

January 2012 • Issue 23-24

DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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

A New Book by Anne, a lay apostle

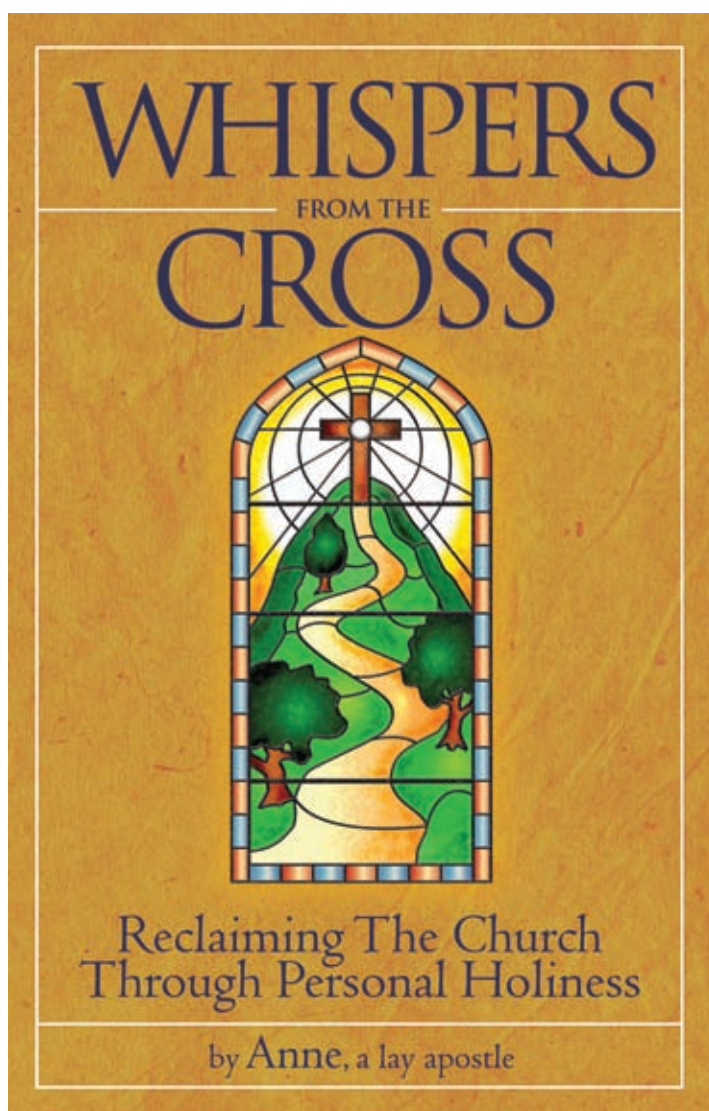


The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King is a new movement in the Catholic Church. This movement calls people to greater personal unity with Jesus Christ. As we become more aware of His presence, accepting His love and healing, we are then able to bring His light and love to those around 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.

Dedicated to

Mary, Queen

of Apostles



“Dear apostles, we must give Jesus some time each day, silently contemplating His form on the cross and allowing Him to whisper intimately into our souls all that we need so that He can live in us.”



Direction for Our Times

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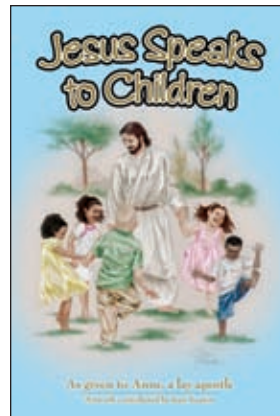
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News of the Mission

Children's Books Now Available

Direction for our Times is pleased to announce that the messages for children found in Volume Six are now available in two beautifully illustrated children's books: *Jesus Speaks to Children* and *Mary, our Blessed Mother, Speaks to Children*.

Jesus and Mary's messages are full of peace, joy, and practical advice for young people on how to live as children of God. With delightful artwork contributed by artist Jean Keaton, Jesus' and Mary's words come alive in a whole new way.



Each book is priced at \$5.00 and is available in English and Spanish. These books may be ordered from our website at www.directionforourtimes.org.

Embracing Your Call to Holiness – Summer 2012 in Ireland

Announcing a new program for this summer coming from Direction for Our Times: We will offer our first four week program for college aged students who are interested in embracing their call to holiness, digging into the spirituality of this apostolate and having fun living and learning for four weeks in Ireland. See page 23 of this newsletter for more information.

