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DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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

Building a Structure of Love

By Anne, a lay apostle

It is true that, in the same way that no two Christians are alike, so no two calls to serve Christ are alike. We each bring Jesus our unique personalities and skills, our strengths, our weaknesses, and Jesus, taking all of these things into account, fashions a call to service for us. If we are united to the Spirit, through disciplined prayer, we are listening closely as Jesus directs our service. We are connected.

Each of us, standing at the foot of the cross and sharing in the pain of the Savior, participates in the redemption of mankind by being interested in the pain of mankind. We become studiers of the Passion. And, when we sit still, connected to the Lord's pain, He whispers that pain to us. These whispers from the

cross are the beginning of true intimacy, as I have often said. Is Jesus suffering now? Is He in pain? Of course He is in pain. You see, there is a place in the Lord's heart for every child of God. And if someone is away from God, in bitterness, in woundedness, in rebellion, then there is a place in the Lord's heart that is hurting. We are each of us unique and our relationship with Jesus is unrepeatable. It will never happen again. And Jesus feels this way about everyone. If we are with Him, He feels

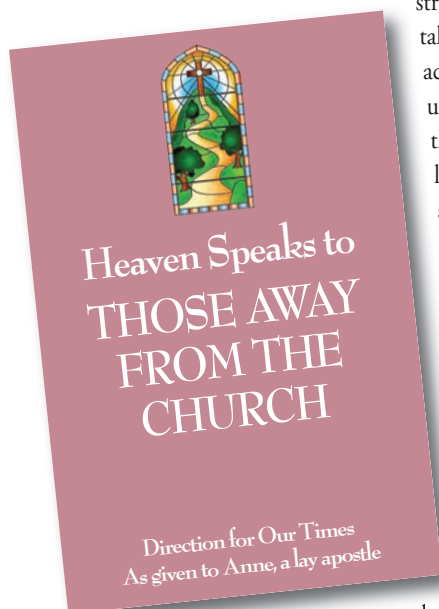
joy. If we are away from Him, He feels pain, the pain of separation.

Try to remember what it felt like to love someone and be separated from them. There is an ache, a dreadful hurting, even a sorrow. We long to be with this person and yet we cannot. The most we can hope for is eventual reconciliation. Jesus feels this way about everyone away from Him. So while Jesus is happy that each one of us is with Him, He aches for anyone who is not with him.

Our devotion to Jesus must mean that we are willing to share this ache and work for the return of our brothers and sisters who have fallen away.

Lay apostles, we have accepted the words God has sent us in this apostolate with great joy. Truly, our spirits rejoiced to hear words from heaven. We allowed these words to change us, to teach us, and to inspire us to greater holiness. We placed ourselves in the Lord's hands and He has moved us along in holiness. He continues to do so.

I believe that now God is calling us to cast out the nets, further than before and even further again. I believe that Jesus whispers from the cross His pain at the separation from the Church of those who have been hurt, who have been unwelcome, who have gotten themselves into life's troubles and feel rejected because of these troubles. Maybe they believe



*Dedicated to
Mary, Queen
of Apostles*



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News of the Mission

We send joyful greetings to all lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King!

As you know, the goal of the rescue mission is to spread the messages of this apostolate throughout the world. In this newsletter we are announcing a few new evangelization tools designed to assist you in spreading the words and graces of this apostolate.



Newsletter One: Revised and Updated

Direction for Our Times is offering a special re-print of the very first newsletter "Welcome to the Rescue Mission," in which the history of the mission is fully updated. This issue contains the summary of all the Volumes and "Heaven Speaks" booklets, reviews of the Volumes by theologians, answers to most frequently asked questions, as well as a description of the lay apostle guidelines and the story of how the image of Jesus Christ the Returning King came to be. It will help you to explain the lay apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King to friends, family and parish members who are interested in learning more. As with all of our newsletters, Issue One will be posted on

our website for free viewing and downloading. Even better, for the cost of printing alone, you can order additional copies from us by calling the office or ordering online.

Eucharistic Events

An even more personal way to share the mission is through Eucharistic Days or Evenings of Renewal. These Eucharistic events are springing up all across the country, led by lay apostles who are anxious to share heaven's messages with their local communities. Direction for Our Times supports these efforts as much as possible, sending supplies and staff members, when possible, to help supplement the local effort. These events are resulting in an ever more energized lay apostolate, with new prayer groups emerging almost weekly!



New Booklet Display Case

Lay apostle Dave Abel knew heaven was calling him to assist in this rescue mission. He designed and produced a beautiful new display case which holds all twenty of the "Heaven Speaks" booklets. This display case will be available soon for all parishes who wish to place the "Heaven Speaks" booklets in their parish. See page 20 to read about the program Dave is helping us to build to bring these booklets to as many parishes as possible.

Upcoming Events

Looking Ahead

As you can see we are energetically working to find new ways to bring the messages of this rescue mission to the world. We have dreams of improving our website to make it more user-friendly and helpful as an evangelization tool. We recognize the need to continue to support the young men and women who come to Ireland to discern a religious vocation. We yearn for the day when the poorest of the poor will be able to hear or read the messages in their native language.

All of these efforts for evangelization require funding. Direction for Our Times does its best to operate the organization with a small staff and we need your help.

Three Ways to Help

First, as always, we ask that you pray for the spread of this mission throughout the world. The Lord can open hearts that no amount of effort or money could accomplish.

Second, consider giving books, DVDs, CDs, newsletters and other items as gifts to family and friends this Christmas.

Third, please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to the mission. Your financial support will help us to bring a new language into print, increase the availability of Eucharistic events, fund a favorite book, or increase the likelihood of a new project coming to completion. Every donation makes a difference.

LAY APOSTOLATE OF JESUS CHRIST THE RETURNING KING



A New Movement in the Catholic Church
The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King is a new movement in the Catholic Church. This movement calls the laity to greater personal unity with Jesus Christ. As we become more aware of His presence, accepting His love and healing, we are then able to bring His light and love to those around us. By allowing Jesus to love others through us, we call them back into the safety of the family of God. Jesus calls this a rescue mission for souls. It involves the laity accepting their call to both personal holiness and service in the Church.
www.directionforourtimes.org

New Mission Information Brochure

Have you ever tried to share the Volumes or "Heaven Speaks" booklets with friends or family members, but felt unable to describe what the messages are all about? Was your excitement in sharing the good news of this mission hindered by trying to get all your thoughts organized into some simple, clear description? Help is on the way. We are very pleased to announce that we now have a full-color, Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King Information Brochure. The brochure describes this new movement in the Catholic Church, the Church's position on the movement, and the guidelines and spiritual practices for lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King. This will be one of your favorite evangelization tools!

Samples of the brochure are included with each order sent out from our office. If you would like to order a larger number, contact our office and we will be happy to send them to you. Any donation that you could make to help defray the costs of printing and shipping is always appreciated.

A preview of the brochure can be found on our website at:

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

In the United States ...

Anne is coming to the United States in February 2010

Heart of Worship Conference

February 13, 2010

11:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

St. Laurence Catholic Church

Sugarland, Texas

Registration Begins November 20, 2009

www.stlaurence.org

February 14, 2010

St. Patrick Parish Church

3285 Mills Road

Taylor Mill, Kentucky

Contact: Jeanne Clephane at

859-261-6553

In Ireland ...

Anne speaks monthly in Ireland

An Evening of Eucharistic Renewal
is held on the first Thursday of each month at St. Anne's Church, Bailieborough, County Cavan.

The Evening begins at 8:00 p.m. with a scheduled talk by Anne, followed by a Eucharistic Holy Hour of Adoration which includes the recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, the reading of the monthly message, and a Eucharistic procession during which Anne prays for the intentions of all present. Afterwards, Anne prays individually with those desiring individual prayer.

Confession is available throughout the evening from 7:00 p.m.

When possible, an additional hour of individual prayer is offered from 7:00-8:00 p.m. to accommodate those who are traveling a distance that night. Please note we cannot guarantee that Anne will be present at each meeting.

All are welcome.



that because of the circumstances of their life, they will face automatic rejection from people in the Church.

Now we know that is not true. We know that Jesus Christ welcomes all who come to Him. It is good that we know this but us knowing this it is not good enough. We must take this knowledge out to those who are away. We have to do this personally, person to person. Jesus is serious about this. In the October 1, 2009 Monthly Message He says: ***“Consider what I am building with the commitments of so many children of God who are willing to be directed by the Savior, their King. I am building a structure of love. I am building a structure through which many are returning. Truly, your hearts, open and filled with My love, call out to others. You provide for Me a welcome to those who feel separated. If they can be taken into your heart for even a brief moment and experience Me, with My love, then they will have the courage to both approach Me directly and to accept Me.”***

Jesus talks about a structure. This is a mystical structure, dear apostles. We are each part of it and our movement to holiness is the foundation of the structure. If we do not work

at our holiness, the foundation is flawed. Any builder will tell you that it is foolhardy to build a structure on a flawed foundation. I am saying that what we do in terms of personal holiness, counts. It is important. Until we accept that there is a direct correlation between our movement to holiness and the coming of God’s Kingdom, we will be tempted to treat the work of our personal holiness lightly.

