

DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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



The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King is a new movement in the Catholic Church. This movement calls people 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 people accepting their call to both personal holiness and service in the Church.



Mercy

By Anne, a lay apostle

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God's greatest attribute is His mercy. Jesus said through St. Faustina, "My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity" (*Diary* 699). That is how great is God's mercy.

Mercy is not something that God uses sparingly. God gives and gives and gives. He experiences a craving. Jesus experiences a desire to give us mercy and to spread mercy.

How is God merciful to us? He forgives us readily and completely. He seeks us out when we are at our worst. At those times, Jesus doesn't lead with condemnation or judgment. He leads with love. He foregoes His just anger in favor of compassion. Truly, Jesus desires to suffer with us. Jesus respects our freedom but He always draws us to contrition and to reconciliation. The Lord is always drawing us closer to Himself.

Jesus never looks down on us. He never ridicules us, especially when we're struggling. He never writes us off as a lost cause because we are either too stubborn or defiant in our sins, or because we are not making any headway. Jesus has constant hope that we'll make progress. He has constant hope that we'll turn to Him more and more completely.

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*Dedicated to
Mary, Queen
of Apostles*



Direction for Our Times

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News of the Mission

The rescue mission continues to spread throughout the world, using the e

Participate in Monthly Lay Apostle Prayer Group Meetings in Ireland without Leaving Home

Anne is regularly scheduled to speak at the Lay Apostle Prayer Group Meeting, held on the first Thursday of each month at St. Anne's Church in Bailieborough, Ireland. There are two ways to participate in the event: either view it live or listen to an audio CD online or on disc.

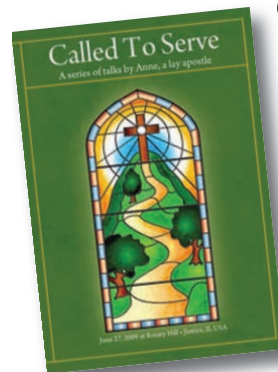
Live Viewing

On February 4th, Direction for Our Times used new technology to offer live viewing of the Prayer Group Meeting. Worldwide viewing was possible by accessing our website at:

<http://directionforourtimes.org/liveBroadcast.html>

We plan on offering this opportunity monthly. In Ireland, the evening begins at 8:00 p.m.

We recognize there are still some technological hurdles to overcome, and hopefully our new system has done so.



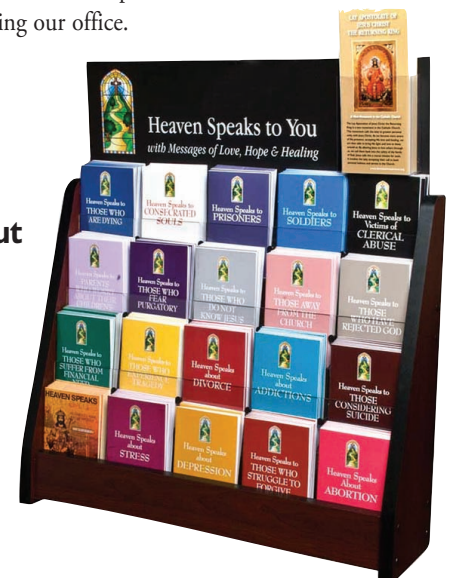
Our latest DVD – *Called to Serve*

On June 27, 2009, over a thousand people assembled at Rosary Hill in Justice, Illinois to hear Anne talk about the worldwide renewal that Jesus Christ wills for His people. Anne's three talks focus on Jesus' call to service. This series of talks can be used for your own spiritual edification, as well as at prayer groups or in larger audiences such as parish events.

Called to Serve is available for purchase from our online store or by calling our office.

"Heaven Speaks" Booklets are invitations to the mission ... send out your invitations!

In our last newsletter, we shared the story of one lay apostle's dream of bringing the "Heaven Speaks" Booklets to parishes across the country. His dream is becoming a reality! The new "Heaven Speaks" Display Cases, stocked with each of the booklets, are ready to be shipped to your parish. Please see page 15 for details on these booklets.



Upcoming Events

the energy of our lay apostles as well as new opportunities in technology.

Monthly Message and Monthly Talks on CD

In February 2008, Direction for Our Times began recording Anne's Lay Apostle Prayer Group Meeting at the St. Anne's Prayer Group and making them available in CD format. Two more CDs are now available:



CD No. 7 includes the Monthly Message for July 2009 and August 2009 as well as the Monthly Message and talk for September 2009. In September's talk, Anne describes different models of the Church and how the "Heaven Speaks" booklets can be used as effective tools to communicate God's unconditional love.

CD No. 8 includes the Monthly Message and talks for October, November and December of 2009. The October talk explains 'Whispers from the Cross' and how transforming ourselves will draw others back to the Church. In November, Anne helps us deal with loneliness, and in December, we are encouraged to look ahead and find ways of recovering from the negativity of the clergy abuse scandal.

These CDs are available for purchase from our online store or by calling our office. You can also listen to them for free online at:

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

Looking Ahead in CD Format

On December 3, 2009, Anne tackled the difficult subject of clerical sexual abuse with clarity and compassion, giving lay apostles around the world a way to approach others who might be struggling to maintain their trust in the Catholic Church and its leaders. We are making this important talk available as a separate CD at a reduced cost.

It is available for purchase from our online store or by calling our office. You can also listen to it for free at:

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

Heavenly Healing

In 2008, lay apostle Bonnie Shoemaker began to record testimonies from lay apostles throughout the world who have shared on how this apostolate has had an impact on their lives. This project gave birth to the book *Heavenly Healing, Testimonies of Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King*. This book is published by CMJ Marian Publishers and can be purchased on our website or directly from CMJ Marian Publishers at 708-636-2995.



