of people interested in using the Climbing the Mountain Study Guide."

— Gregg Jacob, California

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

July 1, 2008

Jesus

My heart never stops loving and not for a moment does My heart stop craving love in return. I crave love from you, My dear apostle. You love Me, I know. You serve Me with steadiness, I know. "What is it that Jesus wants from Me that I am not giving," you ask. I will tell you. I want you to show Me that you understand My love for you by trusting Me. I am hurt when you do not trust Me. Look at your time of service. Would you agree that I have provided you with everything you need to see to your part in My plan? Would you agree that I have given you consolation when you were afraid? Have I not guided you when you were unsure? What have I

withheld from you? You are growing in holiness and I am answering your prayers for your loved ones with heavenly prudence and steadiness. The part you are called to play in My plan is important and I need your service but I would never ask you to serve to the detriment of your holiness. If you are not increasing in holiness, My dear apostle, it is because you are not allowing Me to direct you. Perhaps you are increasing but not as quickly as you would like. That is another matter altogether. It is for Me to decide how quickly to advance you. It is for you to cooperate. I am speaking today so that I can urge you forward. My apostles must be willing to benefit from the guidance I am sending. You must sit in silence with Me each day, asking Me where you can improve in holiness. What habits are you holding on to that you need to relinquish? What new habits should replace them? Apostles, it is not to stand still that you are called, but to move forward in

holiness. This advance is necessary for these times or I would not be calling you to it so seriously. I am looking for you to change. I want you to grow. Many of you are saintly now, walking closely with Me in each day. I rejoice in you, it is true. You know that I do. And yet, I allow you to remain on earth, to work, yes, but also to become even holier. One of the ways you can become holy in a short time is by trusting Me in everything. A small child does not worry about one meal shortly after she has been fed another. She trusts her parents to provide for her, particularly if she has never gone hungry. You, dear apostles, have never been without My providence so there is no reason for you to fear. You can trust Me. I have proved this to you many times. I desire that you serve in joy and confidence and only through trusting Me will that be possible. Return My great love for you by trusting Me in everything.



December 9, 2006

Jesus

I call out to those who have left My Church. Come back, I say. Return to the safety of the sacramental walk. It will be best for you and I want only what is best for you. Be assured of My welcome. Be assured that I want your return. Do not think that you are unwelcome in your faith. How could this be when I, Jesus Christ, personally call out to you? My Church on earth represents Me. It is My Church and belongs to Me. When the people of My Church accurately represent Me, you feel cherished. I want to restore you to your Church and I want to restore your Church to you. You see, My friend, it is best for you, given your call to holiness, that you proceed on the path that is protected by My Church on earth. I have so many ways to help you if you are following your faith within the protection of My Church. My Church has suffered, it is true. My Church continues to suffer. Part of the reason My Church is suffering is because you are away from it. My Church needs you. My Church wants you. You must return.

Heaven Speaks to THOSE WHO ARE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

Beloved child, I am asking you, indeed, I am pleading with you to consider your circumstances. If there are reasons that inhibit a full return to the sacraments for you, I ask that you discuss these reasons with one of My priests. I will protect your desire to return to the sacraments. I will not reduce the standards of My Church for your circumstances, but I will help you to adapt your circumstances to those standards. "What is Jesus saying?" you ask yourself. Let Me be more clear. This time on earth is a time when so many have compromised with standards of behavior that the compromised standards have become the norm. I cannot and will not accept this. I do not accept this. If I were to accept this, I would have to change all of heaven and all of those who have served in times before you. Also, I would have to jeopardize the future of all those who come after you. My friend, listen to Me. Hear My words because My words are truth. Reject the rebelliousness of My enemy. Accept that you are called to follow Me and raise your behavior to My standards. I will help you. You will be welcome in heaven if you accept that I am God. You will have to accept that I am God in order to gain heaven, of course. Will you not accept this fact now, before your time on earth is finished? Will you return to Me now, given that ultimately you hope to do so? My heart longs for your peace. I see everything. If you have been hurt by those who claimed to represent My Church but who failed, I will heal you. Do not use this hurt as a reason why you step away from all that I offer for you through My Church. This has taken you in the wrong direction and others walk behind you. Please, come into My Church. It belongs to Me, after all. You are welcome, regardless of your sins.

