

DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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



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



The Formula: **Be with Jesus. Love Others. Do His Work.**

Taken from a talk by Anne, a lay apostle in April 2011

In this life, it is common to experience some of the sufferings of Christ. We can be misunderstood, misjudged and even falsely accused. It is very important not to take ourselves too seriously in this, even when the ramifications seem fearful.

Satan exists and I know Satan's hatred for God's children. But many attacks come from the natural grinding of one bit of humanity off another. There is a very normal friction between people and we cannot let conflict embitter us or bring us to a place of failing to love. We, apostles, strive to be as blameless as possible in these conflicts.

How do we keep our peace? We keep our peace by staying with Christ in the vertical relationship. We must work hard at the relationship with Christ, giving and receiving love, knowing that we are loved unconditionally, magnificently, tenderly, and with the greatest compassion and understanding.

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*Dedicated to
Mary, Queen
of Apostles*





Direction for Our Times

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News of the Mission

Steady, Consistent Growth in the Apostolate

The writings of this apostolate continue to spread throughout the world. Recently, we paused to capture some information which illustrates steady, consistent growth.

In the last 12 months, we have had over **200,000** visits to our website.

Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King live in **162** countries.

Each month we send the Monthly message to over **25,000** lay apostles through email and postal mail. In addition, each month, over **6,000** lay apostles go to our website during the first week of the month to view the monthly message.

To date, **543** Lay Apostle Prayer Groups have registered with the Direction for Our Times offices. 401 prayer groups are in the United States, 58 are in Ireland, and 84 are active in 20 additional countries.

A Special Opportunity for Married Couples

In the last two years, lay apostles Kevin and Crystal Sullivan have travelled to many locations in the United States and Europe, presenting information talks and assisting at Eucharistic events. As a married couple, they work to spread the messages of this apostolate. To that end, the Lord has helped us to identify many other couples who are considering a similar type of service. This group attended the Irish Pilgrimage weekend in June.



Joyce Malinowski and Paul Yacovitch, here at St. Anne's church in Bailieborough, are one of the married couples preparing to assist in the spread of the mission.

We know we need more help in order to reach even more people. Is it possible that the Lord is prompting you to serve the apostolate in this way? If so, we welcome you to join our band of potential evangelizers. We invite you to learn more about how we go out, "two by two," and preach the Good News. A program has been prepared for us; we simply have to present it to parishes, organizations or small gatherings in homes.

If you are interested in learning more about this type of service to the apostolate, please contact Crystal Sullivan at crystal.dfot@gmail.com.

Lay Apostles' Top Five Memories of World Youth Day 2011

By Ryan Cody, lay apostle and seminarian



“Thank you, young people. You rejuvenate the Pope, inspire the Church and refresh a world thirsty for hope and courage.” – Pope Benedict XVI

I recently travelled to Madrid for World Youth Day with a group of young people from the Kilmore Diocese. Our group included a number of young lay apostles. I spoke with the people in our group after we arrived home and we would like to share our top five most lasting impressions World Youth Day 2011 made on us.

1. The size of the crowd attending the events: From the crowded subway stations to the 1.5 million people at Cuatro Vientos airfield, the sheer amount of people from all over the world made this event stand out. We were struck with a sense of reverence and awe about something so big that could speak so personally to our hearts. One pilgrim commented on the special quality of Adoration, with a thousand others in silence praying before the Blessed Sacrament. As we traveled to and fro around Madrid, chants in other languages filled the air with excitement and buzz. Shouts like “Esta es del juventud del Papa!” were repeated over and over, until the subway emptied out and a new chant was heard. Every country was represented and had a unique identity to add to the event. At different spots you could see hundreds of flags representing most of the world, all waving in support of the Church and the celebration of World Youth Day.

2. The speakers, who challenged, taught, and entertained us: From actors to Archbishops, the amount of powerful encouragement, practical advice, and clear explanations of the faith left most of us feeling we understood more about heavenly concepts. Every day there were new

events and experiences to help us appreciate and understand the wealth of Wisdom and resources in our Church. Complex teachings and theology were made fun and understandable. From talks about Hollywood movies to advice on Podcasting, we were given clear examples of how God’s fingerprint is present in all that is good.

3. The Joy: One girl shared that if a non-pilgrim had simply, “observed the joy of the crowds at the event,” that their lives would be changed forever with hope that good is possible. Most came back in disbelief that this many people from such a variety of backgrounds could have shared such a close experience together. Despite the language barrier, there was a unitive joy the pilgrims seemed to share in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

4. The “Suffering”: No one in our group would deny that at times we were challenged by discomforts. For example, on the last night, we arrived early at the Cuatro Vientos airfield. We had walked miles with thousands of other pilgrims under the blazing sun. When we arrived at our campsite in the middle of an airfield, it seemed far from the stage where the Pope was scheduled to speak. We waited hours and hours only to have rain and thunder blow all of our things around and cause two of the Communion tents to fall down, nearly landing on some of our friends. The Pope had to cut his speech short due to the lightning and rain. The little sleep we had was interrupted by drum circles all night. People were feeling sick from the sun exposure, and bugs were crawling in our sleeping bags since we were sleeping on their hills. However, at the end of the trip most of the group took delight in the all night prayer vigil and said it was a very powerful and fun experience.