I am reminded of a great truth and that is this: We are not in the Church because we have been transformed. We are in the Church so that we can become transformed. We are involved in a process with God. We are trying to become transformed. We, even with the heavenly balm and nourishment of the sacraments, even with the help of our priests, struggle at times, but we struggle with a constant source of hope and support. Imagine how lonely it must be to struggle without this constant source of hope, without the fellowship of others.

People away from the Church do not have this benefit, and yet many are doing so well in goodness and virtue. Many excel in humility and gentleness. Many are quietly becoming saints through a personal relationship with God that is outside of our Church. I think, dear apostles, that they need us, yes, but I think we must also consider that

we need them. We need them in our Church, working, calling out to others.

Let’s look for a moment at why people fall away from the Church.

Maybe they were influenced by others who had rejected the Church. The uncovering of clergy abuse, while excellent for the long term, hurt us here, obviously. And in that regard, some people left because the Church had proved an unsafe place for them.

Others did not or do not understand the teachings of the Church. This is a huge problem today. There are dreadful distortions being spread about the Church and its teachings even amongst Catholics and that is why we are so committed in this apostolate to learning and teaching the Catechism.

Some experience divorce, remarriage without annulment or relationships that are not blessed, and some experience same sex attraction and feel that these are immovable obstacles blocking a return to the faith. This is not true, of course. There are no immovable obstacles blocking anyone from returning to the Church. There is need for pastoral support and openness to change on the part of each individual.

Some have fallen away because they just don’t want to live according to the teachings. That has always been the way, though, and this is where many youth wander off. But many come back later and God is waiting for them.

So, we understand how people can get away from the Church. Now we need to look at why they stay away or more to the point what keeps them from returning. Sometimes, people feel they are not welcome. They feel that people are standing in front of the Church holding ‘STOP’ signs. The message they hear is, “You are not as holy as we are. You are not worthy.”

Of course none of us is holy enough. In truth, we know that not one of us listening to these words is superior to anyone else. That is the truth. So, because we know this, we must be those holding ‘WELCOME’ signs. We welcome souls back and gently direct them

back into the sacramental life of the Church.

Lay Apostles, God is commissioning us, like the first apostles, to spread the Good News, the news that salvation comes from Christ. What does Jesus say? In the booklet *Heaven Speaks to Those Who have Rejected God*, He says, ***“My beloved one, you were created by God. God did not create you to reject your place in His family. You are important in this family, which includes all of mankind.”***

In the booklet *Heaven Speaks to Those Away from the Church*, Jesus says: ***“I call out to those who have left My Church. Come back, I say. Return to the safety of the sacramental walk. 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?”***

Dear apostles, you can see that Jesus doesn't limit His call. He doesn't say, “I will welcome you back when you are perfect.” Or, “I will welcome you back after you have been transformed.” He says, ***“Be assured of My welcome.”***

What is the truth? The truth is that they should return immediately to the Catholic faith. If they have issues to deal with, then they should deal with these issues with the help of priests and faithful apostles who can examine their situation with them. There are beautiful blessed ministries in the Church that deal with the special concerns of individual groups.

We understand that we should not receive the Eucharist unless we are in a state of grace. Indeed, if we do not follow the fasting requirement we should not receive Holy Communion. But people attend Mass for years without receiving Holy Communion and they are magnificently blessed. This action of

not receiving Holy Communion because one is not in a state of grace can become a beautiful, sublime and humble offering to Christ. I can only imagine how Jesus will reward such an action.

Encourage everyone to come to a Church and sit with Jesus in silence before the Tabernacle. Encourage everyone to come to a Church and light a candle for the intention that is closest to their heart that day. Encourage everyone to contact a priest and talk about the reality of their situation. God wants this. And He wants us to do it. If we are connected to Christ, if we allow Him to whisper into our hearts from the cross, we will work for this without pause.

Read the booklets, dear apostles. Learn how heaven ministers to people in their pain and let this ministry take root in our souls so that what we offer is good and pure and filled with God's light.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

October 1, 2009

Jesus

My dear children, I am with you. I watch closely as you struggle for holiness. Often, you are uncertain of your spiritual condition. You strive to serve but feel conflicted by the times in which you are serving. There are some things that all humanity deals with regardless of where in history they are placed. First, there will always be a difference between the world's path and heaven's path. These two paths, while they can run along side each other for increments, will always separate. Ultimately, each man will have to choose. Every man, to a greater or lesser degree, will have to contend with choosing first good over evil and then he will have to

make another choice and that is the choice of choosing My plan for his life over his own plan for his life. After that, the choices become even more studied in that the man must choose My plan in each day, in each task and even in each moment. You may say, dear apostle, that this is a difficult call for a man, to study his actions in each day. You may say, this is asking a lot. You are right. I, Jesus, am asking a lot of you. I ask for your full commitment and I do so without apology. Dearest apostles, if you give me your full commitment, there is no limit to what I can do. Look at your life. You have said yes to me on many days. Examine what I have done with your yes answers. Consider what I am building with the commitments of so many children of God who are willing to be directed by the Saviour, their King. I am building a structure of love. I am building a structure through which many are returning. Truly, your hearts, open and filled

with My love, call out to others. You provide for Me a welcome to those who feel separated. If they can be taken into your heart for even a brief moment and experience Me, with My love, then they will have the courage to both approach Me directly and to accept Me directly. Please, do not count the sacrifices when you consider your service. Do not count the loss of worldly respect. Count only the souls who are comforted and consoled. Count the repentance and healing of so many who have been restored to unity with heaven. Count the humility that I have bestowed on you, dear apostle, since you began to learn about true holiness. I am your King. I can give you anything. I choose to give you peace and holiness. I choose to make of you a resolute servant. Accept My will in your life and you will then be able to accept all of the graces heaven has stored up for you.

Serving in Many Ways

By Anne, a lay apostle

In the past few years we at the core of this apostolate have been blessed to meet many Catholics from many parts of the world. To see the living Church in action has been truly inspiring because we have this tendency to think that we are the only ones working. Isn't it true? We see how hard we're working and we forget that we're part of a big family. We are all working very hard for Christ.

What is the same about everybody that we meet is their love for Jesus and their commitment to the Gospel message. What is very different is the way each person and organization lives out this commitment.

Cardinal Avery Dulles was an American Catholic Theologian. He was a very clear thinker and writer. One of his writings described five different models of the Church.

- The Church as an institution, meaning the hierarchy.
- The Church as a mystical communion, meaning a communion of people.
- The Church as a sacrament, meaning a transmitter of God's graces.
- The Church as a herald, meaning a proclaimer of God's Good News.
- And finally the Church as servant, meaning sharing the concerns of mankind and assisting those in need.

Each model offers beautiful, necessary contributions and comes with both benefits and risks. Any one model, though, as far as I can see, serving to the exclusion of others, would be incomplete. All models bring something.

I see today that people tend to become really excited about specific areas of service in the Church. I'll give you an example. I was listening to three young Catholics one day and they were talking about a current event in the Church. One of the persons said, "Well, if I

was there I'd be out there protesting. I'd be holding a sign, that's what I'd be doing and I think that's the right thing to do. If we don't stand up for our faith, nobody will." Another one said, "Not me. It's a circus. My job, I think, would be to stay home, see to my duties and pray for all these people involved." A third one said "You're both wrong. We should be there dialoguing with these people trying to create bridges, not walls. You guys aren't getting this right."



Now of the three, who got it right? I think they were all getting it right. Each one was inspired by the Holy Spirit to respond to the situation. Who got it wrong? They all got it wrong because each one was convinced that their way was the right way and that the others were wrong. Nobody was really ready to admit that there was a place for all three types of service.

Let's consider another example. Take a humanitarian service crisis today. If we have a room full of Catholics sitting at a table, we're going to have differences of opinion on how we should respond. Some might think practically, some might think mystically and some might think metaphysically. What will each bring?

Well, the practical ones might bring food. The mystical ones might bring the sacraments. The metaphysical ones might study the causality of the crisis.

On a good day all of these people will work together as a team and there will be peace in their service. On a bad day the practical ones will accuse the mystical ones of being out of touch. The mystical ones will accuse the practical ones of being too earth bound and they'll both turn on the metaphysical people for thinking too much and complicating matters.