December 11, 2006

St. Monica

I send my greetings to all of God's children. I speak today particularly to those who are Catholics but who are living away from their faith. You are invited by heaven to return to your faith. Heaven, God and all of the saints, urges you to consider returning to the sacraments. If you have been away from the Church for some time, you may want to have your Confession heard. This is a good place to start. Talk to a priest about this because graces are waiting for you in this sacrament. With these graces you can examine your life and determine how to proceed on a new path, a path that leads back to Jesus through the Church. You may reject this concept. You may reject the Church as the best route to Jesus Christ. My friend, that is your choice but do not be confused. We are trying to protect you. The words and graces in this work are a gift to you, personally. If you choose not to accept this gift, that is your decision. I want you to accept the gift of these graces because with them you will find greater peace. Jesus loves you. You know this. God accepts you. You must believe this. If you do not return to God's Church on earth, you will still be loved and accepted, given the proper spirit of repentance in your soul. We want more for you, though, and we need more from you. If you return to the Church, we can restore you to unity with the Communion of Saints working for the salvation of many at this time. You will be drawn into the mission of renewal and this benefits you and all of those people around you. I ask you to do something for me. Come to a church and sit in silence in front of the tabernacle. Jesus is there. Sit in silence and ask Jesus what He wants you to do. Do not be angry at Jesus for the sins of mankind. Do not blame Jesus for the mistakes of mankind. Jesus is trying to help you. You belong in His Church and His Church needs you. Bring any

anger to Jesus and explain to Him what happened to make you feel that you should walk away from your Church.

Perhaps you have simply drifted. Please, drift back now. Come and sit with Jesus and talk to Him about your life. What are your worries? What are your joys? Tell Jesus about these things. Share these things with Jesus. You will find a welcome, I assure you. Jesus welcomes you and your family welcomes you. You belong in this Church and your home is in this Church. We will all help you.

St. Monica

Dear friend of heaven, there is great confusion in your world. The enemy of God, your enemy, seeks to divert attention away from the truth. To do this, satan has placed noise everywhere. How often do you work in silence? How often do you sit in silence and simply rest? God's poor little children are so distracted and over-stimulated that they do not feel comfortable in quiet. Their minds and hearts cannot rest. This situation is unacceptable and it is for this reason that so many in the world feel agitated and unhappy. They are no longer comfortable in quietness. They do not understand how to feed themselves spiritually. Because of this they hunger; but they know not for what. God's children, and I am speaking of adults, say that they are bored in Mass. Dear friend of heaven, you are not paying attention if you are bored. Seek Jesus and you will not be bored. Jesus will always be found by those who seek Him. Those who do not seek Him could bump into Him and they would not recognize Him. I am sad about this state of affairs. I love Jesus and I know that Jesus is the answer for the pain of mankind, but there are so few who are willing to fight for their Savior. Think about your brothers and sisters in the world who have lived in the pain of isolation from heaven. Many have left this life unprepared for heaven because of the constant noise and distraction in their life. Stand with God, my friend. Take up your share of the weight of His cross and advance God's army as far as He wills for you. This is not a time to be superior to Jesus Christ and His Church. This superiority will end abruptly when you die and face Him. End it

now. Do not be cynical about your Church. Return to your Church and walk into the mystery of your faith. Jesus will reveal Himself and heal all of your wounds if you do this. Your sins will be forgiven, of course, and the Church will help you to find your way to unity with the Body of Christ. I urge you to come back to your family. Please. We need your help.