5. The Pope: No doubt, for many, seeing the Pope and being part of an event in which he was so intimately linked, lifted our spirits. Many of us loved waiting outside for hours, until the Pope drove by to greet us. For nearly everyone, it was the first time seeing Benedict XVI in person and being so close to him while he blessed us was amazing. In the prayer vigil the Pope told us,

“Dear friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that, by your faith, His name will continue to resound throughout the world. During this prayer vigil, I urge you to ask God to help you find your vocation in society and in the Church, and to persevere in that vocation with joy and fidelity. It is a good thing to open our hearts to Christ’s call and to follow with courage and generosity the path he maps out for us.” – Pope Benedict XVI

Ultimately, World Youth Day gave us a boost of strength to bring the Holy Father’s message to our generation.

There is no sin too great, no sadness too deep, and no confusion too dense. Jesus, in this relationship, has all the answers, all the healing, all the clarity, and we must not take this relationship for granted. Every day, we receive more from God than we give.

We are always tempted to distraction, of course, but sometimes we build a house on a particular distraction, such as the distraction of work. Why? Because it is easier. Give us eighteen hours of self-righteous activity any day over painful self-examination that prompts us to admit when we have been prideful or deceptive to ourselves and others, or simply self-pitying in a way that will embarrass us later. Yes, it is easy to be self-righteously indignant. It is not as easy to sit in the light that shows us where we have been selfish and self-absorbed.

Dear friends, we should not be afraid of the truth of our human condition, even though it includes failures. We want to become holier. The world will not stop revolving if we admit we have sinned against ourselves or someone else.

If we are moving toward Jesus in the Gospel, then we are moving away from something. This point of departure is different for every person and it can be different for each one of us on every day. That is the key to the battle for holiness.

At the beginning of each day, we must sit with Christ and identify our temptations. What is it that we must move away from today? Am I tempted to be afraid, even terrified? Am I tempted to hurt another or be vengeful? Am I like the ones who looked at Jesus with hatred, building a case against him? Apostles, are we doing that to anyone?

We must beg the Lord Jesus to shine light on the area in our soul where we are weak, where we are hurting another, where we are judging ourselves or another harshly, or where we are fooling ourselves into

thinking we are holier than we are or more unholy than we are.

If we do this each day, our Church will be transformed, one Catholic at a time. A rising tide lifts all boats and if we seek holiness and talk about holiness, it will come to us personally and to our whole Church universally. God will have His renewal.

Yes, work can be a distraction, even while we have to get it done. So often we leave the heart of Jesus, the relationship, and set up camp in the work with our back to Him. Symptoms that we have done this are as follows: We will consider ourselves as living martyrs. We will feel unrecognized, unappreciated, and unloved. We will start being annoyed by those around us instead of seeing them with reverence and delight, which is the first instruction. We will feel resentful, feel others are unreasonable and we will be tempted against meekness.

Obedience is in peril here, I'm afraid, because we do not really want God's light but our own will. We do not see it this way, of course, and often others will tell us.

We must go back to Christ when this happens. Sometimes, we have to take time off from the work, it can get so serious. We have to immerse ourselves in the relationship, praying contemplatively and staying very, very quiet. Silence is the cure. And Confession. We must strictly limit our conversations.

The formula is as follows: Be with Jesus. Love others. Do His work.

That's the order. **Be with Jesus. Love others. Do His work.**

Spend ten minutes before the Crucifix each day and contemplate the wounds of Christ. Ask God to show us what we need to walk away from at this moment as we continue toward Him in our journey to holiness. We trust Jesus, our King, to help us in everything.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

July 1, 2011

Jesus

My dear apostles, do you see how I am working through you? Be alert to My presence in your day and, as a grace, I will give you a glimpse of what I am accomplishing. Look for little blessings going out to others. Look for flashes of consolation in suffering or calming of your heart when your heart feels anxious. You see, dear apostles, not

only do I move through you to others, but I minister to you in a continuous way so that you are sustained. I want you to be peaceful. I want you to be calm. I want you to understand that if you say no to Me, there are others who will not be comforted and others who will not be blessed and instructed through you. You, My beloved apostles who remain firm in service, act as holy hands and hearts. Your holy hands and your holy hearts are used to gently tap others, into service, into healing and into love for Me and all of the Father's children on earth. How earnestly I ask the Father for greater blessings for you. How earnestly I

prompt you, through the Spirit, to continue on in service. I know that there are times when you need encouragement, so at this time, I will send you evidence of either your progress or of the effect of your willingness to serve on others. Look for this, dear apostles, and then you will know that I am with you and that I am using your presence on earth. When you see this, be at peace. Gird yourself in holiness and prepare for further service, not less service. You are important to Me and I count you as an asset in this time of change.