I'm sure that God delights in all of us and I know He needs all of us. He has commissioned all of us to do His work where He has placed us. I think He's so pleased when we support each other and I think He's very disappointed when we tear each other down. We should each thank God, of course, for the opportunity to serve Him where we are and we should thank God for all of our brothers and sisters serving in different ways throughout the body of Christ.

My friends, if we have disunity we lose our effectiveness. If we have disunity we lose our peace. And, if we have disunity Jesus loses the opportunities that He hopes to use in our vocations.

We as lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King, and, as a spiritual movement in the Church, are called to participate in a great renewal. Everyone is welcome in this movement. Everyone is needed.

I look at the uniqueness of the individuals who work along side us and I'm so happy. It makes me rejoice. No one personality or experience will characterize us because we are all unique and because we're all needed.

We're obedient to the Magisterium of the Church because we understand the Church as protective. We are obedient because we love. Our obedience is rooted in love. We do not hold up obedience up like a false god and use it to whip other people. We don't hold up our obedience as proof that we are any better than anybody else. Our obedience is deeply

personal and should be viewed, at least in part, as a blessing from God, a gift.

We have to accept, my friends, that if we were in different circumstances we might find it very difficult to be obedient. We can't judge. This should make us humble. This fact should create in us a reverence for Catholics who are living away from the Church.

We should be reverent about our brothers and sisters who are out of the Church at this time. We may be getting it right in some areas, and I feel sure that is true. But we also may be getting it wrong in other areas. And maybe when we can't seem to get it right in one area, we're doing better in another area. The people away from the Church aren't any different in many areas of their life.

Many people who are living away from the Church are drawn to this apostolate. They say that they don't feel welcome in some of our churches. Now this hurts us. We want people welcome. We want to be loving and

welcoming because Jesus is so loving and welcoming to each one of us. But we have to face this truth. Many don't feel welcome.

Why? That's the question that we each have to answer. As I have said before, I think many people want to come back to our faith but I think they feel as if there's a 'STOP' sign outside the door. We want to make sure that we're not holding any of those 'STOP' signs. We want people to come back to the Church and work out their transformation from inside our Catholic family.

Jesus wants to bring in His people. I think He wants to use us to do it.

You might say, "These people are defiant. They don't like us. They get mad if we ask them to come back to the faith." It was never an easy job to evangelize but in this lay apostolate the Lord has given to us beautiful tools and these include the little "Heaven Speaks" booklets.

You might be looking through these booklets and you might say, "Well, I'm not depressed, so I'll save this one for Susie who is depressed. And I didn't have an abortion so I don't need that booklet." However, I think we need to familiarize ourselves with all of these booklets. Learn what heaven would say to someone who suffers in that way and then we will have really good help for God's children around us. I think it would be a good way for us to reach people. The Lord will use them.

Jesus encourages us so much. And in the September 1, 2009 Monthly Message He says this, ***"I want you to increase both your dependence on heaven and your awareness of your dependence on heaven. Each day, everyday, ask heaven for help throughout the day."***

Lay apostles, if we do this we will truly become the humble servants that God needs. We will not be delivering our version of heaven, we will be delivering Christ's version.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

September 1, 2009

Jesus

Dear apostles, I remind you to ask heaven for the graces you require. In order to work in My plan, united to My will, you must be in the habit of asking for all that you need. This constant petitioning for help in your service creates in you an awareness of the unity within which you serve. In this way, you will begin to understand that nothing can be attributed to you

except your willingness to serve. You will receive the graces you require, of course, and with these graces will come humility because you will acquire an understanding of the relationship between your requests and heaven's answers. If heaven is supplying you with all that you need to complete the tasks heaven has assigned to you, then you cannot take credit for what is being accomplished. You may say that you are already doing this. I respond that I want you to increase both your dependence on heaven and your awareness of your dependence on heaven. Each day, every day, ask heaven for help throughout the day.

My beloved apostles, I am preparing you for a new time which will bring you joy because you will serve peacefully in complete trust. Why would a child fret when his Father sees to his every need? Truly, you are united to heaven. I seek only to instill in you a greater awareness of your unity. I, your Jesus, call on you for dedication and sacrifice, it is true, but not without cause and not without benefit. See to My interests in your day, please. In turn, I will protect your intentions. Spread joy and goodness. Spread unity and peace. Spread trust in God who will never abandon His children.

A Taste of Heavenly Healing

By Bonnie Shoemaker

Coming soon from CMJ Marian Publishers

In 2008, lay apostle Bonnie Shoemaker began to record testimonies from lay apostles throughout the world who wanted to tell the story of the impact that the writings of this apostolate have had on their lives. This publication is almost ready to print and will be published soon. Below is one story taken from the text.

— Joyce M., Fort Myers, Florida

My world had just been turned upside down. Fate, it seemed, delivered a blow with immediate, sobering impact; a blow that still affects my life today. I was about to experience the absolute worst 24 hours of my life. The only way to keep my sanity, minute by minute, was with the constant recital of two blessed prayers to Mary: the Hail Mary and Memorare. I must have prayed them both a thousand times.



Dog Tess, Joyce, Delores (mom), and Paul.

It all began with a phone call. My 84 year old mother, afflicted with Alzheimer's, just lost her husband of 23 years. "Joe" was 15 years younger than mom and as her disease progressed had literally blossomed into a patient and understanding caregiver. He was a simple, uneducated man who we all took for granted at times as a stepfather. However, as

my mom's disease progressed, a husband's love morphed into something deeper and more compassionate. He thrived on caring for her and all the family was at peace knowing mom was safe and loved; we all went on with our lives. Then that phone call came. A heart condition took him early and unexpectedly! Mom was alone. My husband and I had agreed to take care of her many years prior should anything happen to Joe. Without warning, that time had come. We immediately made arrangements to fly to mom's home in Arkansas. The family decided it was best for me, her daughter, to break the news about the death of her husband. We arrived to find a frightened, confused woman. I was still trying to figure out, with less than 24 hours notice, how to break this awful news to my mother. Given her Alzheimer's, I would have to break this news to her over and over again. Plus, I had to convince her she was to come live with my husband and me in Florida, too much

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

July 1, 2009

Jesus

My dear apostles, how grateful you will be that I have given you these opportunities to serve. You will look back at your time on earth and you will see that the opportunities I gave to you to serve others as apostles, were truly My greatest acts of mercy to you. You see that My service requires sacrifice. You see that often My service causes you suffering and perhaps you think that it would be easier to live your life without such a call to serve. It is true that often by rejecting My

call to service in a day, you can diminish your immediate suffering. I acknowledge this truth. It is evident to all that service to Jesus Christ comes with an enhanced call to sacrifice. While I acknowledge this, I ask that you, too, acknowledge this. You are giving Me your day and I am then taking you from things that would give you instant gratification and asking you to delay gratification for the sake of others. It can appear in these moments of your life, that you are giving something up. What you do not see is that the more you serve Me and the more you abandon yourself to My call, the more grace you receive. You are giving up earthly pleasures and receiving a constant stream of heavenly pleasures. Compare the two. Earthly pleasures

last for moments. Heavenly pleasures last for eternity. Perhaps you do not understand the difference. Only in heaven will you have complete understanding but let it be noted that heavenly pleasures come through you, blessing you, and then spread out, blessing all those around you. Your soul is open to receiving heavenly graces, not just for you but for the whole world. Imagine how beautiful a soul looks to heaven when that soul is an open recipient of heavenly graces. Thank you for helping heaven. Thank you for helping those around you. And thank you for helping Me. Regardless of your suffering and regardless of your sacrifices, there will be a moment when you will thank Me for allowing you to participate in this, My renewal.

even for a coherent thinker under such circumstances. My two brothers and family arrived soon thereafter and in a whirlwind six days, Joe was buried, her personal belongings packed up, legal papers filed, dogs adopted, rental vehicle procured, U-Haul trailer packed to bursting and everyone trying to convince mom it was time to leave for her new home several states away in Florida. She was having none of it and convinced she could live alone for a few months until she sorted through her belongings. She had no idea she was totally incapable of caring for herself.

How do you get an 84 year old mom, in complete disagreement with moving anytime soon, let alone “right now” into a rented SUV hauling a U-Haul trailer? Misdirection was the plan. One brother took her to visit her sister a few homes away while the rest of us ran around in a flurry of activity doing a final packing and shoving last minute items for my mom in a suitcase. We were not nearly anywhere complete in our packing when we received an urgent call from my aunt: “If someone doesn’t come and get her right now, she’s insistent she is going to walk back home!” Everything stopped and my husband and I drove off to “pick up” my mom. Mom, of course was anticipating a three minute drive, not a 22 hour marathon. I leave to your imagination the conversations, words, feelings and emotions exchanged while all cooped up in a packed SUV for 22 hours.

