



DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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

JUNE 2007

ISSUE 6

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Rejoice in Each Other

By Anne, a lay apostle

When we are drawn to one of the saints, we must understand that what attracts us is the saint combined with Jesus Christ. A person becomes a saint through a process of reducing his personal will and replacing it with the Lord's will. Reducing and replacing, over and over again, day after day.

When this process is being practiced, a person begins to resemble Jesus Christ more than himself, even while retaining his personal characteristics and unique qualities. How beautiful is this process that is sanctification and what joy is there in the contemplation of our canonized brothers and sisters who overcame their self-will in order to align themselves with the will of the Father, setting glorious examples for us.

Each of the saints would tell us to look, not at them, but at Christ and truly when we admire their holiness, we are admiring the handiwork of the Lord. This stated, contemplation of the saints themselves gives us terrific hope and courage because if they can become holy, we can become holy.

Jesus rejoices in our individuality. Jesus utilizes our individuality to draw others. Those of us who are drawn to St. John the Apostle may not be drawn to St. Paul. Their styles are different and their approaches to holiness are different. This is fine. Jesus allowed for many different styles of service to be represented in the Gospels.

It is the same now during this time of renewal. Jesus needs each one of us. Sometimes



St. Therese of Lisieux

we look at another apostle and think, Hmm. That is not what I would think a loyal apostle should look like or act like or sound like. That same apostle might look at us and think the same thing. And yet heaven looks at these two people and rejoices because truly each is called and each is serving, albeit in different ways with different styles and each bringing in the same harvest in different ways.

Let us rejoice in and learn from all of the saints who have gone before us. Let us also rejoice in and learn from all of the saints who walk alongside us.



News of the Mission

Steve Logan, DFOT Vice President and Treasurer

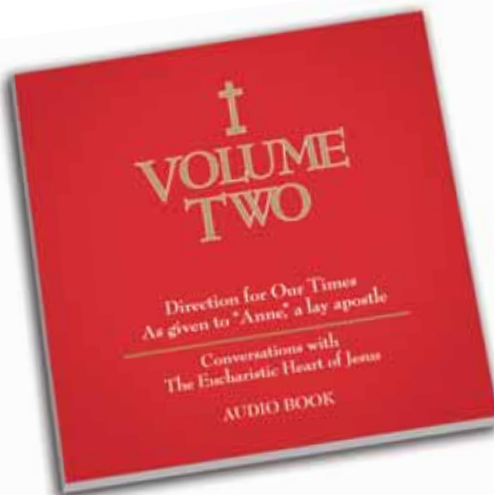
News from DFOT/U.S.

- New FOCUS DVDs now available through our website or by phone include the following:
 - “Proclaiming the Great Feast of Divine Mercy ... in Ireland” – On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 15, 2007, many apostles from the United States, Ireland, Poland and Great Britain attended a Eucharistic Day of Renewal at Holy Trinity Abbey, Ballyjamesduff, Ireland. This DVD contains footage from the day including talks by Anne and Sr. Brieghe McKenna. See the story regarding Divine Mercy Sunday on page 3.
 - “Obedience ... The Key to Holiness” – filmed on the grounds of Holy Trinity Abbey, Char Vance interviews Anne about the importance of living a life of obedience to the Catholic Church – 60 minutes.
 - “Anne in Ireland” – filmed on the grounds of Holy Trinity Abbey, Char Vance interviews Anne, a lay apostle; Father Francis Martin; and Fr. Gerard Cusack, a Norbertine priest of the Abbey – 60 minutes.
 - “Heaven Speaks to Young People” – an in-depth interview with Nora McCarthy, DFOT Youth Coordinator – 60 minutes.
 - “Recorded Live Eucharistic Day of Renewal” – 240 minutes 2-DVD set recording of the February 10, 2007 Tinley Park event.
 - “A Theologian’s Perspective” – 60 minutes with Dr. Mark Miravalle.
 - Anne IX & X – “Mission of Mercy... Live” & “A Conversation with Anne” – 120 minutes total.
- Various mission information documents developed to help support evangelization efforts of lay apostles are available in PDF

format on our website. A new document recently added to our website is Dr. Mark Miravalle’s presentation at Tinley Park on February 10, 2007 entitled: “*The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King: A Theological Commentary.*”

The website address is: <http://www.directionforourtimes.com/downloadinfo.html>

- All 20 of the “Heaven Speaks” booklets are now available in PDF format on our website for free download and printing. We encourage everyone to download and distribute these booklets. The website address for this page: <http://www.directionforourtimes.com/onlineibrary.html>
- New evangelization tools that are now available through our website or by phone include:
 - **Litany of Humility Bookmark:** This beautifully printed full-color bookmark has the stained glass window with the mountain of holiness on one side and the Litany of Humility on the other. This litany is prayed daily by Anne and all lay apostles at Direction for Our Times.
 - **Volume Two Audio book:** This 2 CD set contains all the messages from *Volume Two*.



