



August 2010 • Issue 18

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.

Evangelizing as Lay Apostles

Taken from a talk given by Anne, a lay apostle

JESUS HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO US AS RETURNING KING.

Just as He prepares each one of us in our souls to meet Him, He also prepares the world. When will Jesus return? When is He coming back to us as King? We do not know. The early apostles did not know.



The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King is one of many apostolates charged with evangelizing for heaven during this time. Now there are some who will argue, probably with accuracy, that we evangelize in a difficult time and that the comparative affluence in the west has made the soil hard and unfavorable for the sowers. That is all the more reason why we have to be so faithful to our Catholic call to evangelize.

Consider two types of evangelization: direct and indirect. Indirect evangelization is the kind of evangelization where you are called to serve quietly in your home, perhaps caring for your family or perhaps suffering and carrying a cross of illness. A more direct evangelization is when you are called to be out in the world preaching the Gospel message.

Now, we are complimentary groups, both types, both necessary, both equally important, both beloved by Christ. And we definitely rely on each other.

In my life, as most likely in your life, there are times when I am called to be an indirect evangelist, as when I am sick or serving in my home, and there are times when I am called to be a more direct evangelist, as when I am working for Christ in the world. Either way, the Lord provides opportunities for sanctification. We will become holy working in both ways.

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*Dedicated to
Mary, Queen
of Apostles*



Direction for Our Times

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News of the Mission

Monthly Message and Monthly Talks

As announced in our last newsletter, Direction for Our Times records the Lay Apostle Prayer Group meeting held on the first Thursday of each month at St. Anne's Church in Bailieborough, Ireland. There are several ways to participate in the event: either view it live or watch an archived tape, both available on our website. In addition, an audio version of the monthly message and Anne's talk is available on our website for free downloading. If you prefer to purchase a CD so that you can listen to the talks on the go, these have been conveniently indexed by date as well as by the main topic of the talk.

Every quarter, a new CD is recorded and issued. A new CD is now available:

CD No. 9 includes the Monthly Message and talks for January, February and March of 2010. In her January talk, Anne encourages us to Christian living by delving into the topic, "Rejecting Cynicism." In February, she emphasizes the importance of establishing "The Vertical Relationship" with Christ. In March, Anne reminds us that our challenges and disappointments should be laid down with Jesus, "At the Foot of the Cross."



Heaven Speaks to Young Adults Now Recorded on CD

Imagine the voice of Jesus speaking these messages personally to you. Well, we have the next best thing. Jim Caveziel, who portrayed Jesus in The Passion of the Christ, has recorded the messages given to young adults as written in *Heaven Speaks to Young Adults*. We now have this CD available for purchase on our website for \$5.00. It makes a great gift for the graduates in your life, or teens who are unsure about their place in the Church. If you find it hard to get your teenagers to read a religious booklet, they may be more willing to listen to these messages recorded with beautiful clarity.

New Resource Catalog Now Available

We are pleased to announce that we have a new tool to assist you as you share this apostolate. Please go to our website to see a copy of our new Resource Catalog for Lay Apostles. This catalog contains descriptions and images of the many evangelization resources we have available: Books, Booklets, CDs, DVDs, and Display Cases.

Call our office at 708-496-9300 to request your copy or email us at dftrtooffice@aol.com.

Direction for Our Times Resource Catalog

Resources for Lay Apostles 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 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

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Family Weekend Retreat Circle Lake Retreat Center, Pinehurst, Texas



Don't delay! There was a waiting list for the Memorial Day weekend.

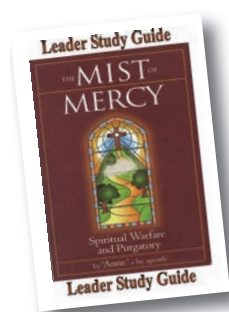
For families seeking 'direction for our times' with heaven as the ultimate destination.

Fun, fellowship, worship, and relaxation for the whole family while discovering how God is calling your family to serve in everyday life and beyond.

Memorial Day Weekend was a wonderful, grace-filled time for the thirteen families who came from across the United States to learn how the messages of this apostolate apply in a very concrete way to family relationships. Held at the Circle Lake Retreat Center in Pinehurst, Texas, these families learned that combining spiritual formation with family activities brought them closer than ever before to each other and to God.

The second Family Retreat will be held on **Labor Day Weekend, September 3-5, 2010.** For more information or registration, contact host couple Scott and Gina Bergeron by phone 281-392-1342 or by email srbergeron@aol.com.

The Mist of Mercy Study Guide Coming Soon



They're at it again! The Core Group who created the popular study guide for *Climbing the Mountain* has just completed the *Mist of Mercy Study Guide*, which gently brings us to an enhanced understanding of purgatory, spiritual warfare and personal sinfulness. This is meant to be a companion guide to the book *The Mist of Mercy* and is easily adaptable for personal reflection, for use in a small group setting or a parish-wide program. A participant in the recently completed pilot program commented, "I have benefited greatly. I feel that my time with Jesus is deeper and more honest."

The 155 page, spiral-bound workbook will be available soon in two versions: study guide and facilitator guide. The guides will also be available for free download on our website.

Allegiance Prayer

Dear God in heaven, I pledge my allegiance to You. I give You my life, my work and my heart. In turn, give me the grace of obeying Your every direction to the fullest possible extent. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You the prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins and for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Blessed Mother of Jesus, protect our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, and bless his intentions. Amen.

“We know that this water has quenched our thirst and hydrated us. And we

I know many lay apostles are working very hard with great dedication to spread this apostolate and we are a family as we answer the call which unites us. We are working very hard for Jesus. Jesus is so grateful. We must continue to work hard and we must work with a spirit of zeal for spreading this Gospel message. But there is something else in addition to zeal that we need and that is a spirit of detachment.

A Big Feast

It will be helpful for us in our evangelization work if we think of the words from heaven as a big feast. We have all eaten and been nourished and blessed from this feast and we offer this with confidence and great joy to other people.