Coincidentally, this same weekend Anne, a lay apostle, was in Illinois. I had so wanted to attend her retreat with my dear friend Bonnie who was scheduled to interview her for an article. Ever since we both attended Anne’s retreat a few years prior in Clearwater with our husbands, Bonnie had clearly experienced a spiritual awakening with her faith growing stronger ever since. I could physically see the transformation in her life. She was so exuberant about having a personal meeting

with Anne; Bonnie’s enthusiasm was electric. My thoughts were of her, Anne and my “Memorares” when Bonnie called my cell phone about six hours into our return road trip. She was bursting at the seams with joy from her experience with Anne. All I could say through choked backed tears and voice was “pray for us.” I had never needed prayers more in my life.

Twenty-two straight hours on the road and we were finally home. Thank God! Mom was sleeping in her new bedroom, my exhausted husband and I tending to household necessities after being gone for a week when Bonnie called and asked if she could stop by. She brought a care package of food, a warm loaf of her husband’s homemade bread, and a new book of Anne’s, *Serving in Clarity* she had picked up at the retreat.

That evening as I lay on the family room sofa just outside of mom’s room so I could be close by in case she awoke, I decided to open the book Bonnie had gifted me as I needed my God and Comforter more than ever. The first words I read were:

“Be at peace in the sufferings that I send. My apostles in this time will carry crosses with Me, in all resignation. Through your docile acceptance of the cross, I will draw two things. One, I will make you a saint. Two, I will flow rich and constant graces through you into the world.”

That was all I needed to stop my excruciating heartache and since bring me peace. He was talking directly to me!

Thank You, God! Thank You, Lord Jesus! Thank you, Mary! Thank you, Anne! And thank you my dear, accepting, loving husband.



Sent in by a grateful lay apostle

- Light a candle and do a Holy Hour dedicated simply to thanking the Lord for pursuing the conversion of each one of your loved ones.
- Have a small Christmas celebration with the members of your lay apostle prayer group thanking Jesus for the fellowship it brings.
- Buy a bouquet of flowers and place it at the foot of a statue of Our Lady in your home.
- Share with your kids a short story about how the Lord has blessed you during this past month.
- Spend time in Adoration thinking about any family members or friends that you are experiencing disunity with. Consider if our Lord is asking you to reconcile with or forgive them.
- Listen. Listen some more. Listen when all you want to do is watch your favorite TV show. Be with those who Jesus has placed you close to and listen. This is a beautiful Christmas offering to Jesus.
- Give a sincere compliment to the friend you are struggling to love.
- Pray a Rosary for your parish priest.
- Send a card to your pastor and tell him how he has touched your life or the life of someone you love.
- When you invite a relative to your Christmas celebration, invite them to sit with you and your family at Mass.
- When you pass someone in need, ask the saints in heaven to assist this person on their walk to unity with Jesus.
- Tell your child, no matter how old, that you love them.

“All I Want to do is Change the World”

By Crystal Sullivan

– W. Clement Stone

W Clement Stone would have made a great lay apostle! Changing the world, one soul at a time, is precisely what Jesus has asked us to do from the very beginning. In Volume One, our Blessed Mother tells us: “Jesus requires great things of His chosen souls. And any person reading this must understand that we are talking to you. There is great work to be done If even one person makes a decision to serve Jesus in a consistent way, the world begins to change. You don’t see it, but it is happening. Jesus seeks a worldwide renewal.”



Worldwide renewals start with each person doing his or her part. And so it was with Gregg Jacob, a lay apostle from Sonora, California. A few months ago, he wrote a letter to *Direction for Our Times*, ending with, “If you ever find yourself coming this way, please let me know.” Little did he know that his invitation would turn into a full-fledged evangelization tour that would culminate with my husband Kevin and me presenting information talks in homes, restaurants and churches throughout the western United States.

Kevin and I recently purchased a small RV, which we lovingly nicknamed the Lay Apostle Mobile (the LAM). Gregg’s request for us to evangelize in California was just the excuse we needed to turn a dream into reality. Gregg mobilized lay apostles Anne Fultz and Chuck Mulchahy to make phone calls and see if there would be any interest in having us speak about the mission to their prayer groups and any other interested individuals. One group after another responded in the affirmative, and soon we were posting the schedule for seven California presentations on our website.

Awhile later, we heard from lay apostle Kathy Barger from Post Falls, Idaho, who was organizing an event in her parish and wanted to provide information about the mission to the attendees. Soon, it became apparent Idaho and the surrounding states were part of the territory we wanted to visit.

The Western Revival began on September 12, 2009 at St. George in Post Falls, Idaho. Kathy and her fellow lay apostles had organized a Eucharistic Day of Renewal, for which Kathy had placed detailed information about the mission in the program booklet. The event ended with our information talk, presented to about 25 attendees. While some of the participants had never heard about the mission, others drove eight hours for the opportunity to meet with other lay apostles. The day was a blessing for all.

Prayer Group Coordinator Cherie Carr had heard about the event in Post Falls but was unable to attend. She asked if Kevin and I might be able to visit her prayer group, so our next stop was an Applebee’s Restaurant in Kennewick, Washington. Lay apostle prayer group members kept coming through the door, and soon we had to move to a bigger table, with 15 people huddled around our laptop computer, intently watching the 10 minute introductory video Anne had recorded for these sessions. The enthusiasm and gratitude of all the members for the work Cherie had done to organize the event was heartwarming.

The LAM continued south, stopping at the home of Chuck and Carla Sicotte in Bend, Oregon. Carla and Chuck graciously hosted a dinner presentation with about 20 people present, including their parish priest and deacon. The Sicottes generosity and hospitality helped us in sharing the beauty of these messages with their fellow Catholics.

Finally, we reached Sonora, California to meet Gregg Jacob, the lay apostle who had been the impetus for the entire trip. We began with an information talk followed by a powerful Holy Hour of Adoration, supplemented with music and readings from Volume Two. Gregg and his wife Colleen hosted a follow-up gathering, so that those who were new to the apostolate could ask questions on a one-on-one basis.

Reluctantly, we had to move on quickly, as the next eight days were filled with information talks throughout the region. Everywhere we went, we met lay apostles with beautiful spirits who opened their homes, their hearts (and their kitchens) to make us welcome. Claude in Citrus Heights treated us to a gourmet dinner before our presentation at the gathering space in his sub-division. On Sunday, September 20th, we participated in a beautiful Mass and Holy Hour at St. David of Wales, organized by lay apostle JoBeth Nolan and her family. In Modesto, Ann Endsley hosted a special event on her patio as we sat under the stars and shared the excitement of this mission. Then on to Los Banos, where Janice Areias had gathered over twenty women for their lay apostle prayer group meeting. After praying the Rosary, giving the presentation and enjoying the wonderful lunch, we were asked by one of the attendees to come to another prayer group in Madera, which Gerry Ann hosted and Susan helped organize. Unbelievably, with less than 24 hours to plan, a group of about 30 people was assembled to learn more about the mission! We distributed many of our Spanish Volumes, and promised to keep all who attended in our prayers for the growth of the mission to the Hispanic community. Then on to Denair, where Vince Sagala and his family graciously opened their beautiful home so that we could share our stories of faith. Bev and Ron O'Connor of Danville welcomed us to their home not once but twice, so that in total over 65 people came from all over the San Francisco area to hear more about Jesus Christ the Returning King.

This summary of our trip cannot capture the love, faithfulness and caring of all who hosted us. Each event was unique and special in its own way. The one constant was that everywhere we went, lay apostles reported how excited they were to meet people from the apostolate who could share news about the mission. Most commented on how reassuring it was to feel a closer sense of connection to the larger, worldwide community of lay apostles. As Anne Fulz reported back, "Everyone seemed really jazzed and rejuvenated from the visit."

We were also encouraged by the feedback from our 'hosts' that the events were not as difficult to organize as they thought they might be. They found lay apostles in every walk of life who were simply grateful for the chance to connect with others in this mission.

Since I began with a quote from W. Clement Stone, I will also end with one: "Tell everyone what you want to do and someone will want to help you do it."

If this method of evangelization appeals to you, we would love to hear from you. Bringing an information event to your area is as simple as contacting the United States Direction for Our Times office at contactus@directionforourtimes.com or calling 708-496-9300. We look forward to hearing from you.



Priesthood Calling

Fr. Sean Mawn, Vocations Promoter for Kilmore Diocese

“Why did you become a priest?” is a question I am often asked. The more spiritually minded or those versed in theology might put it “When or how did you know that God was calling you to be a priest?” Whatever way the question is put I don’t find it easy to answer. In fact I feel uncomfortable in attempting to answer the question.