News from around the World

- Translations:
 - **French** — The French translation of Volumes One through Four and Volume Six are complete. Volumes One, Two and Three have been printed and are now available through our website or by phone.
 - **Polish** — The Polish translation of Volumes One through Volume Three are completed and we are now in the process of preparing those to be printed.
 - **Spanish** — All Volumes, Heaven Speaks Booklets and *Climbing the Mountain* are now printed. *The Mist of Mercy* is in the process of being translated.
 - **Other languages** in the beginning stages:
 - Danish
 - Norwegian
 - Chinese
 - Japanese
 - German
 - Lithuanian
 - Thai
 - Ukrainian
 - Various languages spoken in India

We would be extremely grateful for any assistance, financial or practical, with the translations projects.

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Divine Mercy Sunday



“Anne, our missions are destined to be joined. Your mission is an extension of my mission in that it is all part of the Divine Mercy.”

— Saint Faustina, September 27th, 2005

With this proclamation, the messages from Saint Faustina Kowalska began. In the 1930s, Jesus asked Faustina, a Polish cloistered nun of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, to promote devotion to His Divine Mercy, and it has now spread to the entire Catholic world. Decades later, Anne started receiving inner locutions from St. Faustina, in which she explained that the missions of Divine Mercy and of Jesus Christ the Returning King would be linked. As one manifestation of how heaven is joining these missions, a Eucharistic Day of Renewal was held on the Feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday, April 15th, 2007 at the Holy Trinity Abbey in Kilnacrott, Ireland.

For the entire week after Easter, all of Ireland enjoyed unprecedented sunshine and

warm temperatures. Early on Sunday morning, a soft mist blanketed the countryside, prompting one lay apostle to comment that the event was surrounded by a “mist of mercy.” Lay apostles from all over the world took part in this prayerful and uplifting day, strolling around the beautiful grounds and admiring the life-size portraits of Jesus as both Divine Mercy and the Returning King.

The Eucharistic Day of Renewal began early in the afternoon with recitation of the Rosary and the Chaplet, followed by Mass. The main celebrant of the Mass was Abbot Gerard Cusack with Fr. Oliver Martin, Fr. Kevin Smith, Fr. Darragh Connolly, Fr. Francis Martin, Fr. Kevin Scallan and many other priests concelebrating. During his homily, Fr. Darragh Connolly reminded all present of the importance of giving our day to God

the Father and Jesus Christ by praying the Allegiance Prayer and the Morning Offering. He assured those present that innumerable graces are available to those who surrender themselves to the will of God. After Mass, Sister Brieghe McKenna delighted the congregation with her talk about Divine Mercy and God’s special guidance in the writings of Direction for Our Times.

Next, “Anne” spoke of God’s love for each of us and His desire for us to spend more time in silence. She reminded us of the importance of obedience to the teachings of the Catholic Church, especially in defense of the unborn. Anne spoke with deep conviction that obedience and humility are the foundations of holiness. Time spent in silence and adoration, fellowship with other faith-filled apostles, and frequent reception of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation are all tools we have at our disposal to help us be aware of Christ’s mercy and love.

This beautiful day of Eucharistic Renewal ended with a Holy Hour of Adoration.



Sr. Brieghe McKenna talked about the Divine Mercy and God’s special guidance in the writings of Direction for Our Times.

Focus: Volume Seven

Fr. John Murphy



Volume Seven of Direction for Our Times as given to “Anne,” a lay apostle, is subtitled *Greetings from Heaven*. This Volume was written in July 2004 and in it saints speak to Anne; hence the subtitle.

The saints in question are St. Therese, St. Philomena, St. Anthony, St. Gertrude, St. Damien, St. Matthew, St. Christopher, St. Julia, St. Daniel, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Ignatius. Some of these saints are scarcely known; others are considered to be heavyweights of the kingdom.

There is a common core to their messages. They are all concerned with their brothers and sisters on earth. They observe our difficulties and struggles because they also struggled while on earth. They are constantly interceding for us, constantly asking for greater and more numerous gifts of grace for us.



Saints are people who are finished on earth and who have fought the good fight. They are like experienced soldiers and now wish to support their brothers and sisters. They are aware that our world can be cynical, mistrusting and skeptical. These are all symptoms of despair. In these situations we are to trust the saints who are Jesus’ closest friends and of course we must trust Jesus Himself.

In the message attributed to St. Ignatius, he points out that heavenly learning is not for great scholars; rather they were simple people who loved God. This simplicity is obvious in all these messages, even in those from St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, one of the greatest minds the Church has ever known.

Even his messages are very easy to understand. This saint, who penned the great Eucharistic Hymns for the Feast of Corpus Christi, speaks of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament being our secret weapon.

St. Thomas also says that the enemy knows the power of Mary. No enemy, though, can really separate us from the fundamentals of our faith.

