



DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

ISSUE 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News of the Mission	Pg. 2
Crystal Sullivan, <i>Luminous Mysteries</i>	Pg. 3
Fr. John Murphy, <i>Volume Nine</i>	Pg. 4
Joan W. Anderson, <i>Angel of God</i>	Pg. 5
Monthly Messages	Pg. 6
<i>Some Ideas for Praying with Children</i>	Pg. 8
<i>Heaven Speaks To Soldiers</i>	Pg. 9
Margaret, <i>Catholic Confusion</i>	Pg. 11
Anne, a lay apostle, <i>The Narrow Door</i>	Pg. 11

A Slice of Divinity

Anne, a lay apostle

Jesus recently allowed me to learn about the priesthood through a series of mystical experiences. I will never view the priesthood or any priest in the same way.

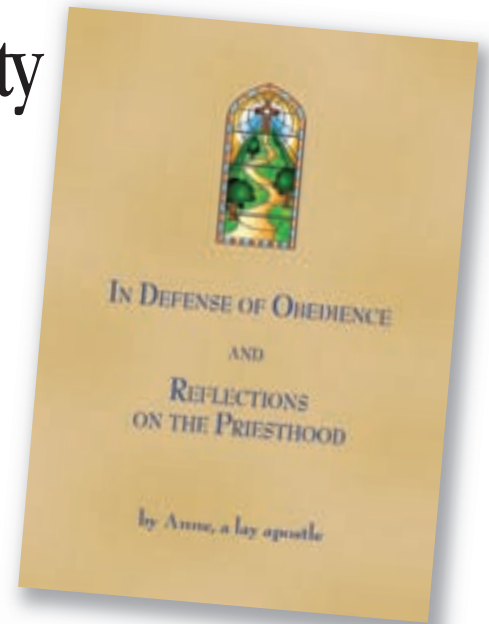
I saw that at the moment of ordination, a slice of the divinity is placed into the heart of each priest. His soul is indelibly altered. This cannot be understood without examining the reality of the Trinity.

God, our Father, placed all of His goals and love for humanity into the heart of Jesus Christ, His Son. These things, the Father's goals and love for humanity, clearly cannot be removed from the heart of the Son.

At the moment of ordination, what I can only describe as a slice of the divine person of Jesus Christ, the First Priest, is stamped into the heart of the man. This cannot be removed, ever. I finally understood the statement that "once a priest, always a priest."

Within the soul of each priest is placed all of the love that the Father has for each person ever created. Within the soul of each priest is placed all of the hopes and goals that the Father has for each one of us. It is, quite simply, that big. These are the men that are called to be Fathers of God's children on earth.

This truth in no way diminishes another truth, which is that the laity are also called to possess Christ. The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Chap. 4) begins with a positive definition: the laity are those faithful who by virtue of Baptism are "made one body with Christ and are established among the People of

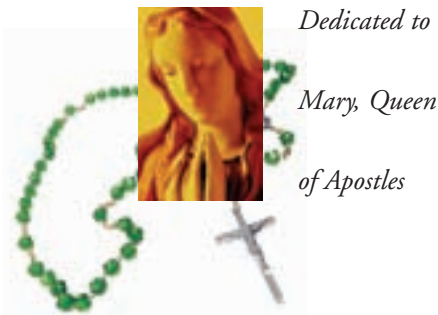


God (L.G.31). No less than the clergy, they too share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; as such, they have a responsibility for "the mission of the whole Christian people with respect to the Church and the world." Yet it is emphasized that the laity carry out this responsibility in a manner entirely appropriate to them—they do so as non-office bearers. (The New Dictionary of Theology, p. 560.)

I once prayed for a priest who was dying. I felt sad for him because he was ill and his life was ending. Jesus said, "**Anne, do not be sad for this man. The imprint of his vocation is already in heaven.**"

Jesus then showed me what was occurring in heaven as this priest lay dying. People were gathering, joyfully exchanging their stories about this man who had corrected their courses, offered consolation at pivotal moments in their lives, or supplied them with great graces through

continued on back page



*Dedicated to
Mary, Queen
of Apostles*

News of the Mission

Steve Logan, DFOT Vice President and Treasurer

Anne's Latest Book Now Available

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new book by Anne, a lay apostle, titled *In Defense of Obedience and Reflections on the Priesthood*. This book, 53 pages in length, is priced at \$5 and is available through our website at:

<http://www.directionfourtimes.com/store/booksbyanne.html>

Revised and Updated *Climbing The Mountain* Released

We recently completed an updated and revised version of the book *Climbing The Mountain*. This new version includes a detailed "History of the Mission" which includes the following sections:

- From the Beginning
- Rome and Personal Messages for Pope John Paul II
- Publishing the Written Works
- Monthly Message for the World
- Obedience to the Roman Catholic Church
- The Formation of the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King
- The Image of Jesus Christ the Returning King
- Eucharistic Days of Renewal

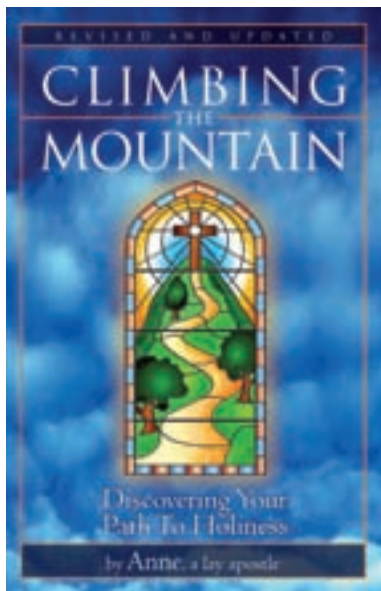
Another section contains "Articles Relating to the Mission" with contributing articles by friends of the mission, including Dr. Mark Miravalle's *The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King: A Theological Commentary*.