Eucharistic Days of Renewal in Parishes

Most Holy Rosary Church

May 8, 2010

Maine, New York

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Cecilia Catholic Church

May 8, 2010

Ames, Iowa

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Family Retreats

May 29-31 & September 3-5, 2010

Circle Lake Retreat Center

Pinehurst, Texas

Host Family: Scott and Gina

Bergeron, lay apostles. For more

information call the Bergerons at

281-392-1342. (See p. 5 for details)

Direction for Our Times

Website Under Construction

Well, it is time for a change. We will be working on re-designing our website in the next few months to make it user-friendly and informative. If you have any suggestions on enhancements that would make it easier for you to keep up-to-date on what is happening in the mission, or ideas on ways we can make it easier to share the good news of the apostolate with others, please email Jane Gomulka at: gomulkajane@aol.com

www.directionforourtimes.org

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God's greatest attribute is His mercy.

Yes, this is how Jesus treats us and this is what we have grown to rely on. And it is this merciful Christ that gives us the courage to go on, hoping that we'll make advances in holiness.

That is how Jesus treats us. Now, as lay apostles, we have to consider the following. How do we treat others? We've made a commitment, as lay apostles to treat others with the Lord's patience and kindness. It is so important to Jesus that we do this, that He made it one of our guidelines. It is our fifth lay apostle guideline, and it is arguably the most difficult.

We can get to Confession. We can get to a prayer group. We can comply with the other guidelines, but to show mercy to others around us? That takes some work.

If the renewal is to be successful, and it will be because God has said it will be, you and I have to bring mercy to others.

God's mercy will not change. It is perfect. There is no need for change. But you and I can grow in the mercy we bring to others. We need to change. Yes, the call is for *us* to change.

Let's examine this. How do we bring mercy?

Do we forgive readily and completely? Are we open to reconciliation with those who have hurt us in the past? Do we offer prayers for others when they reject our reconciliation? Do we lead with love to those around us and not condemnation and never judgment? Do we work to control our anger in favor of gentleness? Do we limit sarcasm and unkind jokes? Do we harbor constant hope for those around us, and not give up on people because they don't live the way we live?

It is a temptation to say, 'Well, there is no real hope for this person, he is too involved in sin.' That is not the way *Jesus* views anyone. Jesus views everybody as a potential saint. And

Jesus has the greatest hopes. Many of the greatest saints were drawn from terrific sinfulness.

These are high standards. It would be too big a job to take on if, indeed, we were called to change and become this way all by ourselves. But, we are not. The Lord has promised that He will help us to do this.

Now, St. Therese said that what pleases God most is our acceptance of our weaknesses. Why is this? I think that if we can accept our own weaknesses, even if silently in our own heart, we can then accept the weaknesses of other people and treat them with mercy.

One of the things that I think is most damaging, and prevalent, is sarcasm. Sarcasm can be habit-forming. It is a way of being angry and not taking responsibility for it. We need to say what we mean and mean what we say in all love and gentleness. And we need to eliminate sarcasm.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

December 1, 2009

Jesus

My dear apostle, you must remember that we are not separated. Sometimes, in your weariness, you pray and seek understanding of the situations in your life. When you do this, please remember that I am with you. You are not separated from Me when your thoughts seek to provide you with answers. If you remind yourself that I am not separate from you, you will search for truth more calmly and with more confidence that there is an answer to your many dilemmas. Please do not concern

yourself if you are distracted in prayer. Use these times of distraction to talk to Me. Tell Me what is distracting you and we will talk about it together. We are together, after all, so I am there. If a certain pattern of sin is troubling you, ask Me how I feel about it. Ask for My observations. You, My beloved apostle, are a student of Me and how I treated others. Because of your desire to know Me, you have a familiarity with My heart that others lack. I will give you the answers you seek, both in terms of your spiritual condition and in terms of the holiest way to conduct yourself in each situation you confront. We are not separate. We are together. Worries of major proportion would only be problematic for you if you were being asked to assure a holy outcome alone

or if you were being asked to travel through the period without Me. I promise you that I will be with you and that the outcomes occurring around you will be consistent with My will. I cannot promise you that in your humanity you will always rejoice in My will, especially when there is pain. But I can promise you that the greatest amount of mercy will be obtained through your commitment to remaining with Me, united in the life that is yours. All is well. I am with you. I will be generous to My beloved apostles in this holy time of Advent. Be acutely aware of My presence. When you look at all around you, look with My eyes. This will give you the understanding that will insure peace for you. All is well. The infant returns through your heart, as the King.

We are called to treat others with the Lord's patience and kindness particularly in our families and in our work relationships, the people closest to us. This is where we'll be the most tempted.

Consider: Was Jesus ever sarcastic? No. He might have teased in a loving manner, but there is no evidence that He spoke sarcastically. Now, can anyone here even *imagine* the Blessed Mother using sarcasm? No. So our two best examples of human beings, notwithstanding the Lord's divinity, did not use sarcasm. Why not? I think it is because if the goal is love, sarcasm does not work. If the goal is love, sarcasm is a pointless exercise and it is damaging.

There are times when relationships are so damaged, and damaging, that we can not continue in them. This happens. We can still be merciful and protect ourselves. The way we do that is to pray for the people we can not be around. The other thing we can do in those situations is to say to ourselves, 'Look, I don't know everything about what that other person has suffered. I don't know what that person believes. I don't know why they behave that way. I don't have to know. I can forgive them, keep my distance and practice mercy by praying for them.'

I think that when we do this for other people, when we act mercifully, they are positively affected, even if from a distance. And, if we are merciful to those around us, they behave that little bit better to those around them. It does spread out. This is the beautiful Christian ripple effect. This is what the Lord is asking from us.



Family Weekend Retreats Circle Lake Retreat Center, Pinehurst, Texas

For families seeking 'direction for our times' with Heaven as the ultimate destination.
Fun, fellowship, worship, and relaxation for the whole family while discovering how God is calling your family to serve in everyday life and beyond.