I am somewhat reticent, as I don’t want to sound too evangelical, and say I got a direct call from the Lord, or on the other hand I don’t want to give the impression that I chose the priesthood rather than the Lord choosing me.

There are occasions when I wish that I had a St. Paul-like conversion that I too could say with certainty I heard the voice of the Lord calling me in a vision making his will clearly known to me. Perhaps an experience like that might have taken away my self-doubt and confusion.

Other examples in the Scriptures of a direct call like that of St. Paul, are the call of Moses in (Exodus 3:1-12), call of Isaiah in (Isaiah 6:1-13), call of Jeremiah in (Jeremiah 1:4-13), Mary’s call to be the mother of Jesus in (Luke 1:26-45) and the call of Samuel in (Sam 3:1-14) where we get the theme of today’s deliberation. Samuel was only a boy when the Lord called him. He was ministering to the Lord at the holy shrine of Shiloh under the guidance of Eli the priest.

While Samuel hears a voice calling him, he does not recognize that voice as coming from the Lord; in fact he thinks it is Eli the priest who is calling him. Yet we admire the courage and openness of Samuel and his willingness to serve with his submissive words, “Here I am, Lord.”

We also admire the wisdom and advice of the old and holy priest Eli. It was he who



perceived that the Lord was calling the boy and then he advised Samuel what to do. “Go lie down,” and if He calls you, you shall say “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”

This verse is important for all of us, as it provides us with a method or approach to prayer. When we take “Here I am, Lord” and “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening,” we have two aspects of prayer. One is active, the other passive; one is speaking to the Lord, the other is listening to the Lord. Despite the fact that God has given us two ears and one mouth, we tend to speak more than we listen.

Listening to God implies I want to take hold of His message, I want it to become part of me.

As Eli advised, when Samuel heard the voice calling him again he said “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening,” and the Lord spoke to him.

As we reflect on the call of Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Mary and Paul, a pattern emerges.

The person has some experience of God.

God gives the person a mission.

The person may deny being worthy.

God addresses the unworthiness and reassures the person.

Despite their “direct call,” now I find it comforting to know that Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Mary and Paul had their moments of doubt, trial and confusion. What is clear is that all are called by God. The initiative is His.

With reference to the various calls I have mentioned, my call to the priesthood was very ordinary indeed. No visions, no special hearing of God’s voice, no one issuing a proclamation to me. Yet as I reflect on my call I recognize a pattern not too dissimilar which marked the call of Paul, Samuel and the others I have mentioned.

While the call to serve the Lord as a priest or religious is unique for each person, a similar pattern does emerge.

We all have some experience of God in our lives.

We are given a mission by the Lord.

We too are most likely to deny being worthy.

In prayer, we find God addresses our unworthiness and reassures us.

Before I was ordained to the priesthood, I already shared in the priesthood of Jesus through my Baptism. My faith was nourished and nurtured through family, school, and supported and strengthened by the Christian Community that I grew up in. The Sunday Mass was not only an important source of spiritual nourishment where the community gathered together in the local church to worship God, it was also an occasion for much social interaction.

The first time I can remember something about the notion of priesthood making an impact on me was in 1961. I was then seven years of age. I had made my First Communion. That year we had two men from the parish ordained priests. In those days ordinations usually took place in the seminaries. The main liturgical celebration in the parish was the newly ordained priest's first Mass which was celebrated in his home church.

I remember attending my cousin's first Mass, and receiving his blessing. I was in awe watching the people go forward to the altar rails and kneel for the new priest's blessing. I think the idea of me becoming a priest was sown then.

My motives were not of the purest kind. I think what appealed to me most was the great

fuss that was made of the two new priests, and how everybody in the community was so proud of them. Later on there were other factors of inspiration and influence, like our local priests, other priests that I got to know, and people like yourselves who often inspired me, and on occasions someone would say, "I think you might become a priest someday."

While I resisted the notion of becoming a priest during my teen years, realistically it was always there at the back of my mind.

I went to Maynooth in September 1972. There were many occasions during my time in the seminary, when I pondered and reflected if priesthood was my calling in life. This would happen especially if someone I knew or someone I looked up to decided to leave. I remember often sitting in one of the churches

perhaps at Eucharistic Adoration praying for clarity and looking for answers. While I may not have used the exact words of Samuel, "Here I am, Lord, I come to do Your will," or the words of the priest Eli "Speak Lord your servant is listening," the desire and disposition was similar.

On the 11th June 1978, I was ordained a priest with three others for the diocese of Kilmore, in the Cathedral of St. Patrick and Felim in Cavan.

Now, almost 31 years later, I continue to find my vocation challenging and rewarding. While I have experienced loneliness, disappointment, frustration and pain of varying kinds, I do feel I live a happy and fulfilled life.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

November 1, 2009

Jesus

My dearest apostle, how pleased I am with your efforts. Shall I tell you all that pleases Me? I am pleased that you accept My words and welcome them into your heart. I am pleased because as you welcome My words into your heart, you welcome My graces into your life. Many come and go in My service. But you do not do this. You remain in My service. It will take eternity for Me to show you My gratitude. When I say service, you no doubt think practically. You think of work, of heaven's work, which includes the tasks that you complete

for Me and for others in My name. This is good. I so badly need those who are willing to work for Me. But when I say service, I want you to also think of love. You see, we need bridges built that will transport God's children safely into My heart. But the invitation to cross the bridge from isolation to the love of God will be extended through your love, through My presence in your heart. My love will flow out from you to others and they will find out that the hurt they feel is vulnerable to love. Hurt melts away when it is exposed to love. Love, rooted in Me, is always selfless. It is quiet rather than boisterous. It waits patiently, willing to accept suffering for the greater good of the soul in front of it. The greater good will always be reconciliation with Me but this reconciliation between the Creator and the created is deeply

personal and takes place in the privacy of the soul. Dearest children of God, you have been chosen to accept My love and to use that love to draw others back to Me. I am watching closely as you struggle for greater holiness. I am watching closely as you advance. I am with you in your own suffering and I allow loneliness for every serving apostle because it is only through this loneliness that you understand how badly you need Me. Your loneliness then becomes a heavenly port in a storm of activity through which you draw graces down into the world. You see that you suffer. When you return to Me forever, you will see that your suffering, accepted in My name, advanced not only My intentions, but yours. Be at peace, little apostle. I am involved in all that occurs in your life. I am with you. I will not leave you.

Heaven Speaks About ADDICTIONS



July 27, 2005

Jesus

My dear soul, you are chosen to serve in the Kingdom of God. Nothing can refute this statement. I am Jesus and I need you to help Me. There is a temptation to believe that you will have many days in which to serve heaven. Because of this temptation, souls feel they can languish at times, certain that while they do not serve completely today they will do so tomorrow. Well, tomorrow is not what I am calling you to. I am calling you into this day, today. This is the time to let go of any habit that is pulling you away from Me and pulling you away from service to Me. Dear apostle, you must give Me your addiction. It can never be a good thing to be overly attached to something that dulls your ability to love. Look into your soul right now. You will find that I am looking back at you. You know that I am asking you to put aside this addiction. You have known this for some time. The day is today. I am not looking for service in tomorrow. You may never see tomorrow because that is how life on earth is designed. Man never knows when he will be called home to heaven. There is a part of you that is fearful. You fear that you cannot be happy without this addiction. Will you believe Me when I tell you that it is quite the opposite? You cannot be happy with the addiction because it is numbing you from experiencing Me. I am in other people. I am in your loved ones. But you are putting this addiction in a place above Me and consequently above your loved ones, as well as others. Dearest apostle, I will take this addiction from you. I will do this for you, if you let Me. But you have to be

willing to accept My grace in your soul. I will do all of the difficult work, the work that you fear. You will remain in the present, in each moment, and you will have grace enough to walk away from this dependence. That is My promise.

July 28, 2005

St. Barnabas

My dear friend, notice that Jesus calls you His apostle. He is asking you to serve Him. Do not make the mistake of thinking that He is talking to someone else. He is talking to you. There is work for you in the Kingdom. You have suffered, it is true. We all suffer during our time on earth. But Jesus can heal any wounds. You are trying to heal yourself. You are trying to make yourself feel better. But you cannot do this alone and the healing you are offering your body and soul is making you sicker. I have the true healing, the true peace. I am Barnabas and I want to help you too. It can be difficult to make a decision to step away from your addictions. I understand. The enemy convinces you that you need these things to be happy. And yet, you are not happy. Be honest with yourself for a moment and hear me. You are not at peace if you are attached to something so much that you need it, unless it is God. I am referring generally to things that you are putting in your body, but any habit can become destructive if it takes you from your duties or separates you from purity or holiness. Some of these things are fine in moderation, perhaps, but in excess they begin to take over. These things, these addictions, once they hold you, do not let you go until you make a firm decision to stop completely. Only then can heaven remove their power over you and free your soul. My

friend, you object in your heart. You hold this addiction close to you and would like me to be wrong. This alone tells you that there is a problem. I am not wrong. I am looking from the heavenly perspective and I assure you, I am correct when I tell you that Jesus wants to free you.