The sections of the book entitled "Heaven," "Climbing the Mountain," and the reproduction of the first ten Heaven Speaks booklets remain the same. 323 pages and priced at \$19.95, it is available through our website at:

<http://www.directionfourtimes.com/store/booksbyanne.html>

Monthly Lay Apostle Prayer Group in Ireland

A Lay Apostle Prayer Group is held on the first Thursday of each month at St. Anne's Church in Bailieborough, County Cavan, Ireland. The prayer meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. with a brief talk by Anne followed by a Holy Hour which includes the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, reading of the Monthly Message, Eucharistic procession and Benediction. Confessions are available both before and after the Holy Hour.



Anne Speaks at Knock Marian Shrine in Ireland

On Monday, August 13, 2007, Anne spoke at the "Day of Prayer for Priests" with Sr. Brieghe McKenna and Fr. Kevin Scallon at the Knock Marian Shrine in County Mayo, Ireland. The day included Anne addressing 85 priests on Jesus' messages of obedience and His love for His priests. Later, Anne offered a reflection after the homily at the Mass celebrated in the Basilica. The Mass was highly attended with a filled Basilica on this special day of intercession for priests.

Website Improvements and Additions

We recently updated our prayer group listing page. As of this writing, there are over 100 prayer groups registered. We thank our prayer group coordinators for their patience and understanding as we continue to work on more improvements for this area of the website. If you would like to register your prayer group, you can do so by completing the form on our web page or by calling our office. The page addresses are:

United States: <http://www.directionfourtimes.com/PrayerGroupsUS.html>

International: <http://www.directionfourtimes.com/PrayerGroupsInt.html>

Our website shopping cart is now operational and has many improvements for lay apostles purchasing books and our other materials. The website address is:

<http://directionfourtimes.com/store/index.html>

We are very excited to announce that we now have Chinese translated materials on our website. Materials available to date include: A letter from Anne, a lay apostle; the Monthly Message; The Rescue Mission; and several Heaven Speaks booklets. The website for the Chinese materials is:

<http://www.directionfourtimes.com/chinesecontent.html>

New Evangelization Tools

New Evangelization tools now available by phone or website include:

- The Jesus Christ the Returning King Holy Card in French and Danish
- The Lay Apostle Prayer Card in French
- Volume Four Audio Book - a 3 CD set with the messages from Volume Four
- Rosary - with the image of Jesus Christ the Returning King as the center medal

continued on page 8

The Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Crystal Sullivan

As lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King, we are committed to performing our basic obligations as practicing Catholics. In addition, we have been asked by Jesus to adopt certain spiritual practices, one of which is participation in a monthly lay apostle prayer group, which includes recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.

The Luminous Mysteries were first introduced to the world in October of 2002, when John Paul II wrote an Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, in which he extolled the Rosary as a means by which Christians could “contemplate, with Mary, the face of Christ.” The pope recognized that in order to bring out the Christological depth of the Rosary, it would be appropriate to add mysteries which reveal Christ’s public ministry between his Baptism and his Passion. In the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, Jesus is revealed as God’s light for the world. How appropriate that we are asked by Jesus to pray the Luminous Mysteries. Clearly, lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King are challenged to be Christ’s light in the world today, and by praying the Rosary, we will be given the graces we need to shine Christ’s love into the darkness.

Pope John Paul II added that when contemplating the mysteries of the Rosary, we should pray for the graces needed to live a Christian life by concluding each mystery with a prayer to obtain spiritual fruits. He closed his Apostolic Letter with this message:

“Dear brothers and sisters! A prayer so easy and yet so rich truly deserves to be rediscovered by the Christian community. I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and the elderly, and to you, young people: confidently take up the Rosary once again. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives. May this appeal of mine not go unheard!”



The Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Jesus (MATTHEW 3:13-17)

Jesus, God Incarnate, humbles Himself to be baptized by John the Baptist.

Let us pray for the Spirit to descend on us so that we may be aware of the incredible gift we have been given in Baptism, where we became sons and daughters of God.

Spiritual fruit: Openness to the Holy Spirit



The Wedding at Cana (JOHN 2:1-11)

Jesus performs His first public miracle at a wedding, where He changes water into wine and opens the hearts of His disciples to faith.

Let us pray for our Blessed Mother’s intercession, so that Jesus can transform our hearts, and give us the grace to show compassion to our families and our neighbors.

Spiritual fruit: To Jesus through Mary



The Proclamation of God’s Kingdom (MARK 1:14-15)

Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calling us to conversion.

Jesus forgives the sins of all who come to Him in trust and who desire holiness.

Let us pray for the grace to accept Christ’s incredible mercy by participating regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Spiritual fruit: Repentance and Trust in God



The Transfiguration (MATTHEW 17:2-5)

The glory of God shines from Christ as His apostles are praying with Him on the mountain.

Let us pray for the courage to climb our own mountain of holiness so that we may live eternally in the light of God’s love.

Spiritual fruit: Desire for Holiness



The Institution of the Eucharist (LUKE 22:19-20)

At the Last Supper, Jesus shares His very self with His apostles in the form of bread and wine. The Eucharist is God’s presence among us. The God revealed in the Eucharist is a loving servant ready to hand over His entire self to nourish and heal us.