We leave the last word from the saints to St. Ignatius. “All of your brothers and sisters here in heaven love you. God loves you. And we all want to help you.”

The Saints

By Ronda Chervin

A contemplative philosopher of the Roman Empire, Plotinus, thought that his death would be “the alone to the Alone.” How different from the faith of Christians! Even God has never been alone but is a Trinity of Divine Persons. We believe that when, by the grace of God, we get to heaven, we will be surrounded by saints and angels, not to mention the family and friends we intercede for and who we hope are praying for us here on earth.

I have written many books about the saints but I am also a philosophy professor and we, especially, tend to question before we confirm. So, when Anne started telling us what the saints wanted us to know in our times, I was skeptical. I believe that Padre Pio is present to many people today and also Saint Therese of Lisieux but I hadn't thought I would get advice from St. Philomena or St. Julie. Imagine my joy to find that the ones in Volume Seven I am familiar with from my research actually talk in a way that fits what we know of them from the past!

The saints are our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends in heaven who love us and want to help us through the thorny path of life. In the index of my book *Treasury of Women Saints* I divide them up - saints who were abused, saints who were or were considered to be mentally disturbed, divorced saints. Now, myself a widow, I research the widow saints, most of whom I knew about not because they were widows but for other reasons such as their wonderful writings. Now I pray to them to help me with my many widow problems. They come through.

Male saints? Did you know there was a saint who was a gang leader? Look up St. Moses of Ethiopia. One who was so anxious and despairing he couldn't cross a bridge without wanting to jump off? Look up Blessed Francis Libermann.

But you don't have to go to the web or your Catholic library or bookstore yet. Start with Volume Seven of *Direction for Our Times*, *Greetings from Heaven*, and, like me, you'll find that many of the lines in it seem to be there just for you.

Ronda Chervin, Ph.D. is a professor of philosophy, a speaker, and author of numerous books about Catholic Spirituality. She also has mini-talks on audio at her website www.rondachervin.com



Prayer to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus

May the heart of Jesus,
in the Most Blessed Sacrament,
be praised, adored, and loved
with grateful affection,
at every moment,
in all the tabernacles of the world,
even to the end of time. Amen.

— Indulgence granted for this prayer
by Pope Pius IX on February 29, 1868

Lay Apostles on the MOVE!

On most days of the year, the small resort town of Red River is best known as a place of outstanding beauty and tranquility. Located in the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains of northeast New Mexico, Red River is the peaceful home to 450 full-time residents. However, once a year for the last 25 years the quiet ends, as the townspeople become hosts to approximately fifteen thousand bikers and their families who attend a Memorial Day Biker Rally.

How could such an event become an opportunity for evangelization? It began last year, when, with the help of a few area Catholics, a small lay apostle group sat in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at their log cabin church, praying for the promotion of unity amongst the bikers. This year, after participating in the Day of Eucharistic Renewal in Ireland this spring, they felt called to expand their efforts to bring the Lord's messages to the bikers. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit to augment their efforts by hosting a booth, at which they could distribute religious materials as well as accepting prayer petitions.

With the help of Fr. Dino Candelaria, the group prepared in the best way possible — with



prayer! All lay apostles participated in Mass on Thursday, then started setting up the booth on Friday morning. The weekend officially started on Friday afternoon, and so did the Adoration group. Each of the five lay apostles who manned the booth (two came from Dallas) prayed in Adoration at least one hour a day. The rest of Adoration was covered by people from the area's main church - St. Anthony's in Questa. Adoration was ongoing during the times that the booth was open, and prayer petitions were accepted at the booth, then taken to the church and placed at the altar. One of the lay apostles also created a list of general prayer peti-

tions for which prayers were said throughout the weekend. At the end of the rally on Sunday afternoon, Father Candelaria held a closing Pentecost Day Mass, starting with Benediction and ending with a Blessing of the Motorcycles.

Sally Neal, who helped organize the lay apostles' efforts, says she learned a lot about evangelization as a result of this effort. "I believe that

Adoration was the key to our success." The apostles learned that it is important to find some common ground with the people you are reaching out to. "Fortunately, some Dallas apostles had given us several hundred Miraculous Medals and about a hundred handmade rosaries packaged in small plastic bags with information on how to say the Rosary inside. By Divine Providence most of the rosaries were black, which was attractive to the bikers. When we ran out of those items, Father found St. Anthony key chains, which he blessed, and we handed out. Having something to hand to people was a great way to open up a conversation with them, and then lead them to the booth. We would use a phrase like 'Here's a blessed medal to keep you safe on your way home and keep your wheels on the ground.' Throughout the event, a few bikers commented on how glad they were to see something Catholic, as there are some Christian motorcycle groups who have had a presence at the rally for years, but they had never seen anything Catholic."