Witness to the Anguish

Taken from a talk by Anne, a lay apostle

Let us visit Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He knows they hate him. He feels what is coming. It has been bubbling, organizing quietly and steadily against Him, hissing, spitting at him, and waiting for its hour of betrayal. But now the time has come and He feels it. Jesus, in the Garden, suffers agony, terror and human revulsion. **“Father,”** he says, **“if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.”** (Luke 22:42)

How many of us have prayed that prayer in desperation, feeling there is no escape? Maybe when we are diagnosed with cancer, or a loved one is dying, or we face a crisis pregnancy, or we know someone is working against us, or we are losing financial security, or people are protesting in front of our buildings screaming for our resignations. There is helplessness, a certain innocence and terrible anxiety. Something dark and terrifying is trying to destroy us. ‘Father, please,’ we pray, ‘let this pass from us.’

Our bodies are weak from fear, our heads reel from confusion. We look for consolation and coldness stares back at us. We are alone, helpless, and we can feel despised.

In these moments, even our innocence confounds us and fills us with confusion. What should we do?

What did Jesus do?

He steered right into the Divine Will, willingly, despite the gravity and the consequence to his humanity. And thus, he was protected from bitterness. Jesus is not bitter because He accepts God’s will. Jesus is not bitter because He accepts that God ultimately brings good from suffering.

God will prevent us from becoming bitter in these experiences, even when the



experiences come from our own actions. But we must trust Him. That is the point of the exercise. Becoming humble and trusting Jesus.

We find in Christ Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the pinnacle of this cruel experience. And we find in the people around us, lesser perhaps, but also terrifying versions of this experience. Every one of us will feel we are in the Garden at some time. There will most likely be many times.

And, as lay apostles, we must be alert to see when those around us are suffering in this way because God sends us out as Witnesses to the Anguish. We, children of God in the family of God, must be witnesses to the anguish of others.

In the Garden, an angel came. Here on earth angels surround us and they prompt us to be witnesses to the anguish of others. This service is priceless. In some way, the witness to the anguish ratifies, in the name of the Creator, suffering.

Our gift of presence to others in their moments of helpless terror or grief, of betrayal or brokenness, says that in the name of all of heaven and the Communion of Saints, you are

not alone and you have the dignity of every child of God. This is what Mother Theresa of Calcutta gave her whole life to. She was the consummate Witness to the Anguish.

Picture a little girl on the playground. She comes off a swing, takes a terrible fall and is bleeding and shocked. Her little brother witnesses the accident, and he is also shocked, frightened even as he rushes to her aid. They make their way home, together. He is helpless at her pain. She is sobbing inconsolably as she watches with terror the blood coming from her wound.

We are all like the little girl because we will all come off our swings and be stunned, humiliated and hurt in the world. But pay attention to the little brother. He cannot stop the bleeding. He does not try to stop her tears. He is, in a sense, helpless. But he stays with her. He walks beside her. He escorts her, grieving, frightened, and suffering. He is reverent at the seriousness of the situation and her suffering. With an arm around her waist, barely touching her, he accompanies her on the journey home where comfort will be applied. His presence on the journey gives dignity to her pain and lessens her isolation. She is not walking down the street alone in her humiliation. He, the little brother, is a perfect witness to the anguish.

My friends, when you see someone suffering, do not be afraid to be with them. Apply whatever practical help you can and then let God, through the gift of your presence, diminish their isolation.

There are two things to remember in these situations. First, you can feel helpless and you can feel inadequate but God is not helpless and God is not inadequate. You just need to be there. Secondly, if you are all about the work and not about the relationship with Christ, you will miss these opportunities to be a Witness to the Anguish of others.

The Apostolate Blossoms in India

In this time, Jesus asks all lay apostles to be alert to His will. One couple, Dr. Cyriac Luke and Dr. Leela Luke, are listening carefully. This couple read the Volumes and other writings of the lay apostolate and were moved to help spread the reach of the apostolate. Dr. Luke called the Direction for Our Times office in Justice, Illinois and over the course of a few years identified how he and his wife wanted to help. They felt convinced that heaven could use them to introduce the apostolate in India.

At first, they thought they would facilitate the translation of the writings into one of the Indian languages, Malayalam. As this project continued, they decided they needed to take a more active role in introducing the writings. In May, they organized a trip to Calcutta and Kerala, the southernmost state in India.

Nora McCarthy and Fr. Darragh Connolly, Chaplain to the apostolate, spent two weeks travelling with Dr. Cyriac and Leela Luke and a small group of lay apostles, presenting the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King. They met with priests, bishops, and retreat center group leaders. At each stop they gave an information talk about the rescue mission.

Before the trip, Dr. Luke took the video, "Moving into Holiness" which features Anne speaking about our journey to personal holiness and had it dubbed in Malayalam. Many presentations included a short excerpt from this video. While they travelled through India, they also worked with local printers to produce copies of the writings and informational materials.