Some accept this feast, others reject it. Regardless, our job is to offer it. It is the Lord's job to prepare the souls of those to whom we offer it. It is the Lord's job, also, to bless those souls.

Evangelization is not easy. It was not easy work in the beginning of the church and it is not easy work now. I do not think evangelization will ever be easy work. If we attempt to evangelize one hundred people, we may get positive responses from only a few. Those few might experience a burst of joy. They hear the Spirit, acknowledge God's presence and rejoice with us. This is wonderful for us because we feel we have helped a brother or sister to gain comfort and clarity. We feel good about the fact that we have helped to spread God's Gospel message.

With regard to those few, isn't it often the case that many accept these words and rejoice with us for a time and then go back into their life as though they never heard this message? That is how it appears to us. That's okay. Do not think that your work has not been fruitful when this happens because those people have been fed. They have experienced this and they will come back to this when they need it. Even if there appears to be no lasting change in them and we are led to wonder if our efforts were effective at all, they have been fed.

Maybe in the hundred people, of those few that responded positively, maybe just one stands beside us to help us spread this particular message.

Jesus has called us into this apostolate in different ways, it is true, but we each have a separate role. Our role could be big. And our role could be very small. This is up to Jesus. Our job is to listen; Jesus can do wonderful things with one person.

In the June 1, 2009 Monthly Message Jesus says, ***“I need you to continue on in your service to Me. I need you to remember that you are called to live differently, that your life which***

might not be proceeding exactly as you planned is proceeding exactly as I planned. Can you accept this? Can you remind yourself that you have allowed your Savior to navigate your earthly journey? Can you rejoice in the path that I have marked out for you even if it includes suffering?”

My friends, when we are tempted to discouragement, we must ask ourselves this question: Has our participation in this apostolate helped us? Think about this individually. Have we benefited spiritually? Has it increased our understanding of Jesus and Mary? Of heaven's presence in our life? If the answer is yes, then we have to acknowledge this and we have to thank heaven. And we have to say to heaven, “Truly this is a good place for me and I have benefited.” We have to detach from what God does with our service and from what God does with our commitment.

Standing at a Well

We must think of ourselves as people standing at a well. In this well is pure, clean, heavenly water. We draw it from the well and we hand it out to others. We know that this water has quenched our thirst and hydrated us. And we know that it will hydrate others. Some walk on past us, rejecting what we offer. We accept this in peace. There may be many reasons why they do not want to drink from this well at this time, but perhaps at another time they will return.

Others stop, accept a drink from us, and then continue on in their journey. This is fine. They have been hydrated and have provided us with holy fellowship.

Sometimes, as I said, a person remains to stand with us and also to hand out water from this well. They become our holy companions in the work of the spreading of the apostolate. They suffer, as we suffer. They grow tired, as we grow tired. But they come to know Christ in the way that we know Christ and because of that they begin to speak the same language that we speak. We understand each other. And in this understanding, there is joy, great joy. Don't forget this, my friends. We have great joy in each other in this apostolate. Many in this world never experience this joy in the people around them. This is a great gift.

Many never experience the compassionate love that we are given for God's children in darkness. Many of you can testify to the fact that your heart hurts for the people who are separated from God and from God's grace. This is a gift. This is becoming Christ-like. This is a part of our sanctification, a sign of our sanctification. So, we must not take this for granted, because this is a foretaste of heaven. This is how it is in heaven. Hearts are filled with love, no judging, only compassion. And if our

know that it will hydrate others.”



service and our experience in this apostolate has given this to us, well then we have to be grateful, don't we? We have to help others to experience the same thing.

These are a few things that we want to remember when we are working in evangelization.

Each conversion is different. Every person's conversion experience is unique, just like every one of us is unique. Do not expect everyone to react to the works in this apostolate as you reacted.

The drama and sanctification of the conversion of each person takes place in the privacy of the soul. Unseen by others, only God can ignite the divine in His good time. Be patient and let God work.

There sometimes can be a temptation to say, 'I am an apostle, this is how I look, therefore all apostles should look like me.' This is a temptation, my friends, because it will most certainly end in judgment. If you look at someone and say, "How could they be a serving apostle? They don't look the way I look," that is a temptation to judge how apostles should look. Not every apostle should look like every other apostle.

"I am with you"

The Body of Christ is made up of many people at various levels of holiness who proceed toward Christ from different places, on different paths. Our destination is what we have in common. Our destination is permanent union with Jesus Christ in heaven. Not all apostles look the same, nor approach heaven in the same way and we say, in fact, that no two apostles are alike and it is for this reason, my friends, that Jesus has allowed many wells in His Church. We can never make a claim that ours is the only well offering living waters because this is simply not true.

As a new well in God's Church we expect others to be cautious. I was cautious when the Lord started this apostolate. You were cautious when someone first handed you a Volume. We must expect others to be cautious and respect their caution. Do not take it personally because it is not personal. It is a good thing to observe prudence in others.

I think God, like any good parent, is sending specific food for this specific time and the specific struggles that we are experiencing. And if we look back in the history of the Church we will see that He has always done this. God has always spent specific help for a specific time. God is very actively involved. The biggest message in this apostolate is from Jesus, "I am with you." God doesn't observe from a distance and hope that we get on okay. God is well used to have to actively intercede in history and help us along.

Now we try to think of the Volumes and the booklets as so many drinks of water. This water is intended for those who are dying of thirst, of course, meaning those who are away from the Church. But it is also intended for those who are already serving in the Church or for those in the Church who have become lukewarm.

This mission does not seek to pull anyone away from their current service, rather it meets them and ministers to them where they are. And, please God, strengthen them on the journey that God has willed for them in their life.

Silent Evangelists at a Eucharistic Day of Renewal

By Kevin Sullivan, lay apostle

In the fall of 2007 I found myself attending a Eucharistic Day of Renewal at a convention center in a southwest suburb of Chicago. While I was a practicing Catholic, I can't say that I had ever before attended a Eucharistic Day of Renewal. I was there that day to assist my wife Crystal, who had been reading the publications from Direction for Our Times and had recently volunteered to assist them with the organization of lay apostle prayer groups. The only thing I knew as I headed off to the event that Saturday morning was that Crystal was going to need some help staffing what had become the "Lay Apostle Resource Table." I wasn't looking for any new spirituality that day; I was merely trying to gain some brownie points with my wife.