Let us pray for the grace to recognize Christ in the Eucharist, so that we are willing to hand over our bodies in love and service to our families and communities.

Spiritual Fruit: Adoration

Focus: Volume Nine

Fr. John Murphy



Volume Nine of Direction for Our Times as given to Anne, a lay apostle is entitled "*Angels*." This Volume was compiled between 23 August 2004 and 11 September 2004.

This Volume contains the introduction common to all the other Volumes and has an appendix containing guidelines for Lay Apostles, how to recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, how to pray the Rosary, and a list of the Mysteries with an appropriate Scriptural quotation.

The Volume under review stresses the role of the angels in all our spiritual battles. In these battles our help comes from Mary, the sacraments, the saints, and the angels who are "*heavenly servants who do not experience humanity*." They are pure beings who are active in the world. They surround us and minister to us in countless ways.

Our worship of God is linked with theirs. Each of us has a guardian angel who prays for us without interruption and seeks the intercession of the saints for us.



We are urged to speak to this angel, to believe in his presence, to take advantage of this good and constant friend.

The angels are perfect companions for us because they seek only the Divine Will. Because of their insights we should seek their help in unhealthy relationships and in particular we should ask them to protect children and help them find suitable companions.

Sometimes a person experiences an unexplained joy or an unexplained sense of peace. This may occur because a person has entered a place that is filled with angels. Why this is so we do not know. Possibly the place was the location of great holiness, the scene of holy actions or of a great sacrifice. Such a place

draws angels as well as people.

When we labor as apostles of Jesus we are to realize we are part of a team. We are never alone. In all our tasks we are accompanied by an angel. So we are never to feel overwhelmed; the saints, Mary, the angels are with us. The message of this Volume may be summarized in this quotation:

"Ask the angels to help you with everything. God has given the angels assignments so they know what He wills. Mediate often on the beautiful thought that your constant companions know God's will for you."

Postscript —

Can you name the nine choirs of angels?

Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, Angels

Angel of God, My Guardian Dear...

Joan W. Anderson

I was blessed to be able to rear our five children while holding down a home based job as a freelance writer. I wrote for both Catholic and secular markets, mainly on child care issues, family humor and spiritual topics. I had no professional degrees and considered myself just an ordinary Catholic, faithful to the teachings but certainly not a parish leader.

As the kids grew, I began looking around for another career. Writing is a high-failure field with sporadic income, and I wanted something more dependable. However, I had one project left to do before I could toss my battered electric typewriter on the trash heap.

In December of 1983, my son Tim and a friend, both newly graduated from college, had decided to drive from their home in Connecticut to Chicago for Christmas with us. But the weather was dangerously cold—and although we strongly suggested that they abandon the trip, they set out anyway. In the middle of the night, with the mercury at 35 degrees below zero, their car engine died in an Indiana cornfield. With no lights in the distance and nowhere to run for shelter, the boys knew they were facing death. Suddenly, a tow truck appeared behind them, almost on their back bumper, and the driver—wrapped in heavy clothes—gave no explanation for being out in such dangerous weather. He asked the boys if they needed help, then hitched their car to his truck and drove them back to town. When the boys got out to pay him, however, the tow truck—and its driver—had vanished. Nor were there tire tracks leading away from where they stood.

When my son told me that story, I was covered in goosebumps (which I suspect are a signal from God, a way of touching our souls). Although we looked for months for the truck driver, we never found him. I, who hadn't thought about angels since grade school, was left with just one conclusion. Heaven had touched my life that night. For some unknown reason, an

angel had saved my son. Did angels affect others like this? Were they still working on earth? I told Tim's story to everyone who would listen—and gradually people responded with equally amazing stories of their own. Some had been hesitant to share for fear of being disbelieved, but now, invited to communicate, the stories flowed in. There was only one thing to do with them. I decided to write one more book, thanking God for saving my son and hopefully encouraging a renewed interest in angels.



My sales record on prior books was less than impressive, but an editor-friend took pity on me, and financed a first printing of *Where Angels Walk* in 1992. I promoted the book via interviews on small-wattage radio stations desperate for guests. (Few bookstores would stock *Where Angels Walk* since we had no track record.) I had no expectations that the book would sell well, but people seemed to love it. The angels must have blessed our attempts to publicize them and their work, for suddenly my book was picked up for reprint by the largest publisher in the country, and now there were movies and television shows on angels, and

angel craft shops, and people (myself included) being interviewed on a daily basis by magazine writers and talk show hosts. (Before the craze was over, more than 250 books on angels would have been written.) I had a hit! And lecture invitations across the country. And contracts for several more angel books.

I also had an enormous case of anxiety. As mentioned, I was nobody special. I had no advanced degrees, had never studied Theology, didn't know there were angelologists (or certainly not where to find one). And as I had discovered when writing WAW, there were very few resources available to provide the knowledge I needed (no one had paid any attention to angels in decades). Nonetheless, due to media hype, I had now been positioned as an "authority" on the heavenly host, in effect actually representing them to a public that had little interest in things spiritual, but now, hooked by the stories, was willing to learn. I was aware of the enormous possibilities here, but also of the responsibility I was expected to shoulder. I could think of no other way to approach it, except to explain that I was certainly no authority, and emphasize that—although the Bible is filled with references to them—the basis of our Christian faith rests in Jesus Christ, not angels.