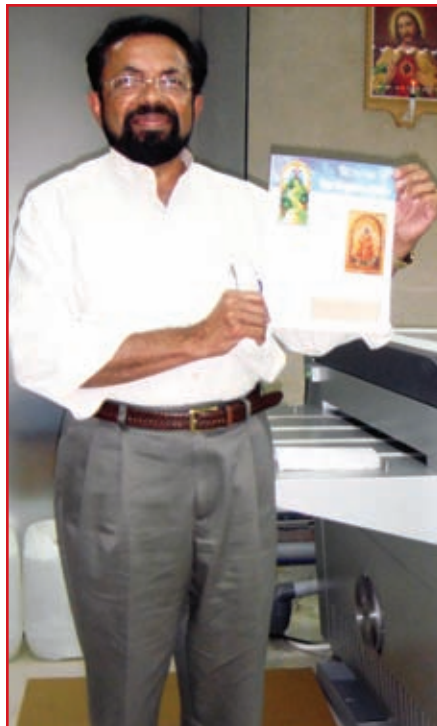
We continue to be amazed at the way Jesus uses the 'yes' of lay apostles serving in their own lives to deliver these messages to many others.



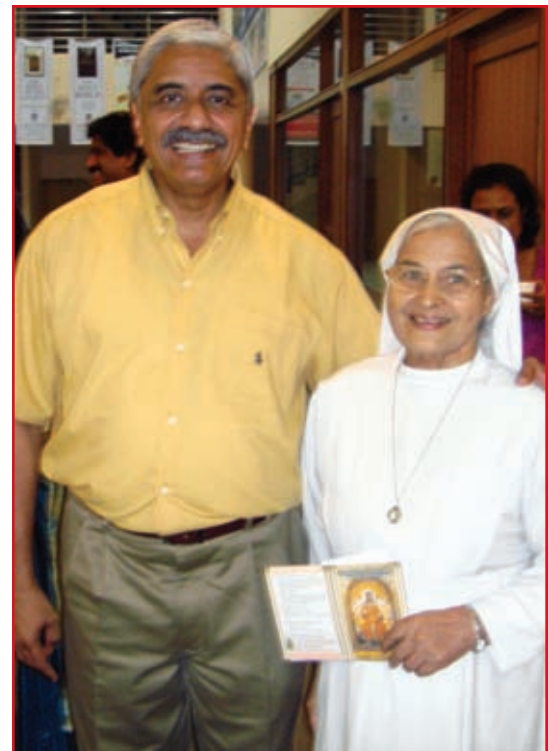
Sunny George joins the Direction for our Times staff serving the lay apostles in Kerala, India.



The first lay apostle prayer group meeting in Calcutta led by Rita Joseph.



Dr. Cyriac Luke with the first copy of Newsletter One printed in Malayalam.



Lay apostle Matthew Joseph and Sister of St Paul in Bangalore.



Fr. Darragh Connolly and Dr. Cyriac Luke work with Dr. Sunny George at a press conference in Kottayam.



Nora McCarthy and Dr. Leela Luke travel together throughout India spreading the first seeds of the lay apostolate there. (above)



Furthering the Rescue Mission in the Philippines

In May 2011, Fr. Darragh Connolly and Nora McCarthy spent a week meeting with lay apostles in the Philippines. Young and old came together to rejoice in the spirituality of the apostolate. We praise God for all the good He is doing with lay apostles all over the world. In addition to presenting the mission at a few events, Fr. Darragh celebrated Mass at the Bahay Maria orphanage run by lay apostles and attended a number of lay apostle prayer group meetings.



Nora McCarthy and Fr. Darragh Connolly meet with Howard and Betty Dee and Hortie Lim, members of the original group that worked to bring the writings and graces of the apostolate to the Philippines since 2007.



Visiting with a prayer group led by Vicky Borres who works tirelessly to spread the apostolate in Manila.



Fr. Darragh after saying Mass for his new friends at the Bahay Maria orphanage in Manila.



Fr. Darragh with Basa Choi from South Korea and lay apostle Vicky Borres.

A Warm Welcome in Mexico



Lay Apostle Rosy Cuevas with Nora McCarthy, Translation Coordinator Christina Kolb, and Fr. Juan Antonio in Guadalajara, Mexico.

In March 2011, lay apostles Nora McCarthy and Christina Kolb traveled to Mexico to meet with lay apostles who are working to spread the apostolate in their communities.

Rosy Cuevas lives in Guadalajara, Mexico and leads two lay apostle prayer groups in her parish. Rosy first received the books while she was living in the United States and decided she needed to share the messages with her friends and family in Mexico. Soon, Rosy decided to start two prayer groups in her home. Nora and Christina visited the prayer groups and asked how they might help.

Rosy introduced Nora and Christina to her brother Fr. Juan Antonio Guerra Lule. Nora and Christina were able to give the background on how this mission began and speak about the Church's involvement with the lay apostolate. As a result of this meeting, Fr. Juan Antonio spoke with his bishop and obtained permission to work to spread this apostolate.

In addition, Auxiliary Bishop Jose Trinidad Gonzalez asked Fr. Juan Antonio to be the diocesan liaison to the apostolate.

Recently, we contacted Rosy for an update. Rosy reports the following:

- The prayer groups that Rosy began in Guadalajara are growing rapidly.
- To date, two lay apostle prayer groups in Mexico have registered with our office, and as many as 5 have been formed in different states throughout Mexico.
- Several people and parishes have expressed a desire to have booklet display case in their churches.

We are currently working with a Spanish translator to complete the translation of all of our written materials in Spanish. Once this is done, we hope to also make our entire website available in Spanish, as well.