This small lay apostle group, living deep in the heart of the "Blood of Christ" mountains, certainly has shown that the power of prayer, when combined with creativity and the willingness to serve, are keys to success in bringing God's love to all people.





Heaven Speaks About Stress

August 9, 2005

Jesus

My children, why do you hurry so? Why do you feel you must move so quickly through your days? This is not the way I intended the children of God to live. You may tell Me that you have many things to do. I respond to you by saying that you are trying to do too much. You will not be holy if you move so quickly. I want My beloved apostles to move more slowly and thoughtfully through their days. I want you to make decisions on what I am asking you to do and what you are busying yourself with that is not from Me. I want your way of life to change and I am asking you to make this change now. In the next week, think about each activity and decide, with Me, if it is something I want you to do or something you want to do. My dearest apostles, I ask that you begin to remove activities that do not further My will. I want more time in silence, as you know. I want more time with families, without noise blocking you from each other. I want prayer, yes, but also conversations that are not hurried and stressed between husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and parents and children. These are the souls I have decided you will walk through your life with and

you have obligations to them. If you are too busy with your own will, you are not seeing to Mine and you are missing opportunities both to learn from others and to assist others in learning about Me. If you do not pay heed to Me, who will? In order for the renewal to come, My beloved apostles must begin to seek only heaven's will in their days. And I am talking to you and calling you My apostle. Do not look to someone else or assume I am speaking to others. I am speaking to you.

St. Padre Pio

Live simply. Eat simply. Love one another simply. Do not complicate matters unnecessarily. How do you live simply? You remove activities that are not necessary or that pull you away from duty. Consider your duty. Then move through each day and try to serve only that duty. Have order in your life and in the life of your family. There should be a rhythm to each day that does not change. Rise at the same time. Retire at the same time in the evening. Pray at the same time. This creates an environment in which you are free to consider God. Do not think, my friends, that you live in a world where the need for simplicity has disappeared. Apostles of Jesus Christ must set an example of service and obedience but not hectic service. There should be calm and if there is not calm in your life, change your life and keep changing it until you find calm. The act of sitting and reading these words is forcing you to consider heaven's wishes for you. Pull yourself away from the world even further and spend some time in silence when you are finished with reading. Ask Jesus to show you which activities should be removed. My friends, the lives of your children, if you are a parent, should also be simple. Children should not be stressed by too many activities. They should have responsibilities in their home and their parents should be present to see that the children meet their responsibilities. This will make children feel good and holy. If there is calm in the home, and not constant noise, a parent is able to consider each child and see that each child is proceeding in the acquisi-

tion of virtues. This is not happening if there is a constant stream of activity that prevents souls from consideration of these matters. Live simply.

St. Padre Pio

Eat simply. There is a problem with eating and drinking in today's world. There are those who are starving and those who are gorging. My friends, I loved food when I lived on earth. I loved it so much that I had to withdraw from it lest I became too attached to it. Food is for sustenance. You should eat simple foods, prepared at home, and not stress your body with too much food or too much drink. This is not how holy apostles live. Holy apostles consider what they need to sustain their bodies so they can serve each other in physical strength. There is a time for feasting, of course, and these feasts should be as generous as possible with great thanksgiving and joy. I am not saying that there should be no joy or that food should be dreary. Meal time should be happy and cheerful. There should be prayers before meals and after meals. These prayers should not be long or drawn out. They should be simple and heartfelt, thanking heaven for providing for you on each day. What I am remarking upon is a distorted view of food and eating. If you are part of a family, there should be others assisting in the preparation and serving of meals. Even if there is limited time, there should be some form of sitting together and ministering to one another with regard to each day's challenges or triumphs. If you are eating alone, this time of eating can be shared with heaven. It is heaven who is sustaining you, after all, so it is only just that heaven be given some attention. Eating should create a pause in your day. It is a time for reflection, a break between one task and the next, between one portion of your day and another. It is a time to consider your duty and how you are doing in the performance of it. Eating in haste is yet another example of how the enemy keeps God's children so distracted that they cannot consider Him or His will. Eat simply.

St. Padre Pio

Love simply. Serve each other in joy and patience. There is far too much talk about relationships. You were created to serve, dear apostles. Serve. Do not keep scorecards of who is serving the most or who is serving the best. You have only to account for yourself so why do you concern yourself so often with the lack of service in others? Set an example of consistent service and you will find that others fall into line with you and improve. Love each other as Jesus loves you. Jesus forgives and forgets. Jesus does not wait to catch you at a bad moment when you are not doing your best or when you are discouraged. Jesus encourages you and overlooks your flaws. Do this for others, most particularly the souls who are called to walk through your life with you. No judging, my friends. Judging is for Jesus. Put the best possible light on others and expect the best from them and you will not be disappointed. Love passionately in that if you are called to walk with someone, be loyal to them as Jesus is loyal to you. Look for ways to make them feel cherished and appreciated. Small acts of kindness can change someone's life. Heaven is promising the greatest graces for this time. Heaven speaks the truth, always, and will deliver these graces. Ask for great graces for each soul in your life, particularly that soul who is annoying to you or the soul you feel is failing you in some way. Ask heaven to surround them with grace and then love them. Dear parents, love your children simply. Look at each child as God's precious gift, created to serve the kingdom. How will that soul be called to serve? Each call is individual but I can tell you this. If there is a child in your life, you must consider what you are being asked to contribute to that child's formation. I am speaking now to all people, not just parents. Take an interest in the children around you and see what our Lord is expecting you to provide in the way of encouragement. Brothers and sisters, serve each other in peace and do not fight and bicker so much. Love simply. Heaven will help you.