St. Barnabas

Jesus wants you to view the world as He views the world. Only in this way will you serve Him as He needs you to serve. Only in this way will you see those around you with His eyes and correctly identify your role in their lives. If you have an addiction, you have acquired a bad thing, and that is tunnel vision. You see with the eyes of your addiction. You will serve, yes, but only in as much as it does not interfere with your addiction. Do you understand? The addiction begins to take the first place in your life, putting Jesus, and your vocation in the second. This tunnel vision gradually closes off the heavenly vision until, at the end, when the addiction rules you, you can see only it. You are then the servant to the addiction. The addiction is your master. And the addiction is not a benign master, seeking your welfare. The addiction is a cruel master eventually demanding everything from you. You will have to bring the addiction offerings of your dignity, your purity of intention, and perhaps even your membership in the Body of Christ. Now, you say I am exaggerating. You cannot fool me because I know what you are thinking. I am one who understands addiction, having suffered from it myself. You are not unique when you suffer from an addiction. We end up the same way. Compare the master that is your addiction to Jesus Christ. Jesus seeks only your welfare and the welfare of those around you. He asks you to serve in dignity, in goodness,

in company with all of the just on earth and the saints in heaven. You are surrounded by heavenly beings in the form of angels who will assist you in each moment and in every situation. Jesus sends you His Spirit, who enlightens you and gives you courage and strength. Jesus has prepared a place for you here in heaven. I can go to this place and see it because it is here. We do not tell lies. We deal only in the truth. I would like you to sit silently before Christ now in this spirit of truth and let Jesus tell you if your addiction is a problem.

St. Barnabas

I want to tell you about the price you are paying to maintain this addiction as your friend. And that is how you view it, is it not? You think this addiction is a good thing for you, a consolation, and a compensation for the pain you have suffered. Let me state again, lest you have forgotten. Pain is a universal experience. Hurt is a universal experience. You are not alone in your pain and in your hurt. Do not think you are somehow entitled to this addiction because you have suffered more than others. This would be false, a lie, and remember that heaven does not deal in lies. So where there is only truth, we must speak with clarity. Everyone on earth has been hurt or will be hurt and has felt pain or will feel pain. That makes you like everyone else. You are not entitled to use this addiction to dull your pain. It is wrong, a sin. To say that you are in special need of this earthly balm is making an excuse. It is also preventing you from dealing with your pain. And what happens when people do not deal directly with their pain? The enemy turns the pain to bitterness. In souls who allow Jesus to help, pain becomes wisdom and compassion. Pain is used for great spiritual growth. Do not

listen to those who tell you that your addiction is acceptable because you suffer. These people are leading you away from Christ through flawed thinking. This is the thinking that leads souls to hell. I am not saying that you are going to hell. I am not saying that those who have died in their addictions are in hell. Jesus is all mercy. He is all goodness and forgiveness. He does not condemn a soul unless a soul insists on being condemned. But it is because of His very goodness and mercy that you should serve Him more completely and you cannot do that if you serve another master.

July 29, 2005

St. Barnabas

Be at peace in this struggle, understanding that you do not struggle alone. It is wise to know when you need help. This project, freeing yourself from an addiction, is not something you should try to do without heavenly help. There are many great saints who suffered from the difficulties you are experiencing. These souls, men and women of good will, fought against their selfish desires and replaced their will with His will. This is what you are being asked to do. We, the saints in heaven, are all going to pray that Jesus send you the greatest heavenly assistance. You will be surrounded by grace, which is heaven's power. When you feel you are struggling you must cry out to heaven for more graces and we will obtain them for you immediately. You see, Jesus needs your help. He needs your service. You cannot serve Him as you would like, or as He needs you to serve, when you are carrying the weight from this addiction. If Jesus frees you from this addiction, you will become a great apostle. Your role in the Kingdom will

continued on page 16

become clear to you and you will use this clarity to illuminate others. Think back on your life to those who have helped you through difficulties. These souls were serving heaven. You must do the same. There are many souls whom you are destined to assist. You do not want to reach the end of your life and find that these souls went without necessary assistance because you were trying to numb yourself. Dear friend, be at peace. You are being called by name. Answer "yes" to Jesus and He will take care of all of your difficulties.



St. Clare of Assisi

*My dearest friends
on earth, how happy
I am to speak with
you. I am Clare and
I want to encourage
you to take the first step. The first step you*

must take to become free of an addiction is this. Raise your eyes to Jesus Christ and say, "Lord, help me, for I cannot do this alone." How Jesus delights in this prayer. How His heart leaps with joy that one of His own has acknowledged both His power and His love. You see, my dear friend, when you cry out in this way you are trusting in His love for you, as well as in His mercy. You are saying, "Yes, Lord, I have made mistakes, but I know Your love for me is intact." Even if it is only the smallest part of you that dares to hope Jesus will help you, that is enough. Jesus needs nearly nothing to flood mercy down upon a soul. So even if you have committed the most vile and constant sins, even if you feel that you are the most despised creature in the universe, you must cry out to Him. The truth is that He loves you. He is waiting for you and watches closely for your smallest opening to Him. Won't you try this, my friend? You have tried to make yourself feel better in other ways and you have been left in despair. Now try Jesus. I am praying for

you right now, that you will allow the door of your soul to open, even the smallest bit. If you do this, the light will flood in. Be humble, admit you have committed sins, and ask for forgiveness. You will not be disappointed. Jesus will claim you as His own and restore you to the dignity that rightfully belongs to a child of God.



St. Andrew

*My friends on earth,
you are often willing
to admit that your life
is not going as well
as you would like or
as well as you had
hoped. This series is
designed to provide
you with the grace to
understand why this is the case. Whatever
your problems or crosses, addictions make
them worse. What happens is this. You are
given a certain number of crosses to carry.*

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

June 1, 2009

Jesus

Dear apostles, I ask that you remind yourselves each day that I am participating through you in the course of history. What comes from Me can only be good. When you see goodness and kindness, you must thank Me. When you see mercy and compassion, you must thank Me. These occurrences originate in heaven and are brought to earth through the participation of those who cooperate with grace. Always, there are those who claim to participate in grace, but who do not. There are also those who claim to reject Me and yet they

participate in grace by allowing goodness to flow through them. How confusing this can be for My children. Dear children, ultimately, this will be clear, in that each man must answer yes or no in each moment. Be alert to the choices in your day. Be alert to the example you set for others in your decisions for good or evil. Be alert to the peace that I bring to you when you decide for what is good. My apostles, you crave Me, I know. You crave My return into your world through a wide acceptance of the Spirit of peace. How can you satisfy this craving? I will tell you. In order to relieve the pangs of your hunger for goodness, you must bring goodness to others. Speak of goodness. Celebrate goodness. Rejoice in goodness and then try your best to participate in goodness through your cooperation with My renewal. In this way you will know that you are never

helpless against evil. You will understand that I have healing power, yes, and I can flow My healing power through each person who accepts their responsibility for bringing Me to others. I am so pleased with My beloved apostles because you have accepted your tasks. How gratefully I listen when you pledge your allegiance each day. How I count on you. Spend a moment considering what I have managed to do through your cooperation. Have you shown kindness? Have you tried to become holier? Have you spread My message of compassion? You are only one. Now consider how many I have called into service at this time. Consider all of those I am calling into service through your service. Consider the healing graces that flow through My mercy. My friends, all is well. The renewal continues.

This is the way it is set up. Only in heaven will you be free of all suffering. It is through these struggles that you earn your salvation. So your suffering is of heavenly design and purpose. But a soul who is in the grip of an addiction has added so much weight to his cross that often he cannot carry it. Souls then blame the cross, stating that Jesus has made it too difficult. This is false. The soul himself, through his constant saying "yes" to this addiction, has added unmanageable weight to his life and to his cross. The soul uses the added weight to justify the addiction. "I use this addiction because I carry such an unusual and painful cross." This reasoning is distorted. Dear apostle, this will not work for you. It is not working for you now. When you are free of the addiction we can help you to shift the burden of whatever cross you are carrying so that it becomes a manageable thing for you. This is how God intended it to be. He does not load down His children with sorrow that cannot be managed. If you are suffering,

we will help you. If you are bitter, Jesus will heal you. These are promises. We do not speak like some souls on earth. When we speak, we mean what we say and our promises are solid. They do not shift from one day to the next. You will have our help, but you must give heaven the addiction. Hand it to Jesus and He will take it from your hands, leaving you with all of heaven's help and a life that is manageable for you.