Currently there are many translated materials that will help you introduce the apostolate to others who speak Spanish: If you have Spanish-speaking friends or family that would like to read the works of this apostolate in Spanish. All of the Volumes and the "Heaven Speaks" Booklets are available in Spanish on our website for free download. If you want to purchase copies to distribute, please call our office at 708-496-9300 or in Ireland at +353 49 437 3040.

If you live near Guadalajara and would like to help spread the apostolate, contact Rosy Guerra at rosyvidacell@gmail.com. If you live in the North Central part of Mexico please contact Imelda and Octavio Olague at rolague@nmsu.edu. If you live in or near Mexico City, please contact Leticia Galvez at sorkgalvez@yahoo.com.mx.

Eucharistic Day of Renewal: United Kingdom

By Flor Kerins, lay apostle

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Bolton • July 2, 2011

"My dear apostles, do you see how I am working through you? Be alert to My presence in your day and, as a grace, I will give you a glimpse of what I am accomplishing." – Monthly Message July 1, 2011

For some time, a group of Lay Apostles from around the United Kingdom had looked for a way to bring as many lay apostles as possible together in one place. The aim was simple: to provide the opportunity for people to meet, and as result they could begin the process of formation and growth that many were asking for.



The theme for the day was "Called to Serve ... a direction for UK lay apostles."

Through prayer and discernment and no little effort, a venue was found in the Parish of Saint Joseph in Bolton and on July 2nd, a Eucharistic Day of Renewal was held.

Lay apostles attended from all over the UK: from London, Essex, Leeds, York, Huddersfield, Bolton, Manchester, Liverpool, Wales, Stoke-on-Trent, Lancashire, Cumbria, Tyne and Wear, Durham, and Wearside.

Throughout the day, opportunities for prayer, worship, and healing in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament ensured that the Holy Spirit had a fertile ground to work in. For many the calling they had felt when they first read Anne's writings began to form into thoughts of action.

We began with the Rosary, recited by Fr. Thady Doyle who is well known for his publication "The Curates Diary." He was also a speaker at our event. This was followed by a Mass during which Fr. Thady gave a little of his testimony. There was not a dry eye in the church. Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Tansey, parish priest of St. Joseph, Bolton where the event took place and Fr. Harry Ryan, a retired priest who travelled the six hours round trip from Co. Durham. Fr. Ryan is an active supporter of the lay apostolate in the Northeast of England.

Throughout the day confessions were heard by the three attending priests.

After lunch testimonies were given by two Direction for Our Times representatives from the Ireland office, Emma McDermott and Ciaran Purcell. Also, Catherine Spillane gave us an informative update on the status of Direction for Our Times.

Next we began a workshop. We broke into twelve groups of about ten lay apostles each. Each group discussed individual questions on various aspects of moving the mission forward in the United Kingdom. Excerpts from the books were used as a focus for such questions as:

- How do we establish more lay apostle prayer groups?
- How do we approach others?
- How do we pass on the mission of the apostolate to others?

These and other questions produced a wealth of ideas and suggestions on how the apostolate can grow within the United Kingdom. We plan to record these thoughts into a document to facilitate further discussion.

As we came close to 3:00 p.m. we all gathered again in the church for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. It was recited by Fr. Tansey in front of the displayed Blessed Sacrament and was followed by a procession of the Eucharist.

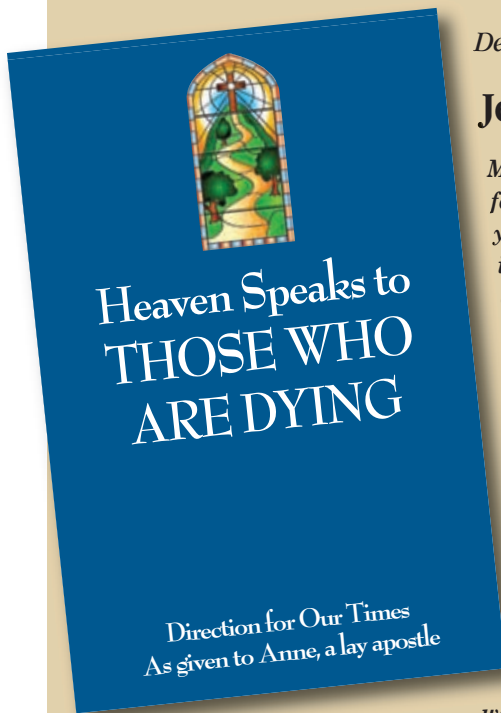
Maire McGurdy and her local team ensured that book stalls, welcoming personnel, teas/coffees, dissemination of welcome packs, etc. all ran smoothly, ensuring all who attended were comfortable and focused.

"I know that there are times when you need encouragement, so at this time, I will send you evidence of either your progress or of your willingness to serve on others. Look for this, dear apostles, and then you will know that I am with you and that I am using your presence on earth. When you see this, be at peace. Gird yourself in holiness and prepare for further service, not less service." – Monthly Message July 1, 2011

Heaven Speaks to THOSE WHO ARE DYING

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

This is the text of the booklet *Heaven Speaks to Those Who Are Dying*, which is available from our office or from our website at www.directionforourtimes.org for \$2.00 per booklet.