The day started with a Rosary, continued with Mass, and then talks by Dr. Mark Miravalle and a woman known as Anne, a lay apostle. It concluded with an hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Without any disrespect



to the speakers, when I look back on that day I cannot recall any words that they spoke. However, my soul was deeply touched and moved. I wanted to better understand the spirituality that had led to the assembly of over 2000 devout, reverent people that day.

Throughout the day and especially during the Holy Hour, I was overcome by the sincere expressions of faithfulness I witnessed. Without speaking a word, these lay apostles provided me with the strongest witness to the Good News that I had experienced in years.

I left the event yearning for the peacefulness I saw in these 'lay apostles.' It was only then that I began reading the Volumes. I discovered what heaven had been placing in their hearts.

Two and a half years after that blessed day, I owe a great debt to all those nameless lay apostles whose faithfulness witnessed Christ to me in a way that touched my heart as it has never been touched before. Their "testimony" helped to put me on a path of rediscovering the beauty of our Catholic faith, especially the deep and personal love of our Lord through spiritual practices of the lay apostolate, such as monthly Confession and regular Eucharistic Adoration.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

June 1, 2010

Jesus

Dearest apostles, are you weary? Do you wonder why My service requires such holiness? I know that you do not always understand the relationship between your suffering and the graces I am sending to others. This is not clear to you when you are carrying heavy crosses that require great trust. When you are with Me for eternity, you will understand this connection and

you will rejoice that you were willing to remain in My service despite the demands made upon your will. I ask and I ask and again I ask, and you answer, and you answer, and again, you answer. My dear apostles, you are in such a habit of saying "yes" to Me, that you continue on, day after day. The days are passing, are they not? One after another, days are completed and you have claimed grace for the world. This is how it has been arranged for you, dearest children of the Father. You are asked to be good and holy and in return, the Father cooperates by keeping your intentions close to His heart. In this moment, where you have been placed, there is

grace. Do you feel it? Do you trust Me? I am with you. I have not abandoned you. Will you resist the temptation to leave Me when I press on your commitment? If you ask Me for the grace of perseverance, I will give this to you. This is My gift. But you must ask for and then accept this gift. If you feel like you are failing and yet you are trying to serve as best you can, then you must spend time with Me and examine the concept of failure from heaven's view. You may find that you are a success in My eyes, even while the world dismisses your contribution. All is well. Do not fear fatigue. Only fear a decision to abandon Me. Remember, I will never leave you. Never.

A Full Display of Faith

Getting It Out There. In January of this year, David Abel and his Stewardship Team in Pennsylvania developed three different displays for lay apostles to use when bringing the writings of this apostolate to their corner of the world.

In April, David's Stewardship team met with Jim Fitzsimmons (right), President of the Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA. Each year, 10,000 people from 1,700 parishes pass through the Retreat Center participating in various retreats and days of reflection.

David and his team brought three Tall Resource Displays to the Malvern Retreat Center. These displays are stocked with DFOT materials and are positioned near the registration areas in the Family Life Center, St. Joseph House and Our Lady's Home.

If you live near a retreat center that you think might be interested in placing a Display Center in their facility, please call us at 708-496-9300 for more information.



More exciting news! The Counter Top Display Cases filled with Heaven Speaks Booklets are moving across the continent. Lay apostles from 18 different states have brought the display case into their parishes. It's just the beginning.



Tall Resource Display:
24" w
84" h
17" d

Retail Display:
35" w x 66" h x 14" d (front view)



Retail Display:
35" w x 66" h x 14" d (back view)



Prison Ministry Takes Off

By Susan Baker, lay apostle



Three months ago I emailed the DFOT office, saying that I had felt a call to prison ministry, and I was wondering if this could be tied into the apostolate. I was looking for advice.

In 2005, our Lord revealed special messages for prisoners in the booklet 'Heaven Speaks to Prisoners' to assist them in the special challenges they face. Jesus sent these

messages so that prisoners would know they are loved by Jesus and not alone. Perhaps, I could help develop an effort to distribute these messages in the prisons? I prayed about this and I decided to humbly make an effort to serve Jesus in this way at this time.

I share this story with you and ask for your help. Among us lay apostles I am certain that there are connections to families who are

experiencing sorrow as a loved one is in prison. They are important ambassadors and I believe they can assist me in sharing ways they are already carrying the messages of Jesus to those incarcerated. I am confident that there are individuals who are also serving in a prison ministry who may guide me into understanding and reaching the key individuals who could allow us to bring the messages of Direction for Our Times behind the locked walls. If you would like to be involved in this call from Jesus in your area, or if you know of contacts or resources, please contact me at susan.baker300@gmail.com.

As we begin this ministry we will also need to provide booklets to those ministering with the publications from Direction for Our Times. I am currently aware of one minister serving in several locations across the country. This lay apostle is leaving the messages in the prison libraries. Her resources are limited. Perhaps you are called to support this ministry to prisoners financially. If you would like to make a donation for publications to be available for those visiting the prisons, please contact the DFOT office at 708-496-9300 or send an email to contactus@directionforourtimes.com.

Thank you for your prayers for this new ministry.

Excerpt from *Heavenly Healing*

"I am a Catholic priest in Picayune, MS, a small town north of New Orleans, LA, USA. I have visited the local county jail a number of times, offering the Sacrament of Confession each time. Last month, a lay minister organized a visit after receiving his prison ministry training. His first visit revealed a dozen Catholics. He gave them the booklet, 'Heaven Speaks to Prisoners.' The next week he lined up a dozen Confessions. While I was there, I asked what inspired them to make a Confession. They said it was the little booklet, 'Heaven Speaks to Prisoners.' Thank you for this wonderful little jewel that moved these men with hardened hearts to a humble visit with Jesus in Confession. They all wanted to receive Holy Communion and did afterwards. Praise God."