Oddly, although I constantly pointed out to God that He must have selected the wrong person for this job, the angels seemed to take over, working out time schedules, bringing the "right" people to me, and providing sorely-needed energy. Occasionally, when I least expected it, a thought would leap into my mind and I would hear myself expressing it—then wondering, on the plane going home, just where that certainty had come from. (And worse—had I spoken out of turn, given someone hope or affirmation when such was not the proper response? Had I said what I thought, or what God thought?) When assembling the books, I leaned heavily upon the gift of discernment,

continued on page 7

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, sign up at our website www.directionforourtimes.com or call our office at 708-496-9300 to be added to our mailing list.

July 1, 2007

Jesus

I am with you. How often I repeat this. I, Jesus, am with you. I, Jesus, will never leave you. I see everything that occurs in your life. I understand exactly where your pain originates. Like nobody else, I understand you. Much of the suffering my little ones experience is from loneliness. Even if you are surrounded by others, you can feel lonely. You see, dear apostles, each person feels alone until he rests with Me. It is only after becoming united to Me that you can love each other as you were intended to love each other. There are many who do not allow unity with Me. I cannot force Myself upon them, because they are free to reject Me. But because they reject Me, they cannot love others as they were intended to love others. Others, sadly, remain unloved. Others become wounded. Others strike out in their pain, causing more distress. Humanity was created to live on earth connected to God. My apostles, even though you struggle, you remain connected to Me. I am able to heal you and send love through you. The signs of My presence are all around you, even though you struggle. Believe this. If you look at a person who has rejected Me, you will see signs of that rejection. If you look at a world that has rejected Me, you will also see signs. My beloved ones, when you see signs that God has been rejected, you must remain peaceful. I, Jesus, have told you that change is necessary. I, Jesus, have told you that I desire change. I do not abandon you and I do not abandon the world. I have many friends in this world and you are among them. You trust Me, I know. I will honor the trust you have placed in Me. I will bring all things to the good, both in your life and in the world. I, the Blameless One, have never betrayed another and I will not betray you. Think

often on the promises I have made to you. I have said I will never leave you. I have said I will protect My interests in your soul. I have said I will pursue conversion of your loved ones. During this time, I want each apostle to consider these promises. Serve Me in steadiness, of course, but also, serve Me in peace. Dear apostles, you are connected to Me. You accept My love. You know that just as I cherish you, I cherish all others. My dear friends, please live these truths because others are looking to you for example. Please. Give an example of joyful trust. I need this from you so that I can draw hurting souls back to Me. I am with you. I will help you to do this.

August 1, 2007

Jesus

A small child often prays that God will help him to be good. This prayer is pleasing to God. Indeed, which prayer is more pleasing? A child prays this prayer in humility and simplicity from a pure heart seeking even greater purity. It is this purity of heart that all apostles must seek. Each day should be filled with brief prayers of this kind. If an apostle wishes to reside with the Father, that apostle must become the child of the Father. God has no equal. Do not seek greatness. Seek goodness. My beloved ones, you know that I love you and that I am grateful for your service. You know that I am pleased with your progress. Do you wonder why your Jesus calls you constantly further into holiness? Do I do this for My benefit? Yes. I do. I take great joy in seeing you advance, it is true. And yet, it is for your own personal benefit, also, that I call you to strive for higher heights. I want you to become as holy as you can. As your holiness increases, My friends, so does your peace. As your peace increases, so does the peace in this

world. It is for many reasons, all similar to these, that I beckon you to come further and further into My heart. You are called to come closer to Me and move further from distractions. You turn your face toward heaven and in doing so you turn your face away from the world, which seeks to draw you away from Me. For today, pledge your allegiance to the Father and then strive to become holier. "Father, help me to be good." In each moment of your life there is an opportunity for goodness. Find the opportunities and try. Exert yourself, My beloved ones. Work for your holiness. If you were participating in a game, you would try to win. I want you to participate in your movement to holiness. I want you to make efforts throughout each day to choose the holiest course. I am with you in each moment, helping you. If you, My beloved apostles, will work with Me to become holier, I can reach others through you. But that is My affair. Your affair is to try to become as holy as possible. Have no fear. You are loved.

September 1, 2007

Jesus

Dear apostles, I send you a spirit of gentleness. Because you are called to treat others as I treated others, you are called to be gentle with all those around you. This call to gentleness in no way diminishes the call to live in the truth. If you preach the truth as I did, gently, you will draw others to us and to unity of thought and action. In this time, when it is so important that souls be brought back into the family of God, we must be ever so careful to be gentle with others in each interaction. I am Jesus. I am filled with love for each soul you encounter, regardless of their condition. View each person through My love and treat them with My gentleness. My dearest apostle,

in order to allow yourself to heal from any wounds you yourself suffer, you must allow Me to minister to you. I am tenderhearted with your failings. Remember this and do not turn away from Me when you feel you have failed. If you do not allow Me to minister to you during periods of unrest, you will be vulnerable to the distortions which can be sown by the enemy. Apostles walking with Me inspire hope in the world. This is the plan. But My friends must remember that apostles walking with Me also inspire fear in the enemy. The enemy's fear causes him to lash out at the friends of the Returning King. Be

at peace in this as it has always been this way and there is no reason for anything but confidence in My plan for each day of every life. At the same time, be prepared to do battle for your holiness as I did battle. If you remain with Me, the battles will make you stronger and holier. That is My goal. Accept the gentle ministrations of your Savior in silence and you will then be an able carrier of this gentleness to others. Beloved friends, so loyal to your God, you will stand out if you are gentle and it is this that I need from you. I need you to stand out as calm and gentle representatives of the different way. The world will

remember you for your gentleness if you allow Me to teach you. You are not called to change the world. I am called to change the world. You are called to represent Me accurately so that I have the opportunity with each soul you encounter. Through your love, your kindness and your gentleness, you will create heavenly opportunities for Me in the people around you. I will never miss an opportunity, I promise you. I make the best possible use of your efforts. I thank you, dear friend. Your fidelity to the Father will not be forgotten.