December 5, 2006

Jesus

My beloved one, change is coming. You feel this. You are preparing to finish your time on earth and begin your time in eternity. That day, the day of your death, will be a joyful day because you will return to Me. Do you consider your death joyfully? Perhaps not. Perhaps you are afraid. Dear little child of God, I want to help you with any fears that take away from your peaceful consideration of the next life. You see, in our humanity we fear death and suffering. I understand this perfectly because I also experienced a dread of suffering. I did not fear death, though. I knew that death would bring liberation for Me in that I would be free of the constraints I

experienced in My body. Dear beloved one, it will be a liberation for you, too. When your body ceases to live, your soul will become fully alive. There is nothing to frighten you. I will be there for you. I will take you to Me and comfort you. You will feel safer than you have ever felt on earth. Do you believe this? You should believe this, My friend, because it is the truth. Reject My enemy, once and for all, and rest in My heart while heaven prepares you to come home. I will remain with you constantly, helping you, consoling you, preparing you. At the end, you will feel My peace surrounding you. I will do this for you if you let Me. Right now, at this time, I continue to make ready your reward. You see, your reward is not final yet because you are still serving. Perhaps you are serving in illness, in weakness, or in sadness and grief. Offer it to Me. Offer it all to Me, your Jesus, and with it I will do the most magnificent things for others still serving on earth. I will take your little offerings and use them to console the Father, who is rejected by so many. Our Father is so good. You will understand His goodness more fully soon, when you come to Me. I promise you, little beloved one, that you will rejoice in any offerings, however small, you gave to our Father during this final time of service on earth. Be filled with joy. I am with you and will never leave you. In your precious little heart, take My hand in yours. I will hold you steadily, never letting go, during the time of transition between your life on earth and your life in eternity. I am with you in each moment.

St. John the Apostle

Greetings to you, my beloved family member. I am a quiet visitor in your soul. I am quiet because I am reverent in the face of your preparation. You see, the Lord has willed that you be given these words and graces to calm your fears. A steady stream of grace will flow into your soul at this time, preparing you to make the transition to the heavenly Kingdom. How blessed you are! How merciful is Jesus to make these words and graces available to you! I am not surprised that Jesus does this for you. I am a witness to the great love Jesus holds for you. Jesus loves you so much that He cannot wait to give you heavenly gifts. He is giving them to you now so that you will have a foretaste of your reward. When you die, you will come into the family of God. We love each other very much because we love God and join God in His love for each of our brothers and sisters. This love is different from love on earth. This love never fails. This love never weakens or alters. The love we feel for you and for each other is a reliable and continuous state of existence. We see each other as we were in our humanity, flawed, and this makes us even more tender in our love. You see, dear friend, the times we failed on earth helped us to become humble. There is no arrogance in heaven and you are coming to heaven. I am telling you that if you made mistakes and committed sins you are exactly like the rest of us. Confess your sins and allow Jesus to free you from the hold they have on your soul. Jesus forgives. Jesus forgets. You must accept His forgiveness and allow Him to grant you acceptance for yourself. Jesus can

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make all things new and He will make you new when you come to Him. Have no fear about your welcome. You will be welcomed by Jesus and by your whole family. I, John, am an expert on the love of Christ. I rested in the love Jesus had for me and I am asking you to do the same. Rest in the love Jesus has for you. Let it encircle you and penetrate you. You are cherished by Jesus Christ. He accepts you just as you are. Be at peace, my friend. Remain in heavenly quiet and allow Jesus to put the final touches on your soul.

St John the Apostle

My dear friend, how often have you known contentment? In your life on earth, how often have you sat in silence, thanking God for all of your blessings? Perhaps you are a wise person and you have done this each day. I am glad. Perhaps you have been busy and distracted and you have not done this enough. It is time to change. For a moment, thank God for all that He has allowed you to experience on earth. You have seen great goodness. Where have you seen goodness? Consider this question. Think back with me to the people you knew who were good. Why were they good? What was it that impressed you about them? You have also seen great evil. Offer God a brief prayer for those whom you witnessed working against goodness and then think no more about them. God will be merciful, particularly if you ask Him to be. Come back now to the examples of great goodness because it is in this goodness that I want you to rest yourself. You will always remember those who were better than you in terms of following God or following holy principles. Be at peace in this. It is not to torment you that I bring these things to your mind, but to console you. If you think back to the good people you have observed, you will be thinking forward to the good people you are about to meet. Heaven is filled with people who made decisions for God. Heaven is also filled with people who chose against God, but who repented, allowing God to purify them. What you will remember about a good

person is this. That person made decisions based on love. That person overcame his own desires for the needs or desires of others. That person often took a harder road in order to do the right thing. You will recall that the decisions to do the right thing cost that person something. There was sacrifice. Rejoice with me, John, as you consider the



heroic goodness of another. In doing so you are becoming acquainted with heavenly principles, even as you remain on earth. This is a good exercise for you because we will bring you to the heavenly Kingdom soon. Anything you need to be comfortable here will be given to you in terms of graces. I would like to see you at peace. I would like to see you accepting yourself as Jesus accepts you. Do you wish you had more to offer to Jesus? We all did and I mean that sincerely. Every one of us who considered our lives wished we had more to give, that we had been better, loved more completely and selflessly, served without interruption, and accepted the truth of God's presence. If you wish you had been better, you will fit

right in with us in heaven. Be at peace. Contemplate the goodness you have seen and believe that Jesus accepts you just as you are right now.