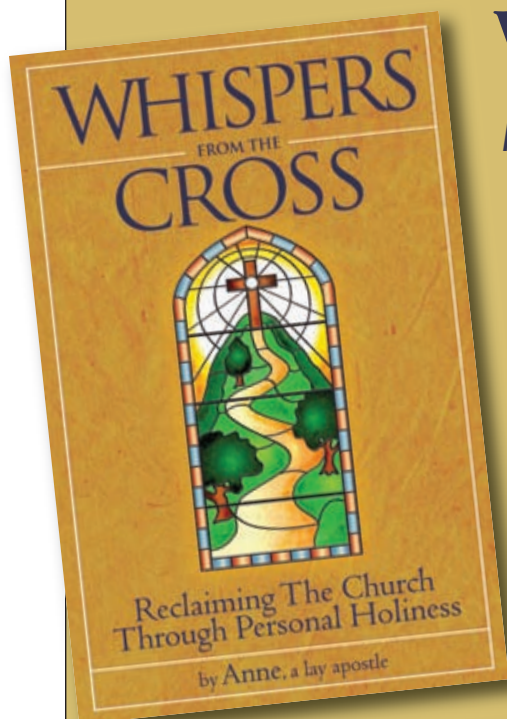
October 1, 2011 we launched our new website, filled with new videos and information to help you spread the good news of this mission.

A New Website!



Please check it out at www.directionforourtimes.org

Inside this book: Whispers from the Cross Locutions • The Vertical Relationship • Unity • Chastity
Purity of the Church Visions • Betrayal • Temptation • Silence • Stations of the Cross • The Stripping



Whispers from the Cross

Reclaiming the Church through Personal Holiness

232 pages • Price: \$15.95

In this book, Anne highlights the value of contemplating the Crucified Christ.

“Every lover of Jesus Christ will eventually find his way to the foot of the cross, where he will gaze at the Crucified One and engage in contemplation of those wounds which delivered salvation to humanity. Through contemplation of these wounds, we find our own place in the salvation story.”

Anne identifies some of the temptations we experience during our service to Christ. She explores the importance of the vertical relationship with Christ that is central to the success of our service in our individual vocations in the Church. Anne encourages us to accept the crosses we experience in our earthly journeys and also to accept the crosses God wills for those around us.

“Whispers from the Cross will direct us and correct us. These divine emanations from our Crucified King will console us and give us courage ... In circumstances of suffering and pain we will feel strength because we arrive daily at the foot of the Cross to receive, and then offer, what is Jesus, instead of what is our feeble and changeable humanity.”



“*Whispers from the Cross* is a treasure of anointed spiritual wisdom. From locutions of Jesus on carrying our daily crosses to Christian counsel on marriage, purity, and Church obedience, *Whispers* will speak to your heart and bring you new joy and peace in whatever vocation is yours.”

– Dr. Mark Miravalle

Professor of Theology and Mariology, Franciscan University of Steubenville



“Anne invites us in *Whispers from the Cross*, to return with renewed fervor to the school of grace, the cross. With the Blessed Mother as our model, we are invited to attend the Crucified One, imploring the Father’s mercy, perennially finding here, sustenance and direction for our times. *Whispers from the Cross* offers a sure path in this age of anxiety: listening to Jesus and remaining confident in the perpetual wisdom of his suffering.”

– Fr. Gerard W. Battersby

Vice Rector/Director of Seminarian Formation, Sacred Heart Major Seminary

Please visit our website www.directionforourtimes.org, or call one of our offices to place your order.

The Stripping

By Anne, a lay apostle

Jesus is stripped of His garments.

Into the life of every follower of Christ will come an experience of stripping, when, through betrayal, humiliation, sorrow, suffering, loss, illness, or failure with consequences, we are forced to confront our selves.

To be specific, these experiences can happen when children gang up and reject another child, when someone is bullied or teased, when a person is fired from a job, when someone is sent to prison, or loses all of his money as in when a successful person must file for bankruptcy or when a bank repossesses a car or forecloses on a mortgage. Other examples include someone with an addiction being publicly exposed or placed into treatment, a spouse leaving one with consequent separation and divorce, unplanned pregnancies, unjust accusations, being victimized through rape or other assault or anything that includes deep disappointment in either another person or simply in life's circumstances. The death of the loved one or serious illness could be considered a stripping. Certainly though, into every life, will come some form of this experience.

In this stripping we are laid bare in a way that compels us to observe ourselves in truth. This can be traumatic but this experience also can be a powerful vehicle for advancement and growth, spiritually, mentally and psychologically. Only through examination of our true self will we find ourselves able to identify in us what is good, what is the product of our wounds and where we need healing.