– Fr. Mike Snyder, Picayune, MS

HEAVEN SPEAKS TO PRISONERS

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

This is the text of the booklet "Heaven Speaks to Prisoners," which is available from our office or from our website at www.directionforourtimes.org for \$2.00 per booklet.

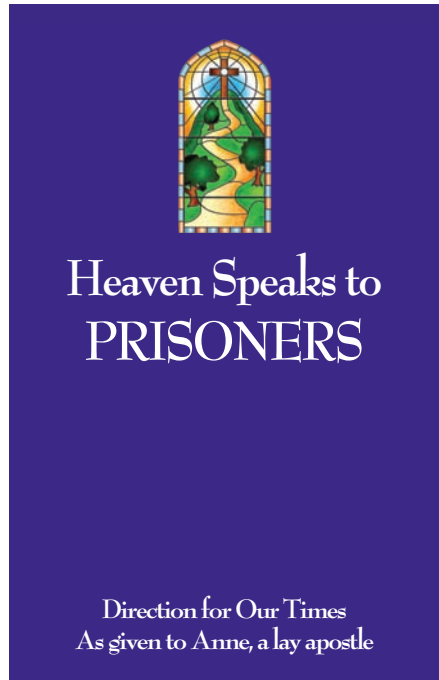
July 25, 2005

Jesus

I wish to talk to those imprisoned, for any reason. Dear brothers and sisters, your Christian family needs you. Your prayers, your sacrifices have great power. If you unite your suffering to Me, I can use it to save many souls. For example, if you offer Me each day, I will take your offering and I will use it to soften the hearts of your family members who are separated from you. I will use your offering to undo any damage that your sins may have caused. I do not need to say that I will work miracles in your soul. I do not need to say that because you know this. It is part of My promise to all lay apostles. You have not lived a perfect life, whether or not you are guilty of the crimes for which you have been accused. Even if those crimes were not at issue, you have not been perfect. How do I know that? I will tell you. No man or woman is perfect. All are sinners. In My eyes, this makes you no worse than someone who is not imprisoned. Do you understand? You may feel the eyes of the world upon you in condemnation, but in the eyes of heaven you do not stand out. You are My friend. I am your friend. There are many souls, not in prison, who are far guiltier than you. You are cherished and it is that which I have come to tell you. Rest your head against Me, your Jesus, and I will heal you.

St. Francis of Assisi

How can people be free, even while mankind has incarcerated them? I will tell you. The world can imprison your body, dear friends, but nobody has the power to lock up your soul. Your soul belongs to Jesus Christ.



He, God, created you to serve heaven. Well, that has not changed simply because you find yourself in prison. It is all about heavenly service, so you must assume that Jesus needs you to serve exactly where you are. There may come a time when you are released from this prison and then you will be called to serve in another place. For now, you must serve where you find yourself. I want to tell you many things. The most important thing for you to know is that you are loved, just as you are, in whatever condition you are in. Jesus loves you. Jesus, who is all love, is also all mercy. He forgives you any sins you have committed. This is not conditional upon anything but your repentance. In other words, you may feel that the scope of your sin is great. You may feel that you have sinned so badly, and so often, that Jesus could not be talking to you when He offers forgiveness. Dear brother in Christ, may I say that this will not be the first time you have been wrong. I am telling

you the truth. Jesus has forgiven you. Go to Him now and tell Him you are sorry. He is God. He has a right to your repentance. Understand that you must do this for Him. If you repent and say you are sorry for your sins, Jesus will heal you of any marks on your soul left by these sins. Many times on earth a human being experiences pain. There are many types of pain, of course, but the pain of not being loved or cared for is particularly troubling to a soul. This pain can then create a predisposition to commit sin. This may have been your situation. Jesus understands. Regardless, mistakes are mistakes and souls have to accept their mistakes, confess them if they are sins, and move on. Move on with Jesus. He holds His hand out to you in brotherhood and in love. Take His hand and step away from darkness, into the light. This is not a mistake. This is the wisest decision you will ever make.

St. Francis of Assisi

It is good to understand that heaven is very available to someone in prison. Would you like to know why? I will tell you. Souls in prison on earth have lost everything worldly, if only for a time. When you die, dear soul, you will lose everything from the world and you will go to God. There are no secrets in heaven. All will know all. So there is no hiding. You have done this already in that your sin has been exposed to the world. Others, not imprisoned, have sins, as we have said, but their sins have not been exposed in the same way. So you are in a position for great holiness. The trappings of the world have been taken away from you. You are often in a far better position to obtain holiness than someone who is living away from Christ in the world. You know of souls who love material things. They will

continued on page 10

have to learn to do without these possessions in heaven. You are practicing for heaven right now. If you were to die today, you would not have many attachments. I hope that you understand because Christ is calling you to a very close walk with Him. Also, Christ needs you and the family of Christ needs you. The world is suffering from the darkness of sin but Jesus is returning. He comes to bring heavenly light to this world and He is asking you to help Him do that. Will you answer "yes" to heaven? I, Francis, make this promise to you. Jesus will reward you more than you can ever imagine. He will give you far more in heaven than you lost on earth. This sadness you feel, this pain, will be forgotten. All of your pain will be gone. You will be joyful in heaven and you will be welcome in heaven. You will fit in with us, the saints, because you said "yes" to Jesus today.

July 26, 2005

St. Francis of Assisi

You may wonder how it is that you can serve Jesus while you are in prison. It is not difficult if you do it my way. In order to serve Jesus, you must become like Him. In order to become like Him, you must give yourself to Him. If you give yourself to Him, He will transform you into an apostle. An apostle behaves like Jesus, of course, or tries to, and I will tell you how Jesus behaves. Jesus never condemns a man who is repentant or even a man who desires to be repentant. So perhaps you are stuck at that first road sign. You see a sign that says Repentance This Way, but you do not feel it. This is where the beauty of Jesus becomes clear: You can ask Jesus for even this. Tell Jesus that you want to be sorry but you do not feel sorry. Ask Jesus to give you sorrow for your sins. Ask Him to give you a spirit of repentance. Jesus will do this. He will do everything. Look up to Him and acknowledge Him as your King, your Savior, and your Creator. He will do the rest. Do you see that with Jesus, you cannot fail? You simply cannot fail.