St. Padre Pio

Be at peace in the crosses God has asked you to carry. Do not be angry at heaven or blame heaven for the troubles in your life. Your life will end and the troubles will end. If you are at odds with heaven, your anger is misplaced. Brothers and sisters, neither should there be so much energy scrutinizing what your Church has done wrong. Acknowledge the mistakes of others and pray for them, protect yourself from their flaws if they are dangerous to you, but do not live your life discussing the flaws and mistakes of

those in the Church who are struggling. This is over. The time for this has passed. A renewed Church is coming, faithful and united, and you must help to usher this in by setting an example of great loyalty and fidelity. Perhaps there are things you do not agree with about this Church. Heaven accepts the fact that you have opinions. But you should discuss these things with Jesus and not use these points to pull your Church down and distance others from obedience. You will be accountable for this, my friends. If Jesus is calling you to lead in the Church, then you must lead. If He is calling you to follow in the Church, I suggest you follow or risk displeasing heaven. These words I say to you are serious and I am praying that you will heed them. God is allowing this because He loves you and He does not want you confused and distracted. This relentless criticism of the Church is not from God, of course. But you know that and you understand that being in a constant state of disagreement with your Church is causing you unnecessary stress. There are many beautiful and brave souls who have been called to the renewal. You are one of them. Work for your Church and defend Her in whatever way you are called. This is God's one true Church and that has not changed. Be faithful during this time and your reward will fill you with the greatest joy. It is too uncomfortable for you to be doubtful of our Lord's leaders. So you should be accepting of both your personal crosses and also accepting of the crosses your Church is carrying during this period. Heaven is with you in each personal cross and heaven is working to renew the Church. Be patient and calm while we work together in these matters.

St. Padre Pio

My brothers and sisters have many ways of dealing with stress in their lives. What heaven is trying to tell you is that much of your stress can be alleviated by a few simple decisions. The first is a decision for Jesus, total and complete. This will actually reduce all of the stress in your life because you will begin to live for heaven and not earth. You will concentrate on your duty, ordained by heaven, and not on the busyness that the world is trying to substitute for your duty. You will decide to live simply, eat simply, love simply and heaven will surround you with graces each day. Jesus will not be in one box and your life in another. Jesus and your life will be together each day, all day, and each decision will be made in union with Him. This is service to heaven and unity with heaven. Concentrate not on how others are loving you or not loving you. Jesus loves you

enough for everyone on the planet with you at any given time. Concentrate on how Jesus is able to flow His love through you to others. This is the renewal. This is the process of the second coming which has begun. Jesus returns to the earth through each one of His beloved apostles. If you are thinking that perhaps you are not called to be His apostle, let me clear that up immediately and state, with all certainty, that Jesus is calling you. You are called. You must answer. Follow Him and you will find your stress fading away, even in the greatest of trials and temptations. I am your friend and heaven is filled with souls like me who are also your friends. We will help you with the process of reducing stress in your life. Acquire a heavenly rhythm to your days and watch what Jesus can do. I love you.

Blessed Mother

My little children become unhappy when they are too busy. They do not have time to give love to each other and to receive love from each other and this makes them troubled. They then seek to make themselves feel better by distractions that are not from God. Dear children, I am your heavenly mother and I will help you with this problem. Jesus wants you to live happily, even with the inevitable crosses that come in your lifetime. Be aware of each act that pulls you away from your duty. Be disciplined in organizing your life so that there is order and peace in your home. Do not allow possessions to clutter your home or your heart. Remove these material things and let your home be clean and orderly, as best you can. I am not asking that you be rigid, my dear children, but that you be simple. I am not asking that you be harsh with your children but that you set an example of order so that they will understand that too many possessions are not necessary. I will help you to be at peace with each other in your home. Please do not shout at each other. When this happens, and impatience takes over, apologize as quickly as possible and restore peace. Do not live in coldness. If there is a disagreement and you make peace, even if you are not at fault, all of heaven will applaud you. Blessed are the peacemakers, my children. This cannot be stated enough. Bring peace everywhere with you and you will be a faithful apostle of my beautiful Son, Jesus. I am with you and I will help you to understand how heaven is asking you to do this. Always look for the small opportunities. I love you. I will never leave you.