There we find Christ, patiently waiting, hoping and alert.

While possibly experiencing searing pain, the one searching for his or her personal truth will come closer and closer to union with Christ. We cannot take all of the truth at once, one suspects, so in His mercy, God may allow



a series of these stripping experiences suited to our strength in the areas mentioned. At some point on the journey, during one of the strippings, the searcher looks upon this essence with trembling eyes, expecting the usual shame and finds instead, calm. When this happens, the searcher is beginning a new process, one that ends in total liberation. The searcher is getting closer and closer to his core and is discovering in his essence, his true identity with God. Once this is achieved, no further serious stripping is necessary because only truth remains.

It is for this reason that the saints passed time in many types of prisons, physical, emotional and spiritual, peacefully and reflectively. They were laid bare with Christ and found it to be good! They, in their exposed humanity, found peace.

All thought of worldly approval must flee at this point. All outrage. All trepidation at the prospect of condemnation.

When a person has allowed the stripping and has cooperated willingly with the grace sent from heaven, the person gazes at his own

humanity with the compassion and delight of the Father, the Creator.

Even while the person may experience continual pain at suffering and persecution, he receives it with gentleness and kindness to his humanity. In other words he is compassionate with himself and his human limitations rest easily upon his head and heart.

To clarify, dear apostles, this means that instead of going around and around on a track of self-hatred in our head, we allow for the difference between how we would like to behave and how we actually behave during a period of temptation.

Once we advance into a willingness to be stripped, suffering is never disconnected from spirituality. To be clear, a sufferer must be seeking truth. Not all sufferers are seeking truth. If the sufferer is not seeking the truth of his condition then the trials and tribulations, the pains and betrayals, will be nearly unbearable and may prompt a lashing out. Alas, the trials and tribulations, the pains and betrayals are unavoidable for humanity. If we lash out, we can miss the opportunity for examination of our essence, which, as stated, will eventually be a cause for delight.

At this core, where God and the searcher will eventually fuse, we have wonder, child-like hope and peace. But pain must come first where innocence is lacking, that is, in most of us. Who arrives at this core? Anyone who searches with a heart open to his human frailty. When will we arrive? We will arrive in God's good time if we are willing to self-examine in solitude.

The vertical relationship must be authentically sought. False piety always erupts in outrage because it seeks something other than holiness. Perhaps we must be both accepting of our limitations and eager to outpace them.

continued on page 21

Meet Gerry Keymer, lay apostle

We recently asked Gerry Keymer, from Minnesota, to share about his experiences with the apostolate since receiving the writings two and a half years ago.

The messages of this apostolate have completely changed my faith life. I thought I was a good Catholic, but ever since my daughter introduced me to these materials two and a half years ago, I have experienced God the Father, Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and numerous saints, like never before.

Their messages are so clear and easy to read that I never struggle to understand them. It is as if I opened my mailbox and discovered numerous letters addressed to me – personally. And their messages are so intimate and heartfelt that they connect with me in a really powerful way, unlike anything I have ever encountered. So many questions that I had before, have now been answered. The abstract heavenly world suddenly became very real to me. My doubts disappeared, and I have learned to view our world through Jesus' eyes.

I never before understood the value of suffering. Now I realize all the wonderful things that Jesus can do if we are willing to offer up our sufferings. His messages on obedience really changed my mind about disagreements that I had with my Church. And I can actually feel the love and graces, pouring out of the messages.

I lost my fear of dying and my fear of purgatory. I had always believed in purgatory, and that I would reside in heaven for eternity. However, if you gave me a blank sheet of paper and asked me to write down everything I knew about them, I had no specifics because prior descriptions were so fuzzy and metaphorical. Anne's details about her mystical trips to heaven and purgatory have opened my eyes and clarified so many things. Now that I understand heaven and the Communion of Saints better, everything else suddenly makes more sense. The puzzle pieces now fit together. I am so grateful for this information.

I made the commitment to become a lay

apostle of Jesus Christ the Returning King, and leader of our monthly lay apostle prayer group at my parish.

After a lot of prayer, I concluded that the Holy Spirit is calling me to use the skills and resources that I have been blessed with, to share this information with others. The fastest way to generate exposure was to give the materials away. I started with relatives and friends, giving them sets of the books.