St. Francis of Assisi

So you have repented for your sins. If you are a Catholic, you have confessed them to a priest, if possible. And now you are ready to proceed further on the path of the apostle. Here is the next step. You must rise each day and give the day to Jesus. You do this through the Morning Offering. You offer your day to Jesus Christ. And what does Jesus Christ do with this offering? He takes each action, each joy, each sorrow, each sadness and He uses these things to obtain graces for others who do not live in His light. Perhaps you were once in darkness. Someone offered his day, perhaps, and Jesus used the offering to obtain graces for you. And now you know Jesus and now you are living in His light. Do you see that we are all working for each other and we are all working for Christ? The most difficult thing for Jesus is to see even one soul lost for eternity. And during this time many souls are being lost. This causes Him the greatest grief. You can help Him to pull souls back into the light by giving Him your day. You are suffering, are you not? If you are a soul living on earth, you are suffering in some way. So you can give Him your suffering. Unite it to His suffering on the cross. No man should be asked to die the way Jesus died. And yet, He did it willingly. My friend, He did this willingly because He loved you.

St. Thomas the Apostle

How joyful I am that Jesus is allowing me to speak to you. I am with you, you know. We are all with you. There are many saints in heaven who spent time imprisoned on earth, for many reasons. You are called to be a saint. Do not even think that these words fell into the wrong hands and that they are intended for someone else. I am talking to you. Francis is talking to you. And Jesus is most certainly talking to you and trying to get your attention. So now that we have established that heaven is seeking you out, you have to make a decision. Will you decide for Christ or will you decide for the world?

There is only one God and He is Jesus Christ. He is the God in heaven, He is the God who walked the earth as a Man, and He is the Spirit speaking to your soul right now. It is that simple. You should not allow yourself to be confused. There is only one God. This God, this one true God, loves you. He knows everything there is to know about you and He loves you. He loves you so much that He has pierced the walls of your prison to bring you this message. The message is love. God is love. He loves you. You were created to serve and God needs you to serve now, today. You say, "Maybe God does not exist. Maybe this man is wrong." Well, to that I reply quite firmly. I am not wrong. I am in heaven. Heaven is real. And just as heaven is real, hell is also real. You do not want to go there, I assure you. So take your chances with me, Thomas, and I will help you get to heaven. Make your decision to serve Jesus Christ today.

St. Thomas the Apostle

Do not expect to be certain about anything. You will have doubts. All great apostles served in constant doubt. When you die and Jesus comes for you, He will not look at your doubts. He will look at your service. He will look at your love. He will look at your pain and how you gave it to Him. If you are on earth, you experience loneliness. You will feel this way until you come to heaven. Every man feels lonely because they are not at home until they come to heaven. Some hide their loneliness through alcohol or other habits that numb this pain. This is the worst thing they can do because it pulls them further away from God and His Kingdom. There is only despair at the end of that path. Perhaps you know this. Do not try to numb the pain. Feel the pain and then bring it to Jesus because He is the Healer and He can eradicate your pain. The pain of separation from Jesus, when you allow yourself to feel it, is a holy pain. You want to come to Him but you know that He needs you on earth, so you serve willingly as He did. Be an apostle of service.

There are others around you in pain, are there not? Perhaps you will bring Jesus to them. This is the same as taking a critically ill man to a doctor. It is an act of the greatest mercy. This is just one of the countless things you can do as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Come to me for courage and I will send you courage. Never fear man. Man cannot touch the soul. Only fear a permanent separation from Jesus.

St. Thomas the Apostle

If you want to know someone, you spend time with him. Well, we are telling you that you must become like Jesus. You will have to know Him to become like Him and you will have to spend time with Him to know Him. So each day must be spent in His company. He is with you and has always been with you. But you did not always recognize His presence. It is time to do that now. Talk to Jesus all day long in your heart. Ask Him what to do in each situation. Ask Him what to say in each conversation. Ask Him what He needs from you in every moment. This is praying. People tell you to pray all day. Souls think that this is

impossible. But prayer is simply being with God. Talk to Jesus and He will explain everything to your soul. You will begin to change. Your bitterness will start to fade and you will feel your heart soften. This is not without some pain but this pain is coming because all does not remain hidden, as we have told you. You will have to face your hurts. Face them now with Jesus and He will take them away. He will leave you with a soul that is open to His love. Then, and this is the answer to all of the world's darkness, then He will begin to flow through you into the world. Soul by soul, Jesus is returning. A great renewal is coming, my friend. Jesus is reclaiming this world for heaven. Will you help Him?

Blessed Mother

I am with each of my children. As I am the mother of Jesus, so I am also your heavenly mother. I do not leave one of my own. How could I when I love you so tenderly? Little soul, Jesus is so good. He is worthy of your love and you will not be mistaken if you decide for Him. I will help you. If there is something that

you feel is preventing you from coming to Jesus fully, bring it to me and I will make certain it is taken away so that you are not blocked from my Son. Cry out your sorrows to me because a mother understands sorrow. A mother is never too busy to listen to her child's pain and to help that child move past his pain. Dear little soul, you are cherished in heaven. Your soul is worth everything to us. We will help you with each detail of your return to Jesus. The saints in heaven watch carefully for an opportunity to help you. I never leave your side. And Jesus remains watchful, ready to rush in and fill you with His light. Be very brave in your decision to serve Jesus because the world would like you to reject Him. But you will not. You will serve. We will send you all you require. For now, you should rest in my motherly heart. You feel my presence, do you not? That is because I am with you, obtaining healing and mercy for you. Peace, my little lamb, I am here.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

May 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear apostles, how often you are challenged personally when you attempt to speak the Good News. This brings with it a temptation to connect the authenticity of the Good News to your personal holiness. Alas, you find that you fall short, of course, because you serve within the limitations of your flawed humanity.