Stress

By Margaret, 28, a lay apostle

In high school I had a teacher who spent a year doing missionary work in a remote part of the world. She taught Bible study but what I remember most was the story she told us about her return from the foreign missions.

She was excited to see family and friends and anxious to tell them about the great experience she had living and working with the native people. The lifestyle had been simple and yet challenging — no indoor toilets, no electricity, no running water. During the course of the year, she had worked hard with these people and a relationship akin to family had developed. Although leaving was bittersweet, she was happy, healthy and peaceful coming home.

Meandering out from baggage claim, she noted the hustle and bustle of the airport. Suddenly, someone grabbed her bag and said, “Let’s go.” It was her sister. Trotting behind, she listened as her sister explained that she was double parked. After a frantic, nearly aggressive hug, the welcome was complete. In the course of the 40-minute drive home, at 90 miles an hour, her sister told her she would have to drop her at their mother’s house and race off to go pick up her daughter from volleyball, then she would drop the son to soccer, and then she would stop by for a “quick” visit before picking him back up. They skidded up to their mother’s house where her sister patiently allowed my teacher to leap from the car.

Relieved and a little stomach sick, she entered the house. “Loud” is her recollection. The radio was on in the kitchen, the TV was on in the sitting room, the dishwasher was going, the dryer was going, and something was beeping, presumably done. Her mother, the only one home, gave her a big hug and said how much she missed her. She then told her, “Quick, run up and have a fast shower. Your dad and I want to take you to lunch, but we have to be at the restaurant in half an hour because he has to get back to the office.” My

teacher protested slightly, being worn out from the journey and frankly overwhelmed by the flurry of activity and noise. She had been accustomed to a completely different environment over the last year. Her mother insisted saying, “Your father wants to see you and he is working late tonight. Then he has a golf outing in the morning and on Tuesday he is going away for three days for work.” Feeling guilty, my teacher had a speed shower, after which they raced off to the restaurant.



Fifteen minutes after they were seated, her father arrived with a brief rant about traffic. They ordered. Almost instantaneously, three massive plates of food were placed on the table. She ate as much as she could, as fast as she could. Her father eyed his watch and asked for the dessert menu. The celebratory lunch, which lasted forty-five minutes, concluded with her father bolting out the door in fear of traffic, her mother complaining about her waistline and vowing to live on protein shakes for the next month, and my teacher trying to sit very still as she had a headache and was afraid she might vomit.

Once again she found herself in the car. Her mother dropped her back at the house and said she had to run; she was late for her hair appointment. She went in the house and sat down on the couch. She savored the silence for a few minutes and reflected on the last three hours. She thought

that they had been the most stressful of her life. Was coming home a good idea?

She decided to turn on the television. She hadn’t watched television in over a year. She was immediately assaulted by a breaking story about a woman opening fire in a grammar school. My teacher began to cry. She couldn’t stop. When her sister came by for her “quick” visit, my teacher was still crying. Her sister, confused and a little panicked, offered her a mild tranquilizer. My teacher took it, went to bed and thus ended her first day at home in over a year.

It is ironic that the reunion she so anticipated would leave her physically sick, exhausted, and upset. But if we think about it, many of us routinely walk away from family members feeling this way. This woman expected to be welcomed home. She probably thought everyone would sit down and ask questions about her year. She wanted her family to care about what she had been doing. But they couldn’t. They were all too stressed.

Most of us have crammed too many activities into our day or been distracted by too much noise. These are pitfalls of our modern world. On any given day, we have all been the frantic sister, the distracted mother, the workaholic father or the disappointed member of the family who feels emotionally short-changed. The question for each of us to consider is whether or not these are sporadic lapses or permanent ways of living. We don’t want to live our lives moving so quickly that we miss the important parts.

This is a challenge for all of us — to slow down, to listen, to be aware of others, and above all to love each other. As St. Gertrude says in Volume Seven, p. 29, “Heaven needs only a willing spirit who will put herself in silence so that these graces can take root.”

We must seek out and rest in heaven’s quiet.

Recent Monthly Messages

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

On the first of each month, Jesus gives a message to all lay apostles through Anne. To receive a copy of this message on the first of each month, sign up at our website www.directionforourtimes.com or call the office at 708-496-9300 to be added to our mailing list.