Angel of God

continued from page 5

which I hoped the Holy Spirit was providing for me (I truly think that God gives us the gifts we need to carry out His plan). But most of it was a guessing game. How I longed for some indisputable sign that I was on the right track.

In 2005, a friend phoned and asked if I had ever heard of Anne, a lay apostle, and her ministry. I had not. But despite my initial skepticism (it is hard to know who to believe these days), I attended her talk and purchased the Volumes, reading them in order. Actually, I inhaled them. They were so full of love and understanding and peace—and it was easy to recognize a kind and loving Jesus on every page. By the time I was ready for Volume 9, *Angels*, my doubt had all but disappeared.

How can I describe what happened then? It was as if I heard my own words being confirmed, page after page. ***“If souls do not invite our companionship.... we do not force ourselves...”*** leapt out at me. “Angels like to be invited into our lives” is a statement I had made many times; in fact, it answered the question of

why our tow truck driver would have ASKED Tim if he needed help instead of simply taking charge of the situation. ***“Ask... and you will be enveloped in powerful beings from heaven, who will insure that you complete your missions in safety.”*** I had stated that too, but had often wondered later if it were actually true. Could we mere mortals guarantee someone’s safety? I saw now that we could certainly affirm “spiritual safety,” for God has said He will never abandon us.

“Truly, each church is filled with angels...” “speak to your angel, little souls... (angels) can anticipate heaven’s wishes... ask your angels for counsel...” each comment directly from Jesus Himself, brought tears to my eyes. Although the other Volumes were beautiful, this one was touching me in a special way. The great I AM had deigned to guide me with the wisdom in this slim book, breaking down my concern with His precious reassurance: ***“I would not ask you to complete the missions I have entrusted to you and not give you adequate support,”*** He reminded me. ***“With the heavenly company you are keeping, you will learn to be at peace in everything.”*** Even our Blessed Mother added a plea to ***“listen with your soul”*** to the guidance of our angel.

On and on went the support, the answers to so many of my questions. Angels were indeed part of a team that heaven had ordained, I realized, and as long as we were on earth, we had spiritual assignments, all of us, not just an angel-writer. What absolute joy to have this confirmed, and to believe it with all of my heart!

Hardly a week goes by now when I do not consult Volume Nine, to simply enjoy its special fragrance, or to prepare for a radio interview or a speech. (Almost always, something I have read in the Volume ends up being discussed, and the answer presents itself quite naturally, as if I have been prepared for that very question.) I thank Anne for being willing to be used by the Lord, and preparing these beautiful books for us. And I thank those who have added angel awareness to their lives. Together we can do wonderful things.

And won't the angels be pleased?

Joan Wester Anderson's latest book, *Guardian Angels, True Stories of Answered Prayers* (Loyola Press) is available in stores or from Joan's website: www.joanwanderson.com.

Some Ideas For Praying with Children



- Bless your children with holy water as they leave for school.
- Say a prayer together that the children have learned at school.
- Take a few minutes to pray with your children before they go to bed.
- Sing together some of the songs the younger children learn at school.
- Light a candle, bow your heads and ask God's blessing for your family and friends.
- Let a child lead in prayer a decade of the Rosary.
- Pray for a blessing on your journey as you travel in your car.
- Say the grace before meals that the children have learned.
- Have a children's Bible at home and read a story from it each night.
- Have a prayer basket where children can write down the names of the people and things they want to pray for.
- Help children to learn the prayers of the Mass and say them aloud on Sundays.
- Pray for the others in need around the world. Use a picture from the newspaper as a reminder.

Prayer to the Guardian Angel

Angel sent by God to guide me;
Be my light and walk beside me;
Be my guardian and protect me;
On the paths of life direct me.

— Taken from Family Prayer Card, Diocese of Kilmore, Ireland

News of the Mission

continued from page 2

- Jesus Christ the Returning King
Print and Poster

Please see our website for more information on these new evangelization items:

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

International News

China Prayer Group

We have great news that indicates the international reach of the mission. We recently

received notification that in July of this year, a group of lay apostles in the People's Republic of China conducted what we believe is the first ever lay apostle prayer group meeting in that communist country.

New Bookstores To Carry DFOT Books

We now have three bookstores in Medjugorje and two in France carrying Direction for Our Times' books.

Translations

Following is the status of DFOT works in other languages:

Spanish: All of the Volumes and *Climbing the Mountain* are now available. *The Mist of Mercy*, *In Defense of Obedience and*

Reflections on the Priesthood, and all Heaven Speaks booklets are translated; printing to begin soon.

French: All of the Volumes are now available. *In Defense of Obedience and Reflections on the Priesthood* is translated; printing to begin soon.

Polish: Volumes One through Four are translated; printing to begin soon.

Chinese: Volume Two is translated; printing to begin soon.

Other languages in the early stages: Danish, German, Japanese, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Thai, Ukrainian, and various languages spoken in India.