Does this decrease the force of the Good News you are called to share? Does this diminish the authenticity of the Good News? No. Your flawed humanity is rather testimony to the extent of the Good News. Yes, the scope of the Good News is such that each of My little apostles becomes a true herald, human flaws notwithstanding. You are each uniquely qualified to bring this Good News to a wounded world. You see, dearest apostle, it is through accepting your own pain and offering yourself for healing that you become My greatest example. You, in your willingness to accept healing

and in your willingness to grow, show others what I am offering to the world in this time of renewal. Beautiful humanity, how painful is My desire to heal you, to console you, to bring you to the Father where you will find eternal dignity and confidence. I ache with the desire that you accept My love. There are people who are waiting to experience Me, but it is through your acceptance of Me, with complete abandonment, that I will be brought to them. Do I burden you with My work? Do you find My friendship a heavy cross to carry? Let Me assure you, it is only in this cross that you will find your joy.

Spreading the Renewal

By Kevin Sullivan, Director of Operations

“Be heralds of the light, rejoicing, so that others may see their future.” Jesus’ last words in the March 1, 2010 message summarize all that Direction for Our Times (DFOT) has attempted to achieve in its short history.

In December of 2004, this non-profit organization was formed to spread the writings that heaven has revealed to Anne, a lay apostle. In just five years, the messages have spread across the world. Over a million books in English, French, and Spanish have been published. Today, the messages are available in some form in fifteen languages, with more on the horizon. Eucharistic Days of Renewal have been held in countries across the globe, including the United States, England, China, Ireland, and the Philippines.

Because our mission is first and foremost to spread the Good News contained in the messages, DFOT’s philosophy has been to make the Volumes, “Heaven Speaks” booklets, and presentations available at no cost on our website. All items produced and available for purchase are priced to cover the costs of printing and distributing them. In addition, approximately \$100,000 of materials are made available to priests, religious, parishes and others whose resources are severely limited. DFOT is definitely non-profit, as our 501(c)(3) status signifies. In Ireland, DFOT operates as an Irish Charity as well.

Direction for Our Times strives to be a good steward of the financial resources it has by keeping overhead low. The work of DFOT is handled by ten full-time employees and a many hard-working volunteers. Thanks to the kind Dominican sisters in whose convent our office is located, our rent is low.

As diligent as we are in keeping our expenses down, the costs of translating, printing, postage and shipping, when added to the normal cost of maintaining an organization, have created a need for on-going financial support.

Historically, DFOT has not actively



solicited financial support from lay apostles (aside from efforts to raise funds to purchase the Abbey). In the past, we have relied heavily on the generosity of a few major donors to support the ongoing, day-to-day operations. We are convinced that Jesus is asking more of us.

Our mission is growing so quickly. We will only be able to reach more and more people if we can expand into new areas of the world with more languages, programs, technology, and evangelization efforts. We believe that the time has come for us to request your help in supporting the work of the rescue mission, so that we can be the heralds of the King’s return. How can you help? Please seek, in prayer, what the Lord is asking of you. Here are a few of our needs:

Translations

Anne has informed the DFOT staff that translation of the messages is the highest priority for this year. As such, we have hired an employee, Christina Kolb, to manage this process. As Jesus says, ***“I am asking each one of you to bring the Good News to souls. This is your heavenly instruction. I ask that you do this through your duty, first of all ... The second priority, then, must be the spread of these words. I want My words to move through your world steadily.”***

There is a great deal of work to be done. Translations are done by both volunteers and professionals. A rigorous process of review is implemented, using the efforts of priests and Catholic theologians. The costs of translations, when not offered by our volunteer translators, can be significant when projected over the full set of Volumes and booklets. Moving the translated materials into print requires another significant, upfront investment. We are working with lay apostles in China, India, and the Philippines to print in those countries to minimize printing and shipping costs.

For now, we are posting all of our translated work on our website for free, so that anyone with access to a computer can read the messages. But we know that this is not the best solution. Please help us get these messages of love, hope, and healing printed and into the hands of people throughout the world. This is the way the mission will be fueled. We need your financial help.

Perhaps you would like to see the work translated into a language for which we do not yet have a contact. Perhaps you could

assist us in finding a priest or Catholic theologian who could review the translated works. However you are needed, Jesus will place it your heart.

Technology

We are receiving an increasing number of requests for Anne to speak at local events, which is prompting us to consider how we can improve our ability for worldwide communication. Some efforts are already underway such as live-streaming of the monthly prayer group in Ireland and filming

appearances and then posting them on our website. In order to improve internet and communications capabilities, we will need assistance to produce and/or broadcast messages for both DFOT – and lay apostle-organized events.

Youth Program

One of the most important programs conducted by DFOT is the outreach to young adults through Re-Charge. Jesus has told Anne that our Catholic young people are critically important to Him. He says, “**My plan for**

young men and women is immense. Truly, the renewal will leap forward with the assistance of these individuals.”

While this work is critical, by its nature it generates very little revenue. Our ability to reach out to young adults and youth ministers through retreats and other Re-Charge events is dependent on the funding from lay apostles who share in the mission of bringing our youth back into a relationship with Christ.

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Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

April 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear apostles, I am with you. I am present in every challenge you experience. I see your struggle and I provide everything you need to serve Me in each day. If you have given Me your day, then the day belongs to Me. Your self-will has been offered to heaven and heaven exchanges it for My will. How do you experience this? On most days your experience of serving Me is a mystery to you. How could it be otherwise when you are seeing with eyes that have not yet been exposed to the divine vision? Day after day, you offer your will to Me and day after day, I use your offering to gently push Myself through you to others. Do you feel successful? Or do you feel, at times, that you are unsuccessful? Poor little apostles, I understand your questions and I understand your doubts. I assure you, in My human