St. Monica

Turn your eyes to heaven, my friend. Look up. If you look up to heaven and rest in heaven's truths, you will not be as concerned with the mistakes made by humanity in God's Church. You will walk toward heaven in unison with those who have been called to allow the renewal to flow through them. You live in a time when Jesus returns to the world. This is the time of the Advent of the Second Coming. The triumphant return of Jesus Christ is a core belief for the faithful. It is nothing to argue about or attempt to refute. I am telling you today that the Lord has begun to return through all who welcome Him in their soul. If you are a Catholic, you can be most effective by serving from within the Church. If you return to the Church, God can fill you until His graces overflow. This overflow pushes out into the world, spreading light in place of darkness and truth in place of error. This is the plan, my friend. This is the renewal. The return of Jesus Christ today hinges upon your willingness to become holier. The return of Jesus Christ today hinges upon your willingness to say "no" to selfishness and "yes" to Jesus. God is asking for your help. I, Monica, am asking for your help. You may come to Jesus and request an abundant amount of graces for your return to faithfulness. Jesus will give you these graces. Jesus wants you back in the Church and He will send all that is necessary to assist you in this return. The only thing Jesus cannot supply is your willingness. Willingness must come from you. Dear child of God, the world does not love you. We love you. The world cannot protect you. We can protect you. The world does not offer you eternal safety and joy. Only heaven can offer this to you. Make a decision for Jesus today, understanding that the decision you make for Jesus is really a decision for yourself and

your loved ones. Jesus will never let you go if you come to Him, and through you He can begin to protect your family and loved ones. We, God's saints, will help you. Be brave and come back to your Church.

Blessed Mother

Welcome, my beloved child. I say welcome because I am anticipating your complete return to faithfulness. I know that your heart is open and it is for this reason that you have been given these words at this time. You feel a longing in your heart. My child, I am Mary, your heavenly mother. You long for truth and I bring you truth. Heaven is here. Heaven is filled with those who love you and seek your safety. Do not think that your sins are different from the sins of those who reside in heaven. Humanity struggles in predictable ways. Often the struggles of humanity are related to wounds inflicted by others who also struggle. We are called to forgive, of course, and this can be difficult. But you are one who seeks my Son so I will obtain for you an abundance of forgiveness. A mother's tender heart and sympathetic listening ear can soothe any bitterness. I am listening to you now, my little one. Tell me what hurts you. Tell me what has hurt you in the past. I will help you to heal and bring you back to Jesus in a spirit of newness. You see, the renewal of mankind is taking place one soul at a time. Today, I concern myself with the renewal in your soul. When we renew your soul, together, you and I will proceed to the place where Jesus needs you to serve the kingdom. Often, this place of service is the place you are at right now. In other words, Jesus does not need you to do something different. He needs you to do the same things differently. Do you understand? Jesus wants you to serve in unity with Him and all of your brothers and sisters working for the renewal. You will serve in joy, not despair. You will serve in hope, not hopelessness. You will serve with the knowledge that you are making a difference to the world as you depart from the place of bitterness and hurt. At times, God's children have to move to another place of service. Regardless, they never proceed alone. I am your mother. You feel my presence, I know. Come into my arms and I will surround you with protection and grace while heaven renews your soul and brings you back to your Church.

How My iPhone Brought Me Closer to Jesus

By Nora McCarthy, Youth Coordinator

Yes, it is true that technology can sometimes be a distraction in our lives, but it can also bridge a gap between us and heaven.

About two months ago I made a drastic change in my life. I decided to go to law school. To be honest, I was not certain that it was God's plan for me, but it was the plan I insisted on. In August, I left the Direction for Our Times office in Justice and moved to DeKalb. I traded my position as the Youth Coordinator to become a lawyer.

During this transition I felt a heaviness in my heart. From the very first day of school, I knew that law school was not fulfilling a yearning in my soul. This totally freaked me out. Here I had made this life-changing decision and suddenly I found myself questioning everything – “Who was I? What was God's plan for me? Was law school really what heaven wanted for me? And if it was, then why was I feeling so much unrest?” I was not certain of the answers to these questions and that really scared me. I couldn't make sense of it all no matter how many hours I spent discussing it with my family and friends.