Available Dates

Memorial Day Weekend, May 29-31, 2010 *and*
Labor Day Weekend, September 3-5, 2010

Weekend Highlights

Spiritual Formation

- Adult and Teen Group Sessions:
*Based on the Catholic spirituality of
The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the
Returning King*
- Supervised Faith Activities for Kids

Praise & Worship

- Reconciliation
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Mass
- Living Rosary and Way of the Cross

Family Fun

- Family Games and Competitions
- Campfire with Music and S'mores
- Free Time: Canoes, Paddle Boats,
Fishing, Nature Trails, Swimming Pools,
and Playgrounds

Time

Check in: Friday, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Start: Friday, 7:00 pm
Check out: Sunday, 12:00 pm

Cost

- \$275 for the weekend per family
*Cost includes furnished house and
3 meals*
- \$150 deposit required

For Information Contact

Host Family: Scott and Gina Bergeron
281-392-1342
email: srbergeron@aol.com

Direction for Our Times
708-496-9300
www.directionforourtimes.com

Circle Lake Retreat Center
218-356-6764
www.circlelakeretreat.org

Spreading His Love

By Crystal Sullivan

The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King continues to spread the more and more souls throughout the world. In 2010, four Eucharistic events



Anne and Fr. Drew Woods, at the Heart of Worship at St. Laurence Parish in Sugarland, Texas.



A packed church enjoys Praise and Worship provided by the Life Teen group.

On January 16th, a beautiful day of prayer and inspiring talks was held in the hall of the Westminster Catholic Cathedral in London. Anne took the opportunity to help clarify what it means to be a lay apostle living in the world. She emphasized the importance of serving Christ through our vocations, whether we are single, married or religious. All present were inspired to live out their Baptismal call to be His apostles. As Anne said, “Everyone who really loves Jesus starts working to bring other people to Him, because we begin to realize the great truth that the relationship between Jesus Christ and each person is unrepeatable. Jesus loves you. He wants you to be close to Him. He has so much He want to give each one of you.”

One month later, Anne was the guest speaker at the St. Laurence parish “Heart of Worship”. On February 13, over 1,500 people were assembled to hear Anne speak about Christ’s love for His people. In addition, Father Darragh Connolly held a break-out session on how living the guidelines of the apostolate can help a person find peace and calm; Nora McCarthy gave an energizing video presentation and witness to the teens; and Kevin and Crystal Sullivan shared the joys of living in a sacramental marriage. Kay Quenan, the lay apostle who served as the liaison with the parish to help organize the event, summarized things a few days later: “Many have told me that the talks were so calming and helpful to them in reevaluating how busy and harried their lives have been. This was just what we all needed to hear! Anne ‘knocked the roof off’ of St. Laurence! Every word she speaks is truth, and her testimony is so powerful.”

A Big 'Thank you'

By Mary Moss, lay apostle, London, England

e messages from heaven to
s have already taken place.



Nine year old Anna Grace Clephane welcomed all for the Eucharistic Day of Renewal at St. Patrick Shrine in Taylor Mill, Kentucky.

On February 14, Anne traveled to St. Patrick Shrine in Taylor Mill, Kentucky to participate in an afternoon of prayer. It seemed appropriate that on Valentine's Day, a day normally associated with the celebration of love, Anne would speak about the great love Jesus has for all of us. She reminded those present that "Jesus craves love from each of us. Jesus craves love from YOU. The relationship, the place in His heart where you belong, cannot be filled by anybody else." Anne explained that to understand this love, we must spend time at the foot of the Cross and allow Him to reveal Himself to us. We will see that He has carried the crosses we carry, whatever they are. "If you want to console Jesus in His anguish, it will always be about loving those near you. That's the renewal. People are attracted by love."



How happy and privileged was I to be at this wonderful day of renewal at Westminster Cathedral Hall in London on January 16th. It was not without all the usual 'frustration' of getting there, but upon arriving in somewhat of a 'tizz' and hungry, the lady to my right offered me tea and the lady to my left offered me chicken sandwiches, so I was well taken care of from the start! After settling down, ready to listen, what a treat was in store.

Now, it is just a great thing to know and to be so clearly told that God is working very much in our lives. Whatever 'our situation' we are not alone. Anne explained all of this to us so simply, it was easy to understand and in our heart of hearts we just knew that what she was saying was true. After all, why wouldn't Jesus and Our Lady be concerned about us, about our problems in life, and why wouldn't they be only too ready and indeed delighted to help us?

I pray for more faith, to be more open to the Holy Spirit and that in time we all may become the holy saints that God created us to be. I look forward to heaven and meeting all the family of God. Praise God that through Jesus, again, we are being given such hope and practical advice until that day comes.

It was really great to be with like-minded people, in a safe environment where we could listen and pray for each other. By doing this, we encourage and affirm one another.

I do believe that on these days we do receive an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. That we are given sacramental graces to go out into the world and carry out our duties and responsibilities in life, with renewed joy, hope and sense of purpose, or should that be 'sense of direction'.

In conclusion, I send a big 'Thank you' to Anne and her great team who worked so hard to facilitate the day. And, I send a big 'Thank you' to Jesus and Mary for their care and direction.



Heaven Speaks to THOSE WHO FEAR PURGATORY

December 21, 2006

Jesus

My beloved children harbor many fears. This is understandable. The fears of one can be transmitted to another and this is not good. During this time, fear

spreads through the world quickly, almost instantaneously, through the media. Perhaps you rise on each day and look out and see that the sun is shining. It is a good moment for you. I am with you, you are fed, and My sun is shining. But this is not enough. You look to see what is happening in other parts of the world. Through communications that are often unnecessary for you, you learn that there is war, disaster and famine. You look out again but the joy you had taken in the sunshine is gone. How can you feel joy when in another place there is war, disaster and famine? You fear immediately that these things will come to you.

I want you to be aware of the needs of others and if a cross comes to you, I want you to carry it with dignity. But I want you to remain in your life, paying attention to your tasks. My friends, few are serving in the area where I have placed them. They are isolating themselves, listening to events from everywhere else in the world. In the meantime, events in their own areas pass unheeded and untended. It is true that I will use communications to further My renewal. I will use everything I can to save souls. But I want less time given over to the consideration of the crosses and challenges of others and more time given over to the crosses and challenges in front of each one of My children. My enemy is using these communications to inflate the fears of My children. Fear is not from Me. Because there is disaster in one area does not mean that you are assured of disaster in your area. Children, listen to Me. It is good to sympathize with others through constant prayer and concrete assistance. It is not good to be inundated with images of disaster. This is not from Me. In each situation of upheaval, there are holy men and women acting as apostles and helping Me. They are becoming saints through these situations. My angels are present, as well as My saints. I am present. I am sustaining many and reaping a harvest for heaven in every event that occurs in your world. When each soul completes his time on earth and comes to Me, there is justice. You do not see this on your televisions. You do not read this in your newspapers. I am barely represented in these communications so you must not look to these communications for truth. Look to Me, in prayer, and there you will find truth.