experience, I did not feel successful at every moment. My experience was often much to the contrary. I often experienced the temptation to believe that I was failing the Father. I sometimes, in moments of human temptation, wondered if, in fact, love was enough. Could love succeed in turning hearts to goodness? Could love succeed in persuading God's children to accept the Father's beautiful plan for humanity? Yes, please believe that I suffered temptation. And now, you suffer temptation. Together, our temptations suffered for the Father, bring soothing graces to others. You, My beautiful apostle, serve despite temptations to abandon Me. Where others leave, you endure. You endure for Me, as I endured for you. From My perspective, all is well, despite your suffering. My plan is perfect and if you are serving Me, listening to My voice, there are no problems. If you are not serving Me and you are not listening to My voice, then there are many problems for you and there will continue to be many problems for you. 'Ah', you say, 'Jesus, I am listening to you and still I have

these problems'. We must differentiate small problems from big problems. Small problems are the sufferings you bear for the sake of the divine will. Big problems are the problems you face when you abandon My will and insert your own will. Are you praying? Are you in steady communication with Me? Do you ask Me what I want you to do in situations where you are unsure? Do you spend time in silence, considering heaven and heaven's plan for you in the day? Answer yes to these questions and I assure you, your problems will be manageable. Do not believe I ignore your sighs or turn away from your fears. I am with you. I will never abandon you. My plan will be realized through your perseverance and through the perseverance of many apostles like you. I am so pleased when you pray for each other because this is how you experience, in advance, My gratitude. You see My gratitude in the graces received by others through your intercession. Rejoice. I am responding to your pain and answering your prayers. Truly, I am with you.

Vocations

The apostolate continues to be blessed with young men and women who wish to discern a call to religious life, while attached to the apostolate. There are currently two young men who, as a result of this discernment, are now studying for the priesthood in the diocesan seminary in Ireland. Two houses for young people have been established in Ireland. While candidates receive some support from their families, the majority of the expense falls upon the apostolate. These potential vocations are a great fruit of the mission and deserve our full support.

Heaven Speaks Booklet and Volume Displays

The mission has been blessed with a group of lay apostles who have designed and built new and beautiful display cases for the Heaven Speaks Booklets. They come stocked with 8 copies of each booklet and a donation box to help with the cost of replenishing the cases. These magnificent bookcases are just waiting for homes in parishes and bookstores around the country. The Direction for Our Times staff will be happy to work with you on obtaining your pastor's permission for displaying the books, booklets and Volumes in your parish.

Thank you for your support

We would be remiss if we closed this discussion about financial needs without expressing huge thanks to all who pray for Anne, the staff and the success of the mission. We also want to acknowledge the great financial assistance we have already received from so many lay apostles. Whether it is cash donations added to individual orders over the web, or paying for the printing and mailing of the newsletter, or sponsoring staff participation at the March for Life or other relevant conferences, or contributing from personal 401(k) plans, we wouldn't be able to spread the Good News as far or as wide without your help. All of our donors, with your financial and prayerful support, are bringing Christ's light into the world. We are honored to serve alongside each of you.

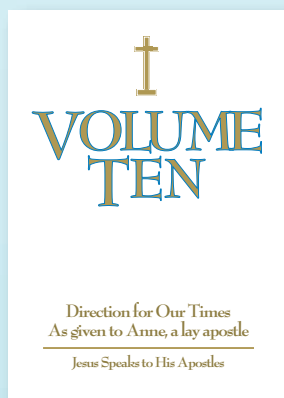
Bringing Jesus to Them

By an anonymous lay apostle

"How I rely on you all. Each of you has a divine purpose and a role in the coming of My Kingdom. Each of you has a certain amount of souls who can be brought back to My loving heart through your service."

— Jesus, **Volume Ten**, October 5, 2004

Connecting with people who are away from the Church



Our Lord tells us to preach the Gospel message, and only if necessary should we use words. Wherever we go, He is with us. That means we bring Him into any situation we are in, every room we walk into.

I think most people don't know Christ because people don't bring Him to them.

It doesn't take a lot to bring Jesus to those around us. I think that just by listening to people, offering a smile, taking a moment to talk when I don't have the time, putting others first ... these are the ways I can bring our Lord to those that don't know Him.

I think it has to start with relationships. People who are far away from the faith have to be connected with God at THEIR level. I think many people, after they experience a conversion, are too "in your face" about their new found faith. I have been the most successful connecting with people away from their faith when I look and act in some ways like them, so they can relate to me. If I do this right, they will leave wanting to be like me! Well, not that it has anything to do with me. It's Christ in us. It's the peace, joy, and nobility that we feel because of His love. Believe it or not, they see it and want it and that's when I can give them a booklet or a Volume or invite them to a Bible study.

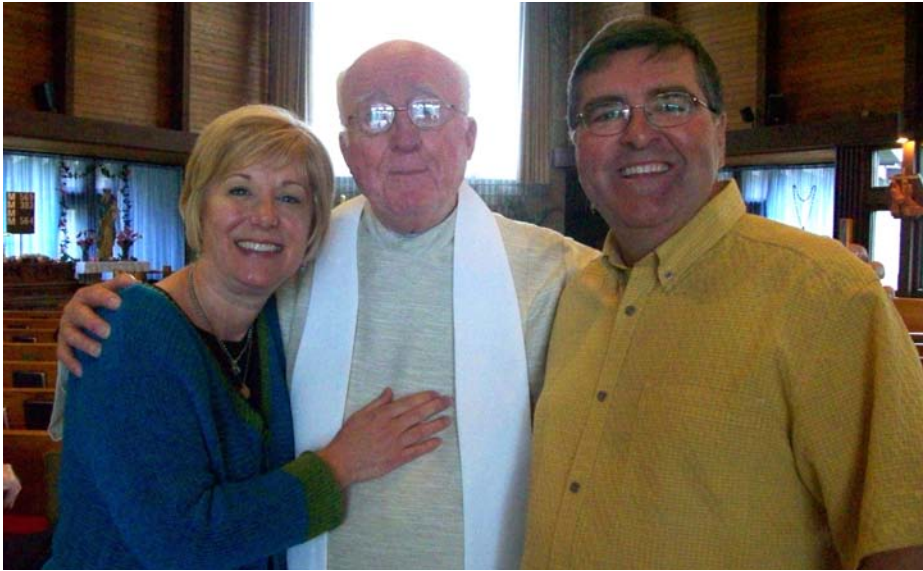
I spend added time with Our Lord, so He can fill me up. If I spend time with Him, it helps me maintain my life in Him and then I feel confident that I can hang out with those who are far away from Him. I don't think everyone can walk that fine line. I realize that this is how our Lord is calling me.