St. John the Apostle

Dear friend, we, your heavenly companions, whisper into the ears of your soul during this time. We are helping you to leave this world and enter the next. We do this to assist you and we do this because it gives us joy to see that you are nearly finished with your earthly labors. We are happy for you. Any expectations you have of heaven and God's Kingdom are certainly underestimates because nothing can prepare you for the love of the Father and nothing can prepare you for the love of the family you are about to meet. We are all together in God's love and God's love unites us. This is the truth. Another part of the truth that will delight you is the personal, intimate love God has for you. You will experience this in Jesus Christ, our beloved Friend and Savior. I lived for love of Christ on earth. In heaven, I live "because" of the love of Christ. How far short I fall when I begin to talk about the love of Jesus Christ. It is like trying to describe an ocean by indicating a small cup of water. Still, even though one is destined to fall short, one must begin. Jesus loves you so much that He lived each day for you, personally. The fact that He lived each day on earth for you personally in no way detracts from the fact that He lived each day for me personally. Because of the nature of God, God can be equally present to each man simultaneously. You will come to us and you will be with Jesus. You will never be separated from Him again. You will know perfect security, perfect acceptance, and perfect intimacy with Him in heaven. My friend, there are those who will choose eternal separation from our beloved Jesus but you will not do so. You will choose Jesus. Choose Him now so that He can shower you with mercy, thus preparing you for your homecoming. Confess your sins. Admit to your failures. If you do this now, grieve for

your sins, you will have begun the process of self-acceptance. Jesus forgives you if you repent. This is always the case. But you have the need in your humanity to accept yourself and become peaceful about your past sins. If you do this on earth, there will be no barrier to an immediate unity with Jesus, in other words, heaven. If you do not finish the work on earth, you will have a need to finish the work in the heavenly Kingdom, that is, in purgatory. I, John, am encouraging you to at least begin this process now. Either way, Jesus is all mercy, all forgiveness. If you trust in Jesus, in His mercy, He will reward you with an unlimited amount of this mercy. Oh, my dear friend, take my words to your heart and believe them. I am trying to help you by giving you good advice and accurate information. Be humble and accept me as your brother, who gives wise counsel. I am praying for you now. Ask me to help you in this process and I will do so. Peace be with you and with all those around you.

Blessed Mother

My little child, how joyful I am to be with you. My heart rests with you as you contemplate God's mercy. There will be no difficulty with Jesus accepting you. If you feel the smallest desire to be with Jesus, to rest in His merciful gaze, you will do so. You belong to heaven, little child. Be very humble about your entrance into eternity. A good child, a faithful servant, comes to the door in humility. This is what you must do. God is great, very great. God is all goodness, all power. Comparatively, what are you? I will tell you. You are God's beloved and immeasurably cherished child. You are like a small infant in my arms, in need of comfort and nourishment. Allow yourself to be a small and helpless infant and I, your heavenly mother, will give you all that you need to appear before God. I know about God, my child,

and I know about you. I know about heaven and I know about the family who prepares to welcome you. I know what you will need to be comfortable. Allow me to help you become comfortable. We are all here for you. We desire to make you comfortable. If you have a thought that troubles you, simply give it to me. I will see to it by either removing the thought from you or revealing God's truth about the matter. You will have peace. We, your heavenly family, surround you. We help to remove any bitterness that remains with you. I love you, my little child. You are dear to me. A mother does not leave her child when her child needs her and I will not leave you.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

June 1, 2011

Jesus

Dear apostles, humanity suffers. If you have eyes to see, then you will see that all around you there are children of God who have become disconnected from their Father. When a child suffers, that child is consoled if his Father is nearby and engaged with him. The child feels understood, even in his great pain. The child feels that there is ultimate safety, even when he faces temporary risk. To know that one is destined for ultimate safety provides for a disposition that withstands any difficulty, even the prospect of death. Beloved apostles, so close to Me, do you see that you have something that most do not? Do you

see that your anticipation of ultimate safety provides you with a solid wall at your back which will, someday, absorb you into Itself? At that time, you will never be at risk again. You will be one of those who rejoices completely, not only in your own safety, but in the safety of all those around you. You will be absorbed into the Communion of Saints who now so perfectly understand the struggle of humanity that they work tirelessly and joyfully for the salvation of their brothers and sisters remaining on earth. When you finish your time on earth, you, too, will understand the great things that I accomplished through the little yes answers you gave Me on your journey through time on earth. You will say, yes, it was worth everything. You will say this, dear friends, regardless of the amount of suffering or sacrifice you endured. But, even as I rejoice in your heavenly heading, I urge you to strain forward

in My service. Others should possess this confidence and security. If I told you that there was one person who was lost and that he could be found, would you rejoice with Me? If I told you that this person, currently suffering, could be claimed for heaven through your allegiance to Me on this day, would you give Me that allegiance? For one more day? This is what I am asking of you. Answer yes to Me. Give Me this day today. Watch, dear apostle, what I can do with your yes answer today. Look back and see what I have done with your yes answers in the past. You will see, in looking back, the barest truth about what I accomplished through you. Only in heaven will you see the full extent of what the Father has gained through your presence in His heart. Trust Me, while I obtain peace for you and peace for others through you.