I make reference now to the fear harbored by many that they will suffer unbearably in purgatory. My friends, you see unjust and seemingly unbearable suffering on earth and you are fearful. You then transfer this fear to Me because if injustice is allowed on earth, surely injustice is allowed in the heavenly Kingdom. This is simply not true. There will be no injustice here and you will not suffer physical pain in purgatory.

Perhaps this does not comfort you. Perhaps you understand how sinfully you have behaved and you fear just punishment. If you feel this way, you have not spent enough time resting in My companionship. You do not know Me. You do not understand heaven or its many Kingdoms. I do not hold this against you. It is for this reason I am giving you these words. Do not be afraid of the process of purification that awaits some of you after your death and before your entrance into heaven. There is nothing to fear. You will find that I am all compassion and mercy. I do not seek to condemn you, but to save you. I am your friend and I love you. Even if you are not My friend now, at this time, I have hope that you will change your mind and become My friend later, at the time of your death. A friend does not prepare pain for a loved one coming in from a long journey. A friend prepares a time of recovery if it is necessary and that is what I have prepared for you. Think of time in purgatory as time for recovery. You will recover and grow in purgatory if, together, you and I find that you need this. I will take care of you always.

St. Andrew

God's friends in the world have a certain amount of trust in Him. There is not enough trust in Him, it is true, because there is really no way for a soul on earth to fully understand the Godhead and what flows from Him. But the small amount of trust that souls on earth have for God is well placed and benefits each person immensely. Truly, a life lived one way would be lived in a completely different way if a person allowed heaven to place greater trust in his soul. I am telling you this today because I look at you and I want you to live differently. Your life can be altered if you trust God. You will bring far more souls to the Father if you trust God. Yes, it is all about trust. Many say they trust God but then they fear purgatory. I am not trying to catch you in something. I am trying to reveal to you a possible discrepancy in what you say and what you feel. It is good to identify this discrepancy, if it exists, in order to correct it. If you follow God, you do so because it is the right thing to do. You are wise. I tell you today that it is the right thing to do because God is good. God is all love and love generates, by its nature, mercy. It can do no less. A loving heart is a soft heart. A loving heart is also a wise heart

and in its wisdom the wise heart understands what is best for the recipient of perfect love. In this great love and wisdom, God allowed for repentance. He did not have to do this. He did not even have to create us and when you get to heaven you will understand how good our God is and how infinite is His love. But God, in His love, did create us and allowed for a life for each of us. God understands our weakness and delights in the process of perfection that we embark upon through fidelity to Him. God's expectations are realistic and compassionate. God expects that we will experience our weaknesses and God understands that at times we may travel down paths that lead away from Him. God could have said, "You cannot be admitted to heaven unless you become perfect on earth." He could have said this, my friends. He is God. But He did not. He said, instead, "I will allow for the imperfections of My beloved created ones. I will help them by allowing them, if necessary, to complete this process of purification in the safety of My Kingdom."

Purgatory is another extension of God's generosity. You will be safe there. In considering this as a possibility, you must rejoice. Fear of purgatory is unnecessary and inappropriate.

St. Andrew

Do you know people who believe that God exists but who persist in living for themselves and for their physical appetites? Of course you do. There are many like this. These people believe in God and they believe God is good. These people are not bad people. They do not rejoice in evil. I am referring here to a person who is on the side of goodness but who could not be bothered working very hard for that side. He leaves the work to others, perhaps even admiring and applauding their efforts. In the worst cases, he actually ridicules and impedes those who serve God.

What would be just for this person? Let us consider.

Because there is little self-sacrifice, there is little growth. Eventually, this life ends and this person meets Jesus. This person has more failures in love than successes. There are many moments of failure in this life because when the Lord needed this one to say "no" to self and "yes" to God, this person refused and decided for his personal enjoyment. There is time squandered and love squandered. In meeting Jesus and being exposed to the Lord's pure, total, selfless love, how do you think this person feels? Pause for a moment and think about this.

Now, my friends, I have just described purgatory for you.

Is it just and merciful that this person be allowed to see his life and his failures, as well as his successes? Is it helpful to this person, in terms of healing? Will each person benefit from the truth? My friends, in order for this person to enjoy heaven and be comfortable in heaven, he must at the very least understand heaven. Unless the person examines himself honestly and repents, he will not be in a condition to grow. Time in purgatory allows for this understanding and this growth. This person will examine his failures so that he can understand what would have been the holy response. Then, this person will come to terms with the fact that he rejected God's will and he will accept himself and forgive himself. After that, he will be with others who have been purified in the same way and he will experience

fellowship, learning about tolerance and acceptance of the pain of others. Shortly after that, this person will be at complete peace with himself and the life he lived and he will come to heaven, experiencing unity with Jesus and community with the saints.

Do not fear purgatory. It would be like fearing medicine that could immediately alleviate pain. You would not fear such a medicine. You would take it with the greatest eagerness and thank God for it. Think of purgatory in the same way.

St. Andrew

Because Jesus needs to spread joy, He is giving joy in great abundance to those who accept Him. Jesus wants to give you this joy. Fear of death and what comes after death takes away from the joy that Christ wants to give you. Ask Jesus to remove any fear of purgatory that you are experiencing. Look ahead to your death and your life after death with confidence and rejoicing. If you do not feel this, ask for it. I will pray for you and help you. Together, you and I will ask God to remove your fears and replace them with the greatest trust in God's mercy. When you accept this and believe it, you will rejoice and you will begin to spread God's mercy because you will be unable to contain such good news in your own heart. It would be like knowing there is a wonderful surprise coming for your family. How difficult it would be to keep that wonderful surprise to yourself, particularly if you saw others downhearted and anxious. You will share God's mercy if you allow God's mercy to penetrate your heart. Confess your sins and repent of them and do not be afraid of God or anything that comes from God. Again, I will help you.