One day I was driving home from school and felt miserable. I could not sort out the confusion. I knew I needed the silence of an Adoration Chapel but I was in a new city, attending a secular school, and did not even know where the nearest Catholic Church was. Then suddenly it hit me – my iPhone!

Right before I left for school, I had decided to make this last extravagant purchase before I became a poor student again. I have never been very technologically talented, but I knew it looked cool and could do lots of stuff. I remembered a website someone once told me about called masstimes.org which lists by zip code all of the nearby churches with their Mass and Adoration times. In a frantic state of mind, I typed in the website and in just a few seconds I had directions to the nearest Adoration Chapel



Nora leads a Re-Charge youth event in Kentucky.



right on my iPhone screen. I raced to the chapel. I needed answers. I sincerely knew that at that moment the only person who could help me sort through the mess of my life was Jesus and I sat in that chapel that night for over two hours.

Now, normally my attention-deficient personality would prevent me from such diligence but I was so anxious and confused that I felt like it was the only safe place for me. During those two hours, I poured my heart out to Jesus. I laid all the cards on the table and told Him, “I can't leave here until You fix this.”

Unfortunately, heaven's clock does not always run on the same understanding of time as our world's so ... while I did not feel ready to make a final decision that night, I did leave the chapel feeling like I was not alone and that Christ was going to help me.

For the next couple of days I continued to both go to my classes and to the chapel. The next weekend I went to St. Patrick Shrine in Kentucky to speak on behalf of Direction for Our Times at the Re-Charge Retreat and at the Eucharistic Day of Renewal the following day. The Re-Charge Retreat was an awesome experience. I love being able to share with other young people how the mission has changed my life. I also love the people that work with me on these retreats; they are solid, faith-filled friends. I remember thinking to myself, If only these people were in law school with me, I would be happy. If only law school gave me peace like this

I would be happy. At the end of the two days, a young girl came up to me and with tears in her eyes told me how grateful she was that I shared my story the night before at the Re-Charge Retreat. She had struggled with some of the same struggles and she said it gave her great courage to know that she was not alone in them. As she spoke, tears welled up in my eyes, too. I realized that it was not me who gave her that courage, it was Christ working through me that gave her that courage. I felt entirely overcome with gratitude to be able to witness to Christ's love for us and I knew at this point that my job was to bring His love to other young people. Finally, everything shifted.

I realized that the reasons I wanted to become a lawyer did not come from a place of humility or from a desire to serve but instead

from a desire to be worldly. I wanted people to be impressed by me. I wanted to make a lot of money. That is the honest truth.

I am certainly not saying law school is bad or that God doesn't call others to work as lawyers in His name. I am just saying that it was not for me.

The night before I quit law school, I sat petrified in the chapel. I began to obsess over what other people would think of me. Would they think I was foolish? Would they think that I made the wrong decision? And then I realized that I was thinking of my life in terms of the world again, instead of in terms of heaven. I thought about what Jesus would say if I sat down next to Him in a coffee shop and asked for His opinion. Would He tell me I was foolish for not becoming a rich lawyer? I didn't think so.

As young people, we are faced often with life-changing decisions. We need to invite Christ into these struggles. We need to ask Him for guidance. I sought Christ in the Adoration Chapel because I knew there was unrest in my soul. Jesus allowed this unrest for a reason and He will do the same for all of us. But it is up to us to listen and to go to Him and ask Him what He wants from us. I think the unrest is the Lord's way of saying "Watch out! Come back to Me!"