A Weekend of Prayer in Ireland

June 17-19, 2011



Helen Rochford and Roisin Lyons register prayer groups.



Gary and Kay Quenan prepare for the Couples Ministry.



On a beautiful weekend in June, lay apostles gathered in Ireland for a weekend pilgrimage, "Into the Heart of Jesus."

The weekend began on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Bailieborough, Ireland, with a talk by Anne, a lay apostle, entitled "What is our conscience and how does it work?" The talk was followed by the celebration of Mass, and the evening concluded with the Stations of the Cross, which was led by Don Devaney. The reflections Don read at each station were drawn from Saint Faustina's Diary. It was an incredibly beautiful time for self-examination. Internationally acclaimed Irish tenor, Mark Forrest, provided musical accompaniment throughout the evening.

On Saturday, we headed back to St. Anne's Church for a Eucharistic Day of Renewal from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Don Devaney gave a witness talk and Anne, a lay apostle gave two talks: "Advancing into Holiness Through Vocation – Single, Married, Religious, and Clergy," and "Co-Responsible: Renewal through a Committed Laity." Kevin Sullivan, a lay apostle from the United States, shared his experience and also gave practical tips in a talk entitled, "Spreading the Lay Apostolate: Do's, Don'ts, and Suggestions."

The day concluded with Eucharistic Adoration. Mark Forrest blessed us all with his singing throughout the day.

On Sunday, the Direction for Our Times staff hosted an Open House at our new office in The Hague Building, in, Cavan. All attended Mass and then listened as Anne, a lay apostle spoke about "The Three Charisms of the Lay Apostolate."

Monthly Messages

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

April 1, 2011

Jesus

Dearest apostles, you are serving Me despite trials and temptations. That is why you are called apostles, because you follow Me and serve Me. No life is easy or without strife, and I know, dear apostles, that you experience your share of difficulty. These

difficulties are important for you because through the suffering of them you gain mastery over yourself. When you conquer a difficulty, using the holiness you have received from Me, you become stronger spiritually and then when the next difficulty comes, you both view it differently and treat it differently. You view it as expected, because your experience tells you that life in general, and service to Me specifically, will include these difficulties. You treat it differently because you know that I am with you today as I have been with you in the

past. Additionally, you understand that all difficulty passes. What is it that remains, dear apostles, when the difficulty passes? Your commitment to Me remains and the work I will for you remains. You are not overcome and I need your help. And so we go on, Jesus and His apostles. The work continues and comfort and salvation are brought to God's children. Be at peace, dear friends. I am with you and I am factoring in your presence as I plan for the advancement of the Renewal.



On Sunday, June 19th, the Direction for Our Times staff hosted an Open House at our new office in The Hague Building, in Cavan. All attended Mass and then listened as Anne, a lay apostle, spoke about, "The Three Charisms of the Lay Apostolate."

May 1, 2011

Jesus

Dearest apostles, I speak to you today with a heart filled with love. I am grateful for your steady service. I am grateful for your fidelity to My plan for Renewal. If there is something that is keeping you from total abandonment to My cause, I will show you. Will you accept My light? Will you allow Me to direct you to even greater holiness? I want this for you. I want you to make additional gains in holiness. Perhaps

you are afraid of this because you fear I will ask you to give more than you can give. I assure you, dear apostles, I will not ask you for anything you cannot give to Me. I will ask you to serve Me in a reasonable manner that is consistent with the gifts I have given to you. What I am urging you toward is greater intimacy with Me and with My heart. My heart beats with love for humanity in an uninterrupted beat. The rhythm of My beating heart provides you with a steady source of zeal for the spread of the gospel message. Too many of God's

children are without hope. This lack of hope brings them to actions that hurt themselves and others. There is no need for this, dear apostles, and you can change the experience of many if you do as I ask. You will have to be alert in order to hear My instructions, though, and it is for this reason I call you to concentrate on what is good about your life. I call you to concentrate on what I am seeking to do through you. Be at peace. I will help you in everything and, together, we will offer the Father the gift of your ongoing conversion.

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Mission Information Packet Available

DFOT makes free information resources available for clergy who are interested in knowing more about the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King. Our Mission Packet is available to any priest or bishop, and includes background information, a letter from Anne's bishop, plus Volume One and Volume Four books.

Send us the name of the priest or bishop who is interested in reviewing these materials, and we will send him the entire package at no charge. Contact the DFOT office for more information.



In August, eleven students from Franciscan University of Steubenville spent two days on retreat with the Irish staff of Direction for Our Time. On the second day we climbed Croagh Patrick and visited the Knock Shrine. Here, after the climb up Croagh Patrick, we were graced with this beautiful view and a rainbow!