Heaven Speaks To Soldiers



August 11, 2005

Jesus

I direct these words today to soldiers, in every army, in every difficulty. Dear soldiers, I am with you. You find yourself in the most dreadful circumstances and often you fear for your soul. I am with you. I have the greatest graces available to you so that you can walk through your days with Me, Jesus. I see each decision you make and I understand that you are working under obedience to your superior. I am familiar with obedience. As you recall, it led Me to the cross. Sometimes on earth My children find themselves faced with situations that I never intended for a soul. All heavenly grace is with you, I assure you. Here is what I am asking of you. Offer each day to Me. Pray for everyone you encounter in your day. Offer Me short prayers such as an act of sorrow if you are engaged in a battle where others are facing their deaths. Ask Me for forgiveness for every soul whose life is in danger. Ask Me to convert the hearts of those who are cold and those who are in a state of grave sin. Do you see that if you help Me with this, I can come into even the most horrid man-created situations with My healing grace? Dear soldier, if you are coming to Me,

you have nothing to fear. Do not be afraid of death. If you are one of My friends, one of My apostles, and you must know that I consider you this way, you should have great joy and peace, despite your surroundings. I have the most abundant graces available for soldiers everywhere. Many of these graces have been obtained by your family members who pray constantly for your safety. There are more angels and saints on a battlefield than you can imagine. Now be at peace and never think that I have left you because you are compelled to participate in a war.

St. Augustine

My friends, we come to you in this way because you are being asked to behave in a manner that could be considered contrary to your faith. Blessed are the peacemakers. This is a true statement. And yet, you are confronted with war. Look through the past and you will see that history is dotted with wars. Jesus did not disappear or avert His gaze during these wars. On the contrary, how lovingly Jesus ministered to the souls caught up in these explosions of evil. There are many special graces for the souls who become immersed in such upheaval. You feel this to be true, I know. You see, there is great opportunity for holiness in these situations because you are forced to rely on Christ. When a man faces each morning without a reasonable expectation of living through the day, that man must contemplate God. The man looks away from the world, in his soul, and wonders what the next world will hold for him. Jesus never passes up this opportunity. Your soul is transparent to us in that we wait for just such an opening. Heaven then rushes in and creates a wedge to keep your soul open. We, the saints, then obtain many blessings for you which can flow into the opening. Now there can be situations during war where the devil seeks to persuade the soul that God is not present and that the soul is condemned, given the actions that men are brought to during battle. This is not true. Jesus understands battle because Jesus understands everything. Jesus does

not will war. This is contrary to heaven, always. However, there is a time when man must stand up against evil and that creates conflict. Again, heaven knows everything. You may wonder where you are in this war or that battle. I can only tell you that Jesus is with you. I could say it one hundred times, my friend, because this statement is such a blanket on everything we are trying to teach you. Jesus loves you. You are special to Him. He created you to serve heaven. He is sorry that you are in a situation that causes you distress. Jesus is with you. Jesus will never leave you.

St. Augustine

There is often a lack of justice on earth. Expect this. If you expect justice on earth you will be disappointed and embittered. A man of God, an apostle of Jesus Christ, should never become bitter. Jesus does not want this for you. If you are becoming bitter, you must spend more time with Jesus in your soul. You should never separate from Him, my friend, because bitterness and hardness of heart can come from great pain. Any man who has experienced war has viewed injustice. There is no justice in a child of God being slaughtered, whatever the reason. And yet, in war this happens daily. Should you become bitter because of this? No. If you are bitter, you are hurt. Bring the hurt to Jesus so that He can heal it as you go. It will be more difficult if you leave it all to build up. Jesus makes all things right. So when you view injustice in your soldiering, ask Jesus to make it just in heaven. He will do so. This is what He does, so He will hear your prayer and your request will add to the graces He lavishes upon those who are victims of injustice. Remember that most men are doing the best they can, given the circumstances in which they find themselves. Do not judge others. Why would you judge when you have Jesus alongside you to do that? It would be like thinking you can do a better job than God and I know you do not think like this. So let Jesus judge and do the best you can to bring Him into each situation. My dear friend, my fellow apostle, Jesus knows you do not want to hurt others. Jesus knows

this. He knows you are often afraid and that you want to serve heaven. We are all with you in this. Heaven sees your anguish and feels the anguish of everyone around you, friend and enemy alike. Be more trusting than you have ever been in your life because Jesus will bring good, even from the bloodiest battle.

St. Augustine

A good follower of Christ always considers his death. And so we will consider your death, dear soldier. You are trained to live in a certain way. This is so that you will perform appropriately in situations where you are called to perform. So how does a follower of Jesus Christ prepare to die? Well, I must say that you should practice. Consider for a moment what will happen when you die. Your soul will leave your body and Jesus will be there. You will be brought into the light of Christ and the fellowship of those souls who have gone before you. Will you be afraid? Perhaps before you die you will feel fear. This is normal. Accept this fear as your humanity rebelling against change. Pray at this time. Say, "Jesus, I am sorry for my sins. Please forgive me for any sins I have committed. Jesus, I trust in you." Practice this, dear soldier. Say it often during your days. You are walking with Jesus, as we said, so do not be afraid to talk to Him. Tell Him you are practicing for a peaceful death. He will applaud this exercise and bring great graces of peace to you through it. This is heavenly training and makes you a seasoned companion of Jesus. Do not fear death. It will be glorious for you. It is a happy time for a friend of God's. You will experience this and you will say, "St. Augustine was right. Truly he is my friend." Ask me for assistance, please, at any time. I will begin immediately to secure graces for you. I want to help soldiers learn about Jesus so that they can face their struggles with all of heaven at their side. Your soul must be protected, especially when your body is at risk.