Blessed Mother

Hello, my little children. I am Mary, your heavenly mother. I am with you in every suffering and I wait for an opportunity to assist you. Let me help you now in this struggle. I have helped many to overcome these earthly attachments and serve my Son more fully. I can do this for you, too. You must realize that in heaven you will find no recriminations. We do not judge you for your sins, we simply ask you to step away from them.

Jesus will cleanse your soul and you will have peace and joy as you learn again how to give His love to others. Too many of heaven's children are living in loneliness and pain. I cannot bear it, my child. This is not the way you are asked to live on earth. The sadness of my children is a painful cross for me. I beg God without pause for each one of you. I am begging Him right now for you, my little beloved soul. I am asking Him to give you exceptional grace to see your addiction as a block to heaven's light. Push it away from you, little dove, and Jesus will be on the other side, doing all of the work. It is only in the very beginning that it seems like a mountain and that is because you are counting on yourself. That is a mistake. Never rely on yourself to do something that heaven wants to do for you. Put your hand in your mother's now and I will lead you away from the addiction.

In the May 2009 Monthly
Message Jesus calls us
"little apostles." He says,
***"... each apostle, by
his desire to serve,
becomes little. He
becomes little so
that God can be
glorified."***

Lay Apostles in Action

IRELAND: One Little Apostle

Angela Boyle is a lay apostle in County Donegal, Ireland. She was blessed by the lay apostolate and wanted to share the fruits of her experience. She knew she needed to do something to share the good news of this mission with her fellow parishioners. She spoke to her parish priest, Fr. Seamus Meehan and asked if she could invite a team of lay apostles led by the Direction for Our Times Chaplain, Fr. Darragh Connolly to introduce the lay apostolate in the parish. With Fr. Meehan's blessings and the permission of her bishop, she invited the outreach team into St. Crona's Church.

In September, Fr. Darragh arrived, accompanied by three young adults discerning vocations in the apostolate. These young adults are living in the Community Houses in Bailieborough and using their talents to spread the mission. This outreach team spent the weekend in the parish available at all the Masses. Fr. Darragh gave information on the apostolate during his homilies and our young discerners passed out "Heaven Speaks" booklets to parishioners as they left the church after Masses.

Angela just recently called to let us know that the parish now has a lay apostle prayer group in place.

All it took was the courage of one little apostle, Angela, to bring the gifts of the apostolate to her parish.

If you would like for an outreach team to come to your parish, please call the Irish office at (0)42 969 4947.

The Most Pivotal Experiences of Our Lives

By Anne, a lay apostle

Excerpt taken from Reflections on the Priesthood

I have often said that many priests underestimate the influence and impact they have on those they serve. For Catholics, the priestly presence is knitted into the most pivotal experiences of our lives.

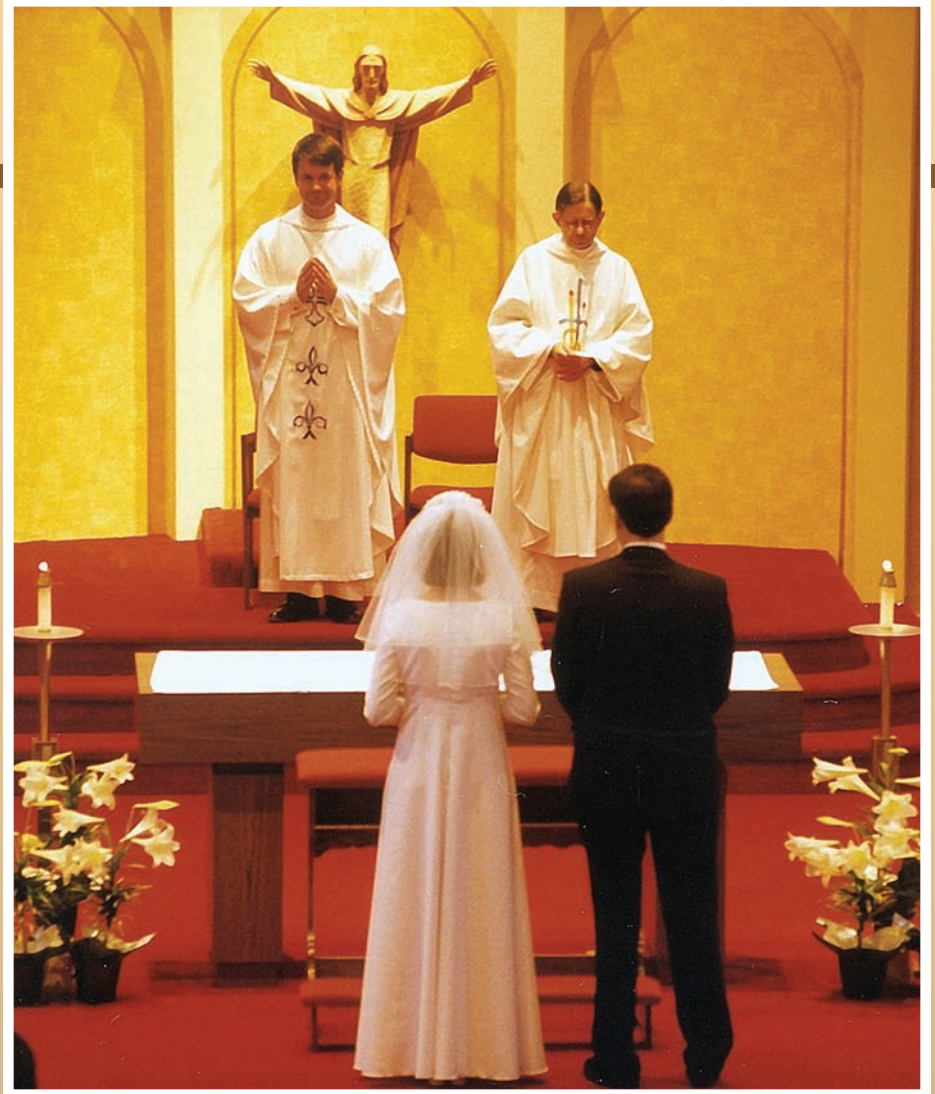
Consider our First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, the Baptism of our children, the death of our loved ones, our own deaths. These life-changing moments are presided over by Christ through a priest. People remember with such gratitude the presence of the priest at the bedside of a dying family member and at their funerals.

People, often in brokenness, look to the priest to make sense out of some of the tragic circumstances experienced during our time on earth.

Far from feeling unable or unequal to the task, the priest should accept that he, in his humanity, could disappoint, but Christ, in His divinity, will never disappoint. In other words, to repeat an important thought, the priest can rejoice and be at peace in the limitations of his humanity while constantly proclaiming the power of Christ's divinity.

Our Lady said that we are giving her the greatest pleasure by illuminating the divine presence of her Son in each priestly vocation. Our Lady is devoted to each of her children but she pays special attention to the needs of God's beloved priests.





“I am all in!”

In June 2009, Anne spoke in Justice, Illinois at a Eucharistic Day of Renewal. She made mention that she is seeing a new dynamic in the activity of lay apostles around the world. She said people are being directed very specifically by Jesus Himself about how they can serve in this apostolate.

A remarkable example of this is the story of Dave Abel. In March 2009 Dave received a copy of Volume Two from a close friend. Dave, a successful Catholic business man and the father of fourteen children, is no stranger to service for the Church. He has spent the last four years focusing his energy on developing stewardship materials for dioceses throughout the United States. The goal of his efforts is providing parishes with tools for spiritual growth so they can make them available to their parishioners. Dave has worked tirelessly to inspire Christians to share what the Lord has given to them. His hope is to convert us all into Christian stewards.

Dave read the Volumes and then *The Mist of Mercy* and was blessed by the graces in these writings. When he read the “Heaven



Speaks” booklet series Dave recognized his call to serve. He understood that these little booklets truly serve as an invitation to

participate in this renewal. Dave understood these booklets to be “messages of love, hope and healing.”

Dave went to work. He drew on his years of experience in business, and life, to generate ideas on how to help increase the distribution of these powerful messages. Dave worked with his team to design and produce a bookshelf display case that presents the twenty Heaven Speaks booklets in an inviting manner.

Dave has also written a plan to help us deliver these bookshelves to any parish that would like to see the booklets available for free in their parish. We will be sending the details on this new program to you in the near future.