Blessed Mother

My poor little children are encouraged to be anxious and fearful. This is not from heaven, my beloved ones. This is from heaven's enemy. Do not be afraid. Bring your fears to me and I will help you to step away from these fears. I love you so much and I see so clearly how the enemy seeks to fill you with fear. If you get to know Jesus, your fears will recede and recede again, and soon you will be unable to remember what it was that created such fear and anxiety in you. Jesus is the answer and the remedy for all fear. With regard to fear of purgatory, I must say that you will not be abandoned in purgatory. Your remorse will feel good to you because it will be founded in truth. The truth of purgatory will fill you with relief. This world promotes what is not true. In other words this world promotes deception and distraction. In purgatory you will experience the greatest relief at knowing the truth and knowing that you will never again be deceived or uncertain. My little children, because you do not understand the depth of the deception in this world, you cannot understand the depth of the relief you will feel in the next world. Trust your mother who never leads her children astray. If you require time in purgatory, you will be grateful to be there and you will experience the most profound gratitude to God for seeing to your needs in such a merciful way. Peace, little children. I am with you.

I wonder what Jesus wants me to do?

By Jane Gmulka

In October 2006 Justin Sofio was a freshman student at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Anne, a lay apostle was scheduled to give a talk and participate in a Holy Hour at the chapel on campus. Justin knew nothing about Anne, her writings or the lay apostolate, but a friend invited him to go to the talk. He went to the talk and thought to himself, "This is something my Mom would probably like." He picked up a Newsletter and some materials on the way out and gave them to his mother.

In the fall of 2008, Justin left the USA to study abroad in Gaming Austria, the Austrian campus run by the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Justin's friend, Bob, who had just read Volume One, decided to visit the Holy Trinity Abbey located in Kilnacrott, Ireland on his way to Gaming Austria. Having been newly introduced to the messages, Bob left inspired to share these words. When he arrived in Gaming he gave Volume One to Justin and told him a little about the messages. After reading Volume One, Justin became very open to the messages and noticed that in the Adoration Chapel were Volumes Six and Seven. So he continued to read.

Justin and Bob traveled many weekends together throughout Europe reading and discussing the Volumes. The two of them spent many long train rides talking about the graces they were experiencing as a result of their contact with the Volumes and sharing this new excitement with fellow students.

"As a result of reading the Volumes, many things for me changed. My spirituality with Christ became much more intimate and I began to understand that Jesus is with me always. I think for the first time in my life I started to have conversational prayer with Christ. Instead of repetitive prayer I began to speak with Jesus as if He was right in front of me. In reality, He is even closer than that. This caused me to grow in my relationship with



Servants of the Returning King host an Awareness Table at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Jesus because I felt I could speak with Him and that He was listening. I know that I experienced a lot of healing as a result of reading the Volumes. The healing was parallel to my relationship with Christ in that healing occurred as I became more open to Jesus and my relationship with Him. Most people are hurt emotionally through relationships, but it is also through relationships that we are healed. I can't tell you what exactly I was healed from, only that I was indeed healed. Jesus does all the work."

Justin headed back home to America in late December 2008.

In June 2009, Anne was scheduled to come to Chicago for a Eucharistic Day of Renewal. Justin and Bob met there and soaked in the two days of talks and prayer. One theme stuck out in Justin's mind as he left the retreat. Anne had said that Jesus, Himself, is telling people what He needs for them to do for the renewal. Justin thought to himself, "I wonder what it is that Jesus wants me to do?"

Justin and Bob met the staff coordinating the retreat in Chicago. They spoke with two of the young men who worked in the apostolate and were discerning the priesthood. Through a series of coincidences, Justin met Anne and spoke to her briefly. He spent the rest of the summer wondering what job Jesus wanted to give him.

In September Justin headed back to Steubenville for his senior year. As he started the year he thought to himself that perhaps Jesus wants lay apostles working to spread this apostolate on the campus at school. Justin got to work. He called a few people he knew that were familiar with the writings and it all began. That was five months ago.

Now, there is a group recognized by the school called Servants of the Returning King. The group is officially chartered by the university and has the following mission statement:

The mission of Servants of the Returning King is to take part in the rescue mission for

souls; to spread the good news that Jesus is returning. This is done by promoting the words of Jesus to all students on campus and citizens in the local community. We hope to bring the words of Jesus to others that they may know peace and joy in their lives and have a conversion of heart to prepare for His return. Ministry on campus will consist of Holy Hours, individual outreach of each member to other students, club outreach to students, and sponsoring speakers, as well as off-campus prison ministry.

Membership is open to anyone willing to give their “yes” to Jesus by allowing Him to work through them bringing graces into the world.

I asked Justin for an update on their group. “Currently we have two monthly meeting prayer groups. Also, one of our members of the club, Laura Chance, who got into the Volumes last semester, is leading an effort to bring a mission team down to Chile. We’ve ordered a bunch of the “Heaven Speaks” booklets and Volumes in Spanish for her to coordinate bringing down.

“Also, one of my friends left for Haiti about a week before the earthquake hit to live down there and help out with an orphanage. I gave her some Volumes and Heaven Speaks booklets. Truly God is leading people to spread these words everywhere.”

“As a group we decided to host bake sales on campus – to raise money to buy more booklets to distribute – and do Awareness tables that introduce the Returning King and the rescue mission to other students. We set up a table that has a large image of Jesus Christ the Returning King. The beauty and uniqueness of the image attracts students. They will stop and ask about the image of Christ and it opens up lots of discussion.

“This past fall we invited Fr. Darragh Connolly and Nora McCarthy from Re-Charge

“Amen!” ... “Thank you Jesus!” ... “Praise the Lord!” These were a few of the responses that came from students upon hearing that Anne would be coming to Steubenville, Ohio to speak. Monsignor Jerry, the pastor of Holy Family parish, where Anne would be speaking, delivered the good news on a Sunday morning. By that afternoon, word had spread and people were excited.