April 1, 2007

Jesus

My beloved apostles rest in My heart each time they pray. Truly, when you come to Me, I am there. There are times when you feel abandoned as I felt abandoned. I allow this so that you can share My experience. In this way, by sharing My experience of abandonment, you come to know Me more completely. Through this intimacy you become more like Me. My dear ones, it is through sharing My experiences that you learn to love others who carry crosses. There are times when your humanity leads you to judge another but because you have suffered, you offer compassion instead of condemnation. Each experience in your life, shared with Me, increases your holiness and your capacity for compassion. Think of the times when someone treated you with compassion when you expected condemnation. Think of the times in your life when someone treated you with kindness and support, overlooking a failure or a flaw. My friends, you do not always understand but it is the crosses you carry that enhance these heavenly capabilities in your soul. I know you struggle. I accept your weaknesses. Do not think that your anguish is a measure of your holiness. Do not think that because you find your cross heavy, you are not making progress. I am with you and I am advancing you, even while you groan with weariness. The kingdom will make the best possible use of the inevitable suffering that accompanies your humanity. Your decision to serve is all that is necessary to draw graces for others from your life. Be at peace that I understand your suffering and your movement to holiness. I am with you in each moment. I take the greatest joy in accepting your suffering and rewarding it with heavenly gains, both

in your soul and in the world. You are My beloved ones. You are My chosen ones. The greatest care is taken with each of your little souls. Your progress is apparent from My vantage point. You must trust Me and allow Me to access others through you. Think back on our walk together. Think of the great graces I have flowed through you in the past. This flow of grace is increasing by the moment and is not dependent on your perfection but on My perfection. My presence in your soul brings a perfume into the world that is irreplaceable. I need you. Our unity, yours and Mine, brings unique benefits to the kingdom. Yes, you are important to Me and to your heavenly family. Rest against your Jesus now as I send you courage and strength and heavenly calm.

May 1, 2007

Jesus

My apostles, I speak to you with such hope. Why do I feel hope when I speak these words? I, your Jesus, feel hope because you are reading these words and listening to Me. In your soul, you are interested in My plan. In your soul you are willing to make the changes which will bring about My plan. In your soul you receive a foretaste of heaven which provides you with the joy that I wish to make available to others. My heavenly plan is truly rooted in your soul and for this reason I have hope. The times in which you live provide you with opportunities to practice hope, even while much of the world feels dismay and fear. My apostles see that the world is changing and this is the message, a message of hope, which flows through them. You are precious to Me, both because of the unique love I have for you and for the unique plan I have for you. Allow Me to rest in your soul each

day and I will fill you with My love. Where can you find more silence? How can you give your Jesus just a few more minutes of time to be with you and sanctify you even further? My beloved apostle, please be disciplined about your time with Me in each day. I do not want you to be distracted. I do not want the world to take your hope from you. If you do not spend time with Me, you are vulnerable to the fears sowed by the enemy of hope. I rely on My beloved ones. In them I find rest and solace. You see, dear apostle, if I can change you and fill you with My great spiritual blessings, I can change others. Is there even one life that you can say you affected by your faith in Me and by My presence in you? Do not limit My plan in your mind. My plan is vast and it is working. Be joyful today as I am joyful. Hope in Me, dear one, as I hope in you. Trust in Me as I trust in you. Be with Me as I long to be with you and together we will fill the world with hope, drawing many wounded souls back into our family of love.

June 1, 2007

Jesus

Heavenly consideration is the compass which will insure a true course for each apostle. In every situation, consider heaven's goals for you and for those around you. The apostle who gives thoughtful consideration to heaven's goals will be known for speaking less, rather than more. This apostle will make decisions in My company, aware of My goals. I would ask each of My apostles to practice this today. Move into your day gently, aware that I may wish to adjust your course several times. You expect one thing, perhaps. But I, your Jesus, may need something else from you. You are committed to a certain plan, perhaps. But I, your Jesus, may have chosen

How to Start a Lay Apostle Monthly Prayer Group

By Crystal Sullivan

In April of 2005, Jesus revealed to Anne a set of guidelines for those called to assist in the work of the rescue mission. One of the spiritual practices Jesus asked us to follow is participation in a monthly Lay Apostle Prayer Group, at which the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary would be recited, as well as a reading of the monthly message. Many of us lay apostles would like to be faithful to Jesus' request, but are not sure how to proceed in finding a prayer group. The Direction for Our Times office is ready to help you.

The first step is to determine whether you can join an established Lay Apostle Prayer Group in your area. Simply call our office at 708-496-9300. We will give you information on the date, place and contact information of all the prayer groups which have registered with our office.

If there is no group in your area, consider beginning your own. The process is simple, and you will have all the support you need. Both our staff and the Holy Spirit will direct your efforts — an unbeatable combination! If you already have a group of people who have read

the Volumes, all you need are a few guidelines to help you get organized.

Quite simply, prayer groups need to determine when they will meet, where they will meet, and who will be responsible for bringing the monthly message to the meeting. Prayer groups can be as small as two people and as large as the prayer space will hold. Groups can meet in the home of a lay apostle, or in any other convenient location, such as a church or an Adoration chapel. If the latter is the case, make sure you receive permission from your pastor before you begin.

If you do not know any lay apostles who wish to join a Lay Apostle Prayer Group, our staff can help you by providing names and phone numbers of registered lay apostles who live in your area. Then you simply call the individuals, identify yourself as a fellow lay apostle who is interested in forming a prayer group in the area, and determine the best time and place to pray as a group.