St. Augustine

Every human on the earth will die. This is a great truth. It will not change. So you are no different than another man. Every apostle of Jesus Christ is called upon to live the Gospel message of love. You are no different than any other apostle. So how can you live the Gospel? Offer Jesus your day and let Him show you. You can bring His love and encouragement to those around you. Many are in pain and spiritual darkness because they do not have His love. They

have rejected Him or they do not feel worthy to ask Jesus to walk with them. Which man can say he is worthy? Certainly not I, the man who speaks to you today. And yet, I am in heaven and I am considered one of His friends. I assure you, He considers you in this way also, and your comrade who serves in darkness is also one of heaven's treasures. Perhaps this man needs you to bring Jesus to him. Perhaps he needs you to pull him into the light. That is only one way you can live the Gospel. Be patient in your struggles and inconveniences. Offer them to Jesus. Jesus died for you so you must live for Him. You can do that in every little circumstance of your day. You can do it in hunger and cold, in fear and thirst. You can do it in loneliness especially because Jesus felt great loneliness on earth. All of these things make worthy offerings to your King. You will offer Jesus these things and ask Him to protect and convert your loved ones. He will do so. It is a mutual relationship in that you are offering something to Jesus and He is repaying you in magnificent ways that you can only begin to imagine and appreciate. Do you see that if we bring these words to others we will change the face of even war? Instead of an explosion of evil, we will have holy martyrs who have given Jesus everything, even their lives. I have told you that Jesus can bring good from everything. When I lived on the earth, I had only the barest understanding of that statement. From this, the heavenly view, I now see the extent to which Jesus will act to turn bad things to good. So be joyful, my friend. You walk in the company of heaven.

St. Augustine

I am going to begin a special prayer right now. I am asking Jesus to give you a small glimpse of the joy that awaits you in heaven. I am asking Jesus to grant this to you because I want you to be filled with hope and peace. When you experience the smallest taste of this joy, you walk differently through each moment. Sit quietly as Jesus places this in your heart. You know He is with you. You feel Him in your soul. Ask Him to come into your soul and remain with you. Jesus, in His mercy and love, will not refuse such an invitation. If you have worries about acts you have committed, tell Jesus you are sorry for having offended Him and then confess these things if you can. Receive His forgiveness and then walk away from these sins. Jesus does not want you to be saddened by the past. He wants you to be joyful about the future and peaceful in the present. There is nothing for you to fear. Heaven awaits you. While you remain on earth, waiting for the heavenly sum-

mons, try to bring as many souls to Jesus as possible, even if only in the silence of your heart. This makes Him so happy, my friend. Each apostle has certain little ways he can serve in each day. These opportunities to serve heaven bring Jesus back into the world. If we have more apostles, the return of Jesus will come sooner and more powerfully. The suffering will be of shorter duration. Someone cared enough about you to give you this heavenly encouragement. Do the same for someone else. Bring us to earth each day, all day. All of heaven will rejoice as you seek our help. This shows God the Father that the souls on earth have not rejected Him. This shows our God that souls on earth love Him and seek Him and desire His help. God will reward you as He rewards each loyal apostle. The earth will become lighter and lighter as the darkness recedes. Now I am with you and I love you. Ask me to obtain great courage for you and I will. Ask me for any kind of help you need. I will get it for you.

Blessed Mother

My sons, my daughters, you are soldiers on the earth. I understand. But you are also my little children and I love you. A mother rejects any suffering for her children, and yet, a mother knows that suffering will come to them. Remember that I am with you, as all of heaven is with you. Speak to us often and we will help you to make decisions. I can help to bring you to Jesus in your soul. This is what I do best because nobody knows the heart of a son like a mother. Jesus is all good. He is all love. He is filled with forgiveness. You must never think that you cannot approach Him because you are sinful. All men are sinful, but Jesus forgives. Heaven would be empty if this were not true and yet heaven is filled with men and women, just like you, who are filled with happiness and peace. You will be here one day, also, and I will be delighted to have you home safely. Now, you are heavenly soldiers, also, so do not forget Jesus. You were placed on the earth, exactly where you are right now, to serve heaven, if only in your suffering. Place your hand in mine and I will bring you to God. I will say, "Father, look upon this little apostle with great love, as I do." How will God respond to us? What will He say? He will say, "Mary, place this apostle here, in My heart, never to be separated from Me again."

Catholic Confusion

Margaret, 28, lay apostle

I made a decision this past Lent to learn more about my faith. To do so, I began attending a series of discussions. These initially left me more confused than enlightened.

To recap, there was a priest invited to speak on the more mystical aspects of Catholicism. He was intelligent, amusing, witty, and terribly interesting to listen to. He told us that as these were difficult topics to discuss, he would present them using symbolism. Symbolism, he said, is powerful. It can change the world and ignite people. I must say it was fascinating and he gave some secular examples of symbolism to help us understand. Then he moved to the topic of Catholicism and proceeded to explain how the Immaculate Conception, the Virgin Birth, and the Assumption, were all merely symbols. After all, it isn't often that you hear of a virgin birth or someone being pulled up into the sky. He explained that these sym-

bols were used to explain that Jesus was unique among men and that Mary was a special woman in her 'Yes' to God. It was a fascinating presentation, dangerously so.