Recently, I decided to try and share the faith with a bunch of ladies that I know from all walks of life. I invited them to hear the story of a woman who had a really incredible story to share, but I didn't advertise it as a 'religious' event. All the ladies that I invited to my home had some Catholic or Christian background, but none were of any faith practice. As the speaker shared the story of her faith conversion from a very secular life to one that is now focused on God, she connected with my friends because she was once one of them and understood them and they trusted her because of that. She seemed NORMAL to them because she is.

It's not always easy but as my spiritual director tells me, "Go ahead, just turn down the burner and stay with the comfortable crowd. I'm sure that's why our Lord has given you so many graces." It's a sentence that I try to remember because it's easy to desire comfort.

Lay Apostles Hear the Call to Serve

By Crystal Sullivan



In the Easter season, we hear story after story from the Acts of the Apostles, about how they worked to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to an unbelieving world. We can sit in the pews and listen to these readings and think, “That was then, this is now. I can’t possibly do that.” I’m not *that* kind of apostle.

But how does Jesus begin almost every message to us? He calls us, “My dear little apostle.” Jesus wants us to be apostles who, each in our own little way, call others back to the family of God. That is why He is sharing Himself with us in these messages, so that we can come to know Him as personally as the first apostles knew Him. Jesus will always try every means possible to reveal Himself: through Scripture, through the sacraments, and now through writings such as the Volumes and “Heaven Speaks” Booklets. We are called to spread the Good News throughout the world much as the first twelve were called. Jesus says in Volume Ten, ***“As I prepared My original apostles to begin My beautiful Church on earth, I now commission you to reclaim My beautiful Church.”*** It couldn’t be any clearer than that!

In our service to the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King, my husband Kevin and I have the blessing of meeting some amazing apostles. Most recently, we were invited to take part in a Eucharistic Day of Renewal in Maine, New York, organized by a young husband and father, Matt Karp. Matt received a Volume from a woman at church who he had never met before. He began reading it, and soon devoured all the Volumes. He was drawn to the messages, and discovered that Jesus was promoting a calm urgency in getting them disseminated.

Matt found himself wanting to be a ‘soldier for Christ.’ Drawing on his experience in organizing a local Oktoberfest, he set out to assemble people who could benefit by reading the messages.

After receiving the necessary permission to hold a Eucharistic Day of Renewal, he worked tirelessly to advertise the event by distributing flyers, speaking to church groups and at Masses, and inviting local newspapers to attend. The result was a day filled with the Holy Spirit, with many coming to experience the messages of the apostolate and Eucharistic Adoration for the first time. Fr. Clarence, the

pastor of Holy Family Parish, who has a great apostolic spirit, participated fully in the day. He encouraged his parishioners at every Mass to take home an introduction brochure and learn more.

Matt continues to invite his fellow parishioners to drink from the well of this apostolate by stocking a Heaven Speaks booklet display case in the back of his church.

After this joyful weekend in rural New York, we said our goodbyes and looked forward to meeting with prayer groups and parishes. Each experience was unique, but the spirit of love and openness was the consistent factor.

Lay apostle Anne Kraft arranged to have an introduction to the apostolate presented in her small country church in the resort area of the Poconos, in Pennsylvania.

On to New Jersey, where Dot opened her home and heart to us, treating us to wonderful meals and fellowship. Her daughter, Laurie Collins, is a dedicated lay apostle who organized three opportunities for evangelization: one in her parish church, one at her monthly prayer group for young mothers, and one in the narthex of a neighboring church.

Last stop, Manhattan, where on a Friday evening, lay apostle Eileen Frazetta opened her home for a presentation and question and answer opportunity. What a great example of how the power of these messages can bring together a diverse group of souls who want to learn more about Christ and reflect on His goodness in the midst of the hustle and bustle of one of the largest cities in the U.S.

Each of the many lay apostles we met along the way had specific gifts they contributed to making evangelization possible: organizing, hosting, inviting, funding, encouraging. We thank them all for bringing Jesus’ messages to their part of the world.

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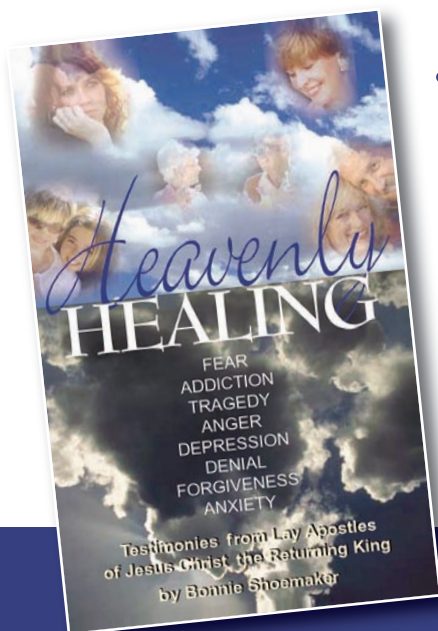
Mission Information Packet Available

DFOT makes free information resources available 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 information, 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.

Fruits of the Mission

By Bonnie Shoemaker



*M*ystical experiences are very personal. Sometimes, however, we are called to share the way God is working in our lives. Personal testimonies provide others with hope and encouragement as they climb their path on the mountain of holiness. Perhaps you have a story you would like to share with us.

Here is one suggestion that might help you to effectively communicate your personal testimony. Focus on three simple points: **Before** you were introduced to the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King, **what** affected you in the apostolate, and the **difference or impact** in your life since becoming a lay apostle.

Please send any testimonies that you would like to share to our office at dfotoffice@aol.com.

Heavenly Healing by Bonnie Shoemaker is published by CMJ Marian Publishers and is available on our website at www.directionforourtimes.org.