As Jesus has promised, He is with us always; and He certainly was that night. As students we were confident that Jesus would be able to use each of us in many different ways to further His work.

The evening was beautiful and consisted of a talk given by Anne, followed by a Holy Hour. Holy Family parish was packed with a high number of students in attendance, as well as locals and some who had traveled great distances. One of the first things Anne said was “Heaven has assembled us.” This point makes a lot of sense because we were not there simply to hear Anne speak. Rather, we were there because heaven wanted us there. Part of our “yes” that day was to show up and hear the message Jesus had for us. Whether the message for each of us was through Anne, or spoken in our hearts at the Holy Hour, it was from the Lord and moved each of us deeply.

In speaking with different students about the evening, I got a sense of the amount of inspiration and grace that was bestowed on those present. One student described being “inspired to a deepening of the conviction of the messages, and that Jesus wants to use me now, where I am.”

During the talk, Anne hit on a point that really struck a chord with many of the young people present. She said that Jesus wants us to work for Him now, even though we may be single and not married or religious, there is so much we can do to work for the church and to build up the kingdom of Heaven.

One of the many blessings that came out of the evening was all the people who were just being introduced to the Rescue Mission who had not been involved before. This was a joy to witness and further affirmed the renewal that is taking place within our Church. May God continue to use our “yes” to further his mission and transform this world to align with His will.

– Justin Sofio

to lead an evening talk and provide information about the apostolate which inspired a whole new bunch of students to join our group.

“This January, twelve of us from the club went to the March for Life in Washington D.C. and spent two days passing out the “Heaven Speaks about Abortion” and “Heaven Speaks to Young Adults” booklets. It was an amazing trip.

“Our biggest undertaking so far has been to invite Anne back to campus to give another talk and have another Holy Hour. When Anne came to Holy Family Church in Steubenville, it was packed with residents of the parish and a couple hundred students from the university.

“She talked a lot about living out our vocations with Christ. She talked especially about the role of young people in the Church. She really struck a chord for many of us when she said, ‘There is an idea of vocation that if you are not married or you are not called to be a priest or you are not called to be a religious sister, you are just killing time till something happens. That’s not the truth. The single vocation in the Church is very important to the Church and if you are single God needs you to serve.’

For more information on the Servants of the Returning King at Franciscan University of Steubenville, please contact Justin at jsofio87@gmail.com.

An Encounter with the Forgiving Christ

By Anne, a lay apostle

As lay apostles we know Jesus is calling us to a high level of holiness. This is not new. It has always been this way for God's children. But our commitment to Jesus Christ in the lay apostolate means that we are serious about growing in holiness. Jesus says, ***"If you are not increasing in holiness, My dear apostle, it is because you are not allowing Me to direct you ... 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."*** (MM July 1, 2008)

Jesus wants us to change. He wants us to shed old habits and put on holiness. Well, part

of the way that Jesus helps us to do this is through our monthly Confession.

Confession is a meeting, an encounter with the forgiving Christ. Confession, to me, is wonderfully reminiscent of the experiences the Lord allowed me to have in purgatory.

People in purgatory were beautiful in their desire for goodness. They were beautiful in their remorse and humility. If we desire goodness, if we are remorseful when we sin and if we have humility, we will be beautiful.

People in purgatory had no interest in the opinions of others about their holiness. We must have no interest in what others think about us.

People in purgatory were bathed in truth

and if we learn to examine our consciences honestly, we also will be bathed in God's truth.

The Sacrament of Penance to me, like purgatory, is God at His most merciful. We look at ourselves truthfully and we examine the consequences of our selfishness and sinfulness. Imagine watching a scene of your sin with Jesus. Imagine Jesus listening to everything we have said in the past month. My friends, the pain of remorse can be excruciating. I don't often dwell on the pain of purgatory but I want to mention it now. I cannot really describe it but it is not just regret, it's also the pain of accepting what your actions did to others in each moment of sin.

If we do the work here, admitting to not just the sin but the impact of our sin on

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

January 1, 2010

Jesus

There are many different ways to communicate love. One of the ways that I communicate love to My apostles is through My constant presence. I am in each moment, in each day, offering you My heavenly companionship. I offer you a constant stream of love which heals and reassures, which steadies and directs. When allowed, I can help an apostle to adjust his viewpoint to My viewpoint, which is very different from the viewpoint of one who has either forgotten about My presence or rejected My companionship. With this viewpoint comes calm purpose. The

days flow past, one by one, and My will flows through each one of you who has accepted My presence. You do not see big changes at your hands. Perhaps you wonder if your cooperation is helpful at all. I assure you today that if you were to reject Me tomorrow, My kingdom would suffer. Without you, I would have one less home for My great love on earth. Each time I use you to love another, I feel gratitude. My gratitude is a force for change in the lives of those around you. You are gaining graces that only heaven can understand. Only heaven can see how an action of grace is stored in waiting. This grace surrounds each person you intercede for and at a moment when it is possible, meaning that heaven sees the opening, that grace is utilized to protect and advance the soul. Dear apostle, serving heaven so steadily, leave all of your difficulties to Me. Abandon yourself to My providence

completely. Serve with discipline in this moment and I will care for your loved ones. I am using you for the purpose of love and I want to use you even more fully. When you become discouraged, please sit with Me and I will help you to grasp the limited nature of your vision. Concentrate on My will for your day. Concentrate on remaining in the present, connected to your service in each moment. Avoid being trapped by the past and avoid being drawn into a future on earth which may not include you. You do not know when I will come for you. But I am with you now, as you read these words, and I have work for you today. Look, together with Me, at what I am asking of you and together we will be a successful force for love. I crave love from you. When you trust Me and reject fear, I am delighted. Calm, steady service is what I require from My beloved apostles who seek to serve Me. Be at peace. I am with you.

others, we have the opportunity to rectify, to make up for these actions and the impact of these actions. In purgatory, we cannot do that anymore. We can only pray for the people whose lives we impacted negatively.