I sat there thinking, this can't be right.

The after-effects of this talk for me were doubt and a vague sadness that is difficult to articulate. I didn't feel the "inspiration" that symbols apparently offered. I felt empty. In fact, for a few days I felt disappointed, like something had been taken away from me. Maybe he was right. Maybe these things were simply symbols to represent a larger ethos. Maybe it wasn't important whether or not the actual events occurred.

Then I remembered something. God doesn't inspire doubt. God doesn't send disappointment and God would never leave me feeling empty when I was actively seeking Him. God wasn't in that discussion. Symbols were. I

began to read.

We as Catholics believe God assumed Mary into Heaven. We believe Mary was immaculately conceived. We believe Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin.

The Virgin Birth is not symbolic of Jesus' uniqueness; it is not an ancient storytelling method of relating that this man was different from the rest of us. The Virgin Birth is a reality and the work of God.

I don't want symbols. I don't want a scientifically proven God. I want the all-powerful, all-loving, all-knowing, mysterious God who has promised Himself to me and every other person who seeks Him.

What I have taken away from this encounter is that as Catholics we need to be more educated on what we believe, more discerning about who we listen to, and more grateful for our Church.

The Narrow Door

Anne, a lay apostle

He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."

LUKE 13:24

One day I began to consider this Bible verse. What is this narrow door, I wondered. Why will many be unable to enter?

I think the narrow door must be the heart of Jesus Christ, the doorway that leads each of us to the divine will in our lives. In order to truly enter into the heart of Jesus, we must serve Him in the way He needs us to serve. This is another way of saying that we must

reduce our commitment to self-will and replace it with commitment to divine will. Often we pay lip service to this but do not really abandon our own plan.

Jesus says that the door is narrow. I think that means that we cannot get through it if we are carrying too much of our own "stuff". If we are laden down, we are bulky and we simply cannot squeeze through. What makes us bulky?

I believe that things like attachment to the opinions of others, addictions, materialism, pride, greed, anger, holding on to hurts...carrying things like these add weight and girth to us. I believe that we all spend time standing outside the door knowing that we are called to enter but

remaining unwilling to let go of some things. Many, I think, are squeezing through a little at a time, making wonderful progress by gradually letting go of the things that prevent complete entry into the Lord's heart.

A pertinent part of that passage is the Lord's encouraging us to "make every effort." This tells us that Jesus expects us to cooperate with this process of holiness by putting down the things that weigh us down and recommitting daily to the duties of our vocations. We must ask the Lord to help us on each day to let go of our fears and attachments so that we can slip through this door and move into the light of the divine will.

A Slice of Divinity

Continued from page 1

the administration of the sacraments. I could see that this priest in his day-to-day service, which was humble, had little understanding of how much his work was impacting the people he served. Truly, heaven was altered because of this man's decision to serve us in the priesthood. I then rejoiced in the fact that this priest was nearly finished and that this wonderful celebration of his vocation and service awaited him.

I must report that the number of people awaiting him was in the thousands. The priest had no understanding that each life he touched through his vocation was connected to many other lives. The reward that Jesus prepares for those who serve Him is magnificent.

In this time, the devil is trying to obscure the truth about the priesthood. I think of this like a House of Mirrors at a carnival. When we walk into such a place, we look at our reflection. In one mirror we might look ten feet tall. In another mirror we might look ten feet wide. Is it us in the mirror? Yes. Undeniably, it is us we are

looking at. Is it an accurate reflection of us? No. It is a grossly distorted version of the truth.

In the same way, the devil has used the recent clergy abuse scandals, among other things, to propagate a distorted vision of the priesthood. The reality is that a comparatively small number of priests served God's enemy by abusing others. They did not represent God but God's enemy when they did this. The pain they caused was and is shocking. We are all called to the ongoing ministry of the recovery of each victim, even if our ministry is limited to prayer for all victims and their families.

The enemy always seeks to tear down the Church. Each apostle is called to do the opposite, of course, which is to lift up the Church through our fidelity and obedience to the Magisterium.

I think of this period as a time when we are all stuck in a big puddle of mud. We've all been wounded, scandalized and sullied in some way by these scandals. This has been excruciating for our faithful priests, who are entitled to

and deserve our constant love and support.

But now it is time to step out and move on. We are called to turn our backs to the past and look to Jesus Christ and to today's service and tomorrow's triumphs. I believe that Jesus Christ and all of heaven want us to move now, forward, onward, to great holiness and great renewal. I am certain that Jesus is sending a massive rush of grace to aid us all in recovering. It will happen. It is happening now.

I often think that without humility, we cannot have holiness. The enemy sends humiliation, it is true, but through these humiliations God brings humility. Since we must have humility for holiness, then humiliation, as painful as it is, can be partially viewed as a means to a wonderful end. Who cares how we get humility, as long as we have it?

The Church will survive this current attack as She has survived each past attack and as She will ultimately overcome each future attack.

Contact Information

United States:

Direction for Our Times
9000 W. 81st St. Justice, IL 60458
Phone: 708-496-9300
Email: contactus@directionforourtimes.com

Europe:

Direction for Our Times
Lisnalea, Virginia Rd. Bailieborough, Co. Cavan, Republic of Ireland
Phone: 353 (0)42 969 4947
Email: dfotireland@yahoo.ie



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

Copyright 2007, Direction for Our Times
All rights reserved
www.directionforourtimes.com

Painting of Jesus Christ
the Returning King
by Janusz Antonz.

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.