How wonderful it is to know peace and to know that we are following God's will. It is something that I would not trade for all the money and esteem in the world, not even for a new iPhone 3G.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

June 1, 2008

Jesus

I am here, with you at all times. I watch you struggle for holiness and I encourage you to continue along on the path you have chosen. When you are discouraged, you sometimes look to other paths, chosen by other people. From where you are looking, their path might look smooth and easy, happy and fulfilling. Perhaps their path does not include the sacrifices that you find are necessary to travel along the path I have marked out for you. Perhaps their path does not appear to be as steep, as filled with obstacles, and perhaps their path appears to include more worldly acclaim and acceptance. Poor little apostles. Here is what you

cannot see when you admire the apparent easiness of the paths of others who are not chosen as you are chosen. You do not see that others, who have not made the same level of commitment, are not enjoying the same level of unity with heaven. Yes, their struggle seems less. Yes, their rewards seem immediate and plentiful. But you have something that nobody else has in the same way and that is Me. Nobody has the same relationship with Me that you have. You are My beloved apostle and I love all of My apostles. But the love I have for you and the plan I have for you is unique. It will never be repeated. I need you to continue on in your service to Me. I need you to remember that you are called to live differently, that your life, which may not be proceeding exactly as you planned, is proceeding exactly as I planned. Can you accept this? Can you remind yourself that you have allowed your Savior to navigate your

earthly journey? Can you rejoice in the path that I have marked out for you, even if it includes suffering? Please, My beloved apostle, try. I will help you with this. Rejoice in your apostolic commitment to Me. I will send you graces in each moment. These graces are unrepeatable, meaning that if a person rejects My grace in this moment, that grace moment cannot be recaptured. Time passes while you are on earth. Opportunities also pass. You are taking advantage of your time on earth for the family of God and for your loved ones and for you, yourself. You are so precious to Me. I am caring for you, I promise. When you are tempted to discouragement, remember that I am with you in each moment, sending perfect graces and blessings to you and through you. Be at peace in My will for you and I will protect My plan for you. You are loved by all of heaven and you are loved by Me.

Re-Charge Retreats

By Nora McCarthy, Youth Coordinator



Youth group from Christ the King Parish in Moline, IL.



Set-up at Rosary Hill.

The Re-Charge Team is very happy to announce that we are now providing retreat programs for high schools, colleges, and youth groups.

Many young people do not understand the importance of their role in the Catholic Church. When we are fulfilling our vocation, we are simply following God's plan for us. The Re-Charge Team is committed to helping young people discover how God has given them specific talents and gifts to use in their vocation. We explain that discernment is a process of finding out what God is calling us to do in our lives. As a team, we explain how we feel we are all called to take an active role of service in the Church. We help them to understand that each and every Catholic person has a unique place and call in the Catholic Church.

Our multimedia programs incorporate personal testimonies, small group activities, dramatic skits, and music videos. Through these, we seek to communicate basic truths of the Catholic faith. We provide retreats and presentations for young people between the ages of 12 to 24 years old. We are able to adapt these programs to fit the needs of your group. We offer both full day and half day programs.

We graciously, gratefully, and gladly appreciate any donation to assist us in meeting our operational costs.

If you are interested in bringing the Re-Charge Retreat to your school or youth group, please contact our Youth Coordinator, Nora McCarthy at (708) 496-9300 or recharge.cc@gmail.org

Recent Re-Charge Retreats:

Re-Charge @ Rosary Hill in Justice, IL • July 11th, 2008

Re-Charge @ St. Patrick Shrine in Taylor Mill, Kentucky • August 15th, 2008

Re-Charge @ Christ the King Parish in Moline, IL • September 27th, 2008

Re-Charge @ 16 Secondary Schools in Ireland • November 4 – December 6, 2008

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Mission Information Packet Available

DFOT makes available free information for clergy who are interested in knowing more about the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King. Our Mission Packet is available to any priest or bishop, and includes background, a letter from Anne's bishop, plus Volume One and Volume Four books.

Send us the name of the priest or bishop who is interested in reviewing these materials, and we will send him the entire package at no charge. Contact the DFOT office for more information.