I can best express my understanding of the value of examining ourselves while still on earth, by using an analogy.

Picture a very dark room. All the blinds are closed, the drapes are drawn and the doors are shut. It is very dark. It is hard to see what is in this room. Is it clean? Is it dirty and in need of attention? In the darkness, it is hard to know.

Not going to Confession, not examining the condition of your soul, is like standing in front of the door to your soul saying, "Trust me, Jesus, it's clean. There is no need to go in. Everything is just fine." But without any lights on, you can't really see the condition of your soul. Aiming for a high level of holiness means that we must have a high level of sensitivity to the darkness that is within us. We can gain victory over this darkness, but only with the help of Jesus Christ.

Now there are two ways to do this. One, we can try to accept God's truth over time during our life on earth and gradually and gently become holier. Or, two, we can do it all at once at the moment of our death.

Saving all of this for the moment of our death could be an abrupt, shocking experience. Imagine someone coming into this darkened room and all at once turning on big flood lights, pulling open the blinds, and throwing open the drapes, letting bright sunlight in. It could be messier than you think.

A priest named Fr. Seamus Mulvaney says that we go to Confession as much to *learn* our sins as to *confess* them. If we pray, the Holy Spirit will convict us in where we need to change and how we need to change. The Holy Spirit will heal us of our spiritual blindness.

This will be liberation for us. God intends that we do this during our life. If we do, we won't be compelled to face it after our death.

Perhaps if we look closely at the Ten Commandments we can bring our sensitivity to a higher level and evaluate what kind of condition we are in.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have false Gods before me.

Have I been selfish? Have I put anything or anyone before God? Have I put myself before God?

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.

Have I taken the name of the Lord in vain or misused it? Have I used other bad or vulgar language?

3. Keep holy the Sabbath Day.

Have I gone to Mass on every Sunday and Holy Day? Have I missed such Masses without a serious reason? Have I received Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin?

4. Honor your mother and father.

Have I given my parents due respect? Am I bearing grudges against them?

5. You shall not murder. (Most of us probably think we're okay here. But let's look closely.)

Have I lost my temper? Have I hurt others with my words or actions? Have I been cruel to others or mean to my children? Have I held a grudge against someone or hated them? Have I misused or abused alcohol or drugs? Have I driven recklessly? Have I had an abortion or helped someone else to have one? Have I taken a human life?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

Have I looked at bad films, magazines, books, pictures, or Internet web sites? Have I deliberately thought about impure things or looked on other persons impurely, as objects? Have I misused the gift of sexuality with myself? Have I conducted myself properly with the opposite sex? Have I committed adultery? Have I used contraception?

7. You shall not steal.

Have I taken anything that did not belong to me? Have I been dishonest at work? Have I been lazy or non productive?

8. You shall not lie or bear false witness against your neighbour.

Have I told lies? Have I committed perjury? Have I gossiped casually, or in a more serious vein?

9. and 10. You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse or goods.

Have I been obsessively jealous or envious of others about anything?

I think if we all look closely we'll find ourselves somewhere on that list. Are we doing this so that we can feel badly about ourselves? No. We are doing this so we can be honest with ourselves and view ourselves in God's holy truth. We are doing this so we can advance in holiness as Jesus asks us. We are doing this so that we never fall into a spirit of superiority and condemnation.

It can be tempting to say, "Well, compared to someone living outside of the Church, I'm doing pretty well." This reasoning will get you nowhere but the Land of Superiority, which is an ugly place to dwell. If you must compare, which you shouldn't, compare yourself to St. Francis of Assisi, or St. Therese of Lisieux, or our beautiful Blessed Mother, or Jesus Christ. Compare up, my friends.

March for Life 2010

By Justin Sofio, lay apostle

January 22, 2010 was the 37th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Being a student at Franciscan University, I was planning on going ... me, and over half of the campus here. School is canceled for the day and hundreds of students pack into the buses for the early morning drive to D.C. This is a great thing, but leaving at 3:00 a.m. is not something I find particularly attractive.

I knew I needed to go, but I still needed to figure out how I was going to get there and find a place to stay. My prayers were answered when Nora McCarthy, director of Re-Charge, brought up the idea of our club, Servants of the Returning King, going to pass out the booklets "Heaven Speaks to Young Adults" and "Heaven Speaks about Abortion."

In the past, Re-Charge has gone to the March, but this year they were not able to go. So myself and nine other lay apostles welcomed this opportunity. A total of ten of us loaded into the cars and drove down Thursday night.

Angels from heaven, direct our path!



NIEVES GONZALEZ IV

And they certainly did. Driving down we missed the rain storm and arrived safely at our hotel. That night we ran into a youth group from Connecticut staying at the same hotel. The youth leader knew two of the girls in our group so we got to talking. We filled her in on what we were doing and gave her "Heaven Speaks to Young Adults" booklets for her kids. She was very appreciative. Then she invited us to a Mass in the hotel the next morning. This was great! We had been trying to figure out how to get to Mass. *Thank You, Jesus!*

After Mass the next morning we headed out to the Verizon Center where we would be passing out the booklets. Splitting up into four groups, we covered all the entrances and were able to pass out 3,000 booklets to the young people on their way to the March. It was very successful.

At three different instances we had people who initially rejected the idea of taking a booklet and left. Two of them crossed the street and the third person walked down half a block before turning around and coming back for the booklet, asking us what it was we are passing out. We gladly explained. Heaven made it very clear that it was working with us, inspiring those who need the words of Jesus to turn around and get them.