When asked about his role in the apostolate he says, “I am all in!” In addition to this project, Dave and a few other men who are touched by these messages are forming a lay apostle prayer group in the greater Philadelphia area. If you would like more information on this project or would like information on joining their prayer group please call our office at 708-496-9300.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

August 1, 2009

Jesus

Dearest apostles, I thank you for your efforts for Me. Do you see the fruit of your labors? Perhaps not. Perhaps you continue serving, living out your commitments with no understanding of how I bless the world through your service. I hear your sighs. I am with you in your uncertainty. In humanity,

there is always uncertainty. In humanity, there is always doubt. There also comes fear and each human will experience heaviness in his heart some day. None of these things should persuade you that you are serving in vain. None of these things should distract you from a zealous representation of the Gospel message. You see, the message is so much bigger than each of you. And yet, each of you is necessary. The Gospel truth pushes itself into a world that craves truth, even while it rejects truth. You, beloved apostle, are part of that push. You will feel the strain in

your body and soul. You will feel the sacrifice. If you did not feel any such strain or sacrifice, there would be cause for concern because living and spreading the Gospel is work. When you feel tired, remember that I also felt tired. Never separate your sufferings from My sufferings and you will be at peace, even as you carry your share of the cross for this time. I am with you, loving and sustaining you. I am ever watchful. When you need Me in a special way, you shall have Me, with every grace required. Do not be afraid of anything. Your Jesus will never abandon you.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

By Anne, a lay apostle

An excerpt from *Lessons in Love*

“For the Lord takes delight in His people.” (Psalms 149-4)

This is so apparent. Jesus experiences each of us as His closest family member. Jesus experiences us as lovable and filled with promise. The experience Jesus has of us is constant and consistent in that He does not check in with us once a week or once a day or even once an hour. The Lord has been with us in a continual and uninterrupted fashion. Jesus never takes His gaze off of us. Given that He has never been away from us and that He has never stopped considering us, and indeed that He created us, Jesus knows us better than anyone. Jesus knows exactly where we struggle. The Lord understands what we find confusing and where we need greater clarity.

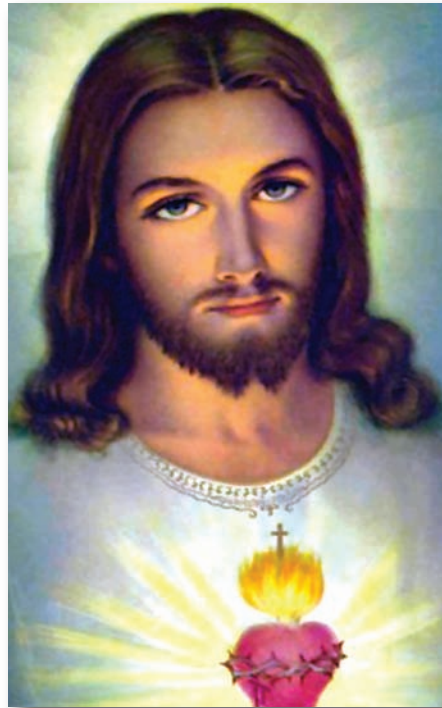
Because His consideration of us has always been, Jesus understands any wounds we carry from our past and how we are living our life because of these wounds. If we are having difficulty as a reaction to woundedness, Our Lord is compassionate and seeks to heal us.

Jesus wants to heal us. Our healing is a process which Jesus undertakes personally. Jesus takes the project that is our healing very seriously. Yes, our emotional and spiritual healing is a deeply personal goal for Jesus.

Consider in silence that Jesus is with us now and has been with us for every single moment of our life. He has missed nothing. It is all there in His gaze. We must look at Jesus. We must return His gaze. What do we see in the eyes of our Savior?

There is complete acceptance and compassion in His gaze. We do not have to say one word. Jesus understands everything. His eyes are serious and filled with love for us.

Jesus does not condemn us. This does not come from our beloved Lord. Self



condemnation is planted by Our Lord's enemy, who does not want us to accept the Lord's love and heal and then grow in love, taking our intended role in the family of God.

Jesus extends His mercy with the hope that we will understand that in all truth the Lord takes delight in His people.

As the Lord walks through our time on earth with us, His experience of us changes as we change. During some periods, the heart of Jesus is safe with us because we are at peace as a child of God. At other times, there is rebellion and Jesus is hurt by our anger and sinfulness. Does He turn away from us when we hurt Him? Does His heart harden against us?

No.

Consider the love we have for a small child who misbehaves because he is overtired or over-stimulated or who has been hurt by a

sibling and who then strikes back in outrage. A parent sighs when a child retaliates against another because of anger. Often a parent must lift a kicking and screaming child into his arms and remove him from a situation that has gone wrong and that shows no hope for improvement. Jesus views our periods of sinfulness in this way. Because He has been with us through each experience, He knows why we behaved badly, if in fact we behaved badly. Our past sins are not viewed as isolated acts but as sins which are often understandable when connected to our pain. Jesus is not harsh. Jesus sees a bad phase for what it is and urges us out of these troubled times. Jesus forgets the past in the interest of the present and the future. We must give Jesus our past and let Him erase our mistakes so that we can rejoice in the present, where Jesus loves us completely.

We must offer ourselves as a safe place for God. Let God look at us and say, ***Yes, I can count on this apostle to help Me.*** Jesus offers us gifts of forgiveness and healing but we must accept these gifts. Let others continue on the path of rebellion and confusion. We will turn sharply now, at this moment, and walk into the Lord's heart completely, where there is mercy and healing. This is the only way for us if we desire heaven. Jesus will take us to His Father and say, ***Look, Father, there is love for Me on earth. I am welcome in the soul of this apostle.***

This is the right way for us. We must turn away from the world and its shame and walk with Jesus.

Eucharistic Days of Renewal

DVD of Justice EDR June 2009 – Ready for Release



DVDs of Anne's talks from the Eucharistic Day of Renewal in Justice, Illinois on June 24, 2009, are now available.

A great thing is happening. A truly exciting thing is happening.

As you know, Anne, a lay apostle, has traveled throughout the United States speaking at Eucharistic Days of Renewal. We have all been blessed by the powerful graces through the sacraments and the Holy Hours of Eucharistic Adoration at these events.

Most recently lay apostles have been bringing the graces and excitement of the apostolate to others by organizing Eucharistic events of renewal in their parishes.

Some, with the permission of their bishop, have chosen to show videos of Anne's most recent talks. Lay apostles report that these days are powerful; that Jesus is very generous.

We are happy to announce that Anne's talks from her latest trip to America in June 2009 are now available.

This DVD set contains three talks given by Anne, a lay apostle.



In Talk One Anne speaks about how this mission began. She then tells us, in a nutshell, what Jesus is saying in the writings of this mission.

In Talk Two Anne explores the goal of unity that Jesus has for each us, with Him and in our vocations. She explores the various vocations and how we must evaluate ourselves in light of the goals Jesus has for us in our vocations.

In Talk Three, Anne answers questions lay apostles have posed and then talks about the reality she is seeing in the apostolate worldwide which is that Jesus is revealing His call to service directly to lay apostles. He is giving people jobs to assist in spreading this worldwide mission of mercy.

To purchase a copy of this DVD please call the office or go to our website:
www.directionforourtimes.org



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Mission Information Packet Available

DFOT makes available free information for the 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.



Faith Matters

Faith, Hope, Love, and a lot of Self-Examination

By Nora McCarthy, Youth Coordinator

Possessing a true, honest faith seems like a lot of work sometimes. Not only is it something that we have to strive for on our own, it is also something that we have to look to God to give us. Maybe this is where the difficulty comes in, we forget to do one or the other.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that “The gift of faith remains in one who has not sinned against it. But “faith apart from works is dead” When it is deprived of hope and love, faith does not fully unite the believer to Christ and does not make him a living member of his Body. (1815)”

Faith, hope, and love are three virtues that do not exist in the absence of one another. While these three virtues are gifts from God and He probably wants to give them to us, we are also obligated to search out parts of ourselves that are not open to these gifts. Maybe something has happened in our life that makes it hard for us to fully grasp one of these virtues. Maybe we have been hurt by another person, maybe someone in our life has let us down. We have all experienced these hurts at some point. Our brokenness sometimes makes it difficult for us to have faith in God. We see bad things happen to good people and it becomes hard to fully understand God's plan.

I guess at those times, we have to ask God for either forgiveness or understanding. These things usually don't happen in a flash, but over time. And I know that we should be asking for them. It can seem impossible to forgive a betrayal and it can seem in tragedy that there could not be a good plan in the face of it. But with steady prayer, I have seen God send these things.

Faith, hope and love are gifts that are available to every single one of us. They are gifts that will most certainly be given to us, as long as we take the time to ask for them and then accept them when they are sent to us.