When your Lay Apostle Prayer Group meets, begin by welcoming all, being especially mindful of individuals you do not know person-

ally and who may never have attended a prayer group before. Invariably, lay apostles will realize that the Lord has brought them together for a reason, and they will find fellowship and support by talking about their faith experiences. After a brief settling, begin with an invitation to spend a moment in silence to allow the peace of Christ to settle into the hearts of all those present.

Then, beginning with the Sign of the Cross, start the recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. (The Mysteries of the Rosary can be found in the back of each of the Volumes as well as *Climbing the Mountain* and *The Mist of Mercy*.) After finishing the Rosary, whoever was designated to bring the Monthly Message should read the message to the group.

That's all you need to do! From beginning to end, the group will be praying together for about 1/2 hour.

Once you have established a Lay Apostle Prayer Group, please register your group with the Direction for Our Times office. This will help your prayer group grow. For European registration, contact the DFOT Ireland office at 042-969-4947.

Monthly Messages

continued from previous page

a different plan altogether. Only with thoughtful consideration will you be alert to My will in each situation. Apostles, you have been prepared to serve in the manner that I require you to serve. You have been taught many things about holiness. If you are humble, you are aware that there are many things still to be learned about holiness. If you are humble, you may protest, saying, "Jesus, I am not ready. I must become holier still." I understand your weaknesses and struggles. I do not fear the limits of your humanity. I

have factored your weaknesses into the plan I have for you. You should never be afraid that you lack the holiness to complete the mission that I have willed for you. I will make you holy if you proceed according to My directions. You shall have all you need. Please begin to use all that you have been taught. Begin to see others as I see others, in need of love and tolerance. You have been taught not to make judgments. Do not make judgments. You have been taught to spend time in silence. Spend time in silence. You have been taught to trust Me. Trust in Me now, today. You have been taught not to be afraid of the future. Do not fear the future. Dear apostles, you have been taught to pray. Pray. Now, today, every

day. Pray. Ask Me for mercy for this world. Ask Me for conversion graces for this world. Ask Me for the Spirit of truth in such an abundance that all eyes will be opened to God's truth. My beloved faithful apostles, I want you to use everything you have been given to serve Me so that others may be saved. I am with you. I will direct you in each moment. You must be at peace so that others can learn about peace. You must be calm so that others can learn about calm. Do not underestimate the power of setting an example of heavenly consideration. It is this consideration in each apostle that will ultimately allow Me to reclaim a multitude of souls for the Father.

Mistakes

Nora McCarthy, DFOT Youth Coordinator

When I realized I was called to work in this mission a year ago, I was bartending at a club downtown. God truly calls us from all walks of life! As the mission became a central part of my life, my faith grew enormously and it became clear to me that I couldn't live the same life and still walk up the mountain of holiness. My friends from the bar drank on a consistent basis and I began to realize that as I was growing away from that bar life, I was also growing away from these friends. I prayed about this transition constantly. I knew I needed to be surrounded by other people my age who were also trying to live their life with Christ. I asked God for friends with faith.

My climb up the mountain has never been steady. It has been more of a two steps forward, one step back experience. Recently I went out with some old friends. I wanted to fit in with them so badly but after a weekend of drinking, I felt miserable, empty, and certain that I failed Christ. I sat at my desk on Monday morning feeling like the biggest loser ever. I felt a lonely depression. While I was making copies at the

copy machine I sputtered apologies to Jesus in my head. I looked over to the table next to the machine and part of a monthly message popped out at me. "I am with you. I will not leave



you. I love you and you are Mine." As the messages always do, this one spoke directly to me. Jesus was reminding me that He was still with me.

I went to the chapel after work that night

still feeling like a failure. As God's merciful will had it, I ran into one of the new "friends with faith" that God had sent. I told him about the weekend and how foolish I felt. He told me that as long as I was sorry for letting these mistakes happen, God's plan for me would not stop. He said that they would only make me more humble. I sat in the chapel after that and realized just how much Christ loved me. By driving to the chapel, by making that small step toward Christ, He was able to flood me with grace. Christ was able to minister to me through my friend. As Anne told us in *The Misty of Mercy*, "God has a short memory when it comes to our mistakes and a long memory when it comes to any cooperation we give to Him."

I finally put the pieces of the puzzle together. The whole day while I was feeling like such a loser, Christ was sending me messages of His love for me. I came out of this horrible situation more fully aware of Christ's love. Was it a good decision to choose against Him that weekend? No. But Christ's love for me transformed an ugly situation into a learning one.



Direction For Our Times
9000 W. 81st Street
Justice, IL 60458

Published by Direction For Our Times,
a 501(C)(3) Not-For-Profit Organization
708-496-9300

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Mission Information Packet Available

DFOT makes available free information for the clergy who are interested in knowing more about the 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.