The March itself was beautiful, with over 370,000 people there. Servants of the Returning King would like to personally thank the lay apostle who sponsored our group financially. He made our trip possible with his generosity. We also want to thank all those who offered up prayers for us.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

March 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear friends, you are making progress. I, the One who sees all, can mark progress in many ways which are not available to you. I can mark progress in terms of your holiness, which you will experience as a greater awareness of your flaws and weaknesses. I can mark progress in terms of the advancement of My plan, which I experience in an increased

longing for goodness in My children. I can mark progress in the commitment of more and more of My little apostles to the spread of My healing graces. I am pleased. Your time on earth will be used to the fullest possible extent, if only you will remain fixed on My presence in your day. So much depends on this awareness of Me. Your comfort in this time of change will largely depend on this and that is why I have come in the way that I have come and in the time that I have come. I prepare you, My friends, so that you can then prepare others. There is a groaning in My Church, a sigh of exertion as she pushes forward into a renewed period. You feel this

aching strain but you also feel the spark of My hope. Dear apostles, for what reason would I come to you in this way if not for a good reason? Why would I deluge My Church in grace if not to renew her? Please. I urge you to rejoice. I am the Messenger who brings salvation. You are the heralds of My salvation. Does a herald look downhearted and hopeless? Of course not. One who heralds the King's return stands with eyes alight, filled with anticipation and happiness. Be this for Me in this world where darkness is delivered by so many. Be heralds of the light, rejoicing, so that others may see their future.

Messages of Love, Hope and Healing

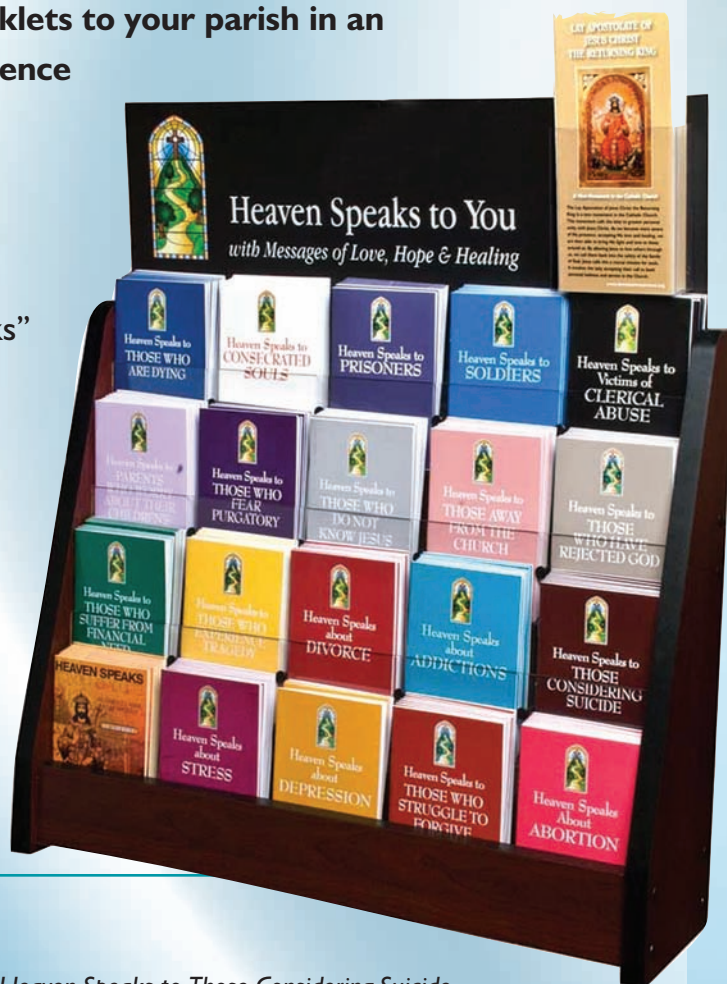
Bring the “Heaven Speaks” booklet series into your parish.

You can now offer the “Heaven Speaks” booklets to your parish in an attractive display, inviting everyone to experience the healing love of Jesus Christ.

Each display arrives with:

- Cherry Wood Display Case, designed for a counter top or wall mounting
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The display and initial inventory price is \$200 plus shipping. Reorder booklets are available for \$1.20 each.



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Heaven Speaks about Divorce

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Heaven Speaks to Soldiers

Heaven Speaks about Stress

Heaven Speaks to Young Adults

Heaven Speaks to Those Away from the Church

Heaven Speaks to Those Considering Suicide

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Do Not Know Jesus

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Are Dying

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Experience Tragedy

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Fear Purgatory

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To bring these booklets to your parish, please call the Direction for Our Times office at 708-496-9300.

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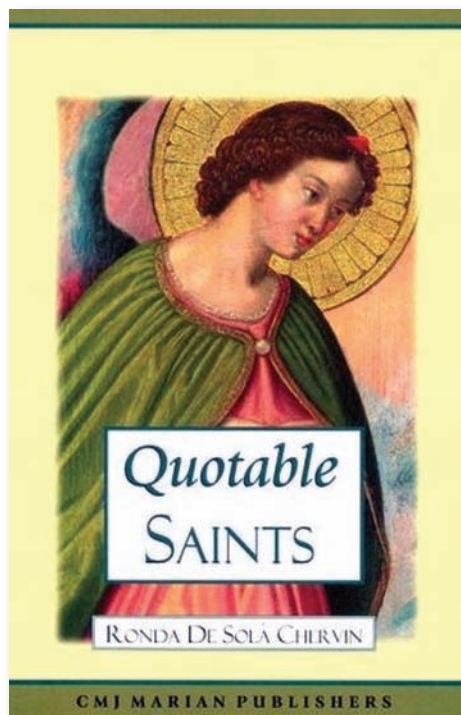
Mission Information Packet Available

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.

Quotable Saints

A Book Review by Anne, a lay apostle



I recently took a rest with Ronda Chervin's beautiful book called *Quotable Saints*.

Ronda's selection of jewels taken from the writings of our brothers and sisters who have gone before us is ideal for the struggles we face. This book was clearly a labor of love by Ronda and I consider it a well of encouragement. I have never failed to find comfort on opening it. Nobody will regret owning this little treasure and I highly recommend it.

"Do now, do now; what you will wish to have done when your moment comes to die."

– St. Angela Merici

"Never say to God: 'Enough'; simply say, 'I am ready.'"

– Blessed Sebastian Valfre

"It is a form of trade, you see. I ask God for souls and pay him by giving up everything else."

– St. John Bosco

Quotable Saints is published by CMJ Marian Publishers and can be purchased by calling 708-636-2995 or by visiting their website at www.cmjbooks.com.