In an effort to reach considerably more souls, and find highly motivated readers, I decided to give away the "Heaven Speaks" booklets. Jesus said that each booklet contains an invitation. I received permission to install displays of the 20 different booklets and give them away in a dozen parishes, three Catholic bookstores, the local hospital, a large medical clinic, and jail and prison ministry. I also helped distribute thousands of booklets at two religious conferences. I had special tables built with a shelf below the display of booklets that allow me to offer the VOLUMES, the larger books, CD's and DVD's at my twin parishes. The results have been spectacular!

For example, the Spiritual Care staff at St. Cloud Hospital started using some of the booklets (Suicide, Addiction, Depression, etc.) with patients in their Mental Health Unit. The results were so dramatic and healing, that the nursing and clinical staff in that unit started offering the booklets to patients. They consumed 300 booklets in just two months-time. Hundreds of patients have been very positively impacted, and this has revolutionized the way these patients are now being treated.

Even a very shy apostle can become a world-class evangelist, by offering these materials to another person. Heaven's words will do all the work.

This work has been truly joyful. I am



Gerry Keymer stands next to one of the 17 display cases he supplies.

much more peaceful now, more charitable, and less judgmental. It's encouraging knowing that lives are being changed, and in some cases even saved.

I am aware of a young woman, who decided to take her own life due to relationship issues. She made a final visit to her empty church, and on her way out, the word "Suicide" caught her eye. She read the booklet: "Heaven Speaks to Those Considering Suicide," and later told a parishioner, "That booklet saved my life!" No human being interacted with her – just the power of Jesus' words, and the accompanying graces.

Another woman, an inmate at our jail, read the booklet on "Addictions" three times, and decided to come back to the church.

I don't expect to receive feedback on these "self-help" booklets. Souls anonymously and confidentially select titles that are very personal to them, and heaven pours out its peace, hope, love, joy, forgiveness, healing, and clarity. I know that thousands of souls are being helped, and I thank God daily for blessing us with these wonderful messages.

There are three lay apostle prayer groups in St. Cloud. As we read Jesus' Monthly Messages of love and encouragement, we realize what a privilege it is to be personally addressed by our Savior as "My dear apostles."

REFLECTION: *A* Franciscan Retreat in Ireland with

By Sarah Spies



St. Patrick atop Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo, Ireland.



Climbing Croagh Patrick.

I want to share a little bit more about my personal experience of the new connection between the Franciscan University Austria Program and Direction for Our Times lay apostolate. Before coming to Gaming, Austria this fall, I was able to go on the retreat with Anne, a lay apostle and the Direction for Our Times staff. What a blessing it was! Before going on the retreat I really had minimal knowledge about the apostolate and had only read Anne's *Volume Nine*, but this retreat opened my eyes to the heart of the mission and it certainly was a pilgrimage filled with



new lights and consolations from the Holy Spirit. We (the thirteen Franciscan students signed up for the retreat) were greeted and picked up from the airport in Dublin and driven by friends of Anne to Cavan County for the retreat, which was a blessing in itself since it was our first time travelling. And even more importantly it was free! It's important to mention this because the lay apostles gave us a place to stay, food to eat, and transportation for the duration of the retreat.

The first day, was filled with spiritual activities, but it didn't even feel too busy because the leaders of the retreat were so in

Direction for our Times Apostolate



tune with each of our needs (especially our jet lag) and they were very flexible. From the beginning I saw how much the lay apostles simply desired to serve us and meet our needs on this retreat. We began with Mass and afterwards proceeded to listen to an address from Anne. My first reaction was, honestly, surprise with just how normal she was. I didn't initially know what to expect from this woman who receives daily locutions, but I was affirmed by her peace, honesty, and genuine desire to be the Lord's servant. Her message to us was about the role of the laity in the Church, especially ours as young adults.

After her talk we were able to ask her any questions about the apostolate, her messages, and her locutions. It was intriguing to hear how simple it was for her to accept her experiences merely as just another part of her daily prayer life. Later she prayed over each of the retreatants individually. My overall experience was that she and the DFOT staff genuinely saw us as their brothers and sisters

and simply wanted to empower us in our baptismal call as laity in the temporal order. It was such a peaceful experience.

That night we made a Holy Hour in the quiet, small chapel in the back of one of the missionary's homes. This was the chapel where Anne recorded Volume Two: Conversations with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

The next day was so powerful. We began with a pilgrimage hike up Croagh Patrick. Some of the guys with us decided to hike it barefoot like the 80-year-old women. As for me, I suffered even with my shoes on! It was a grueling and steep hike to the top, and I had to stop a few times, but it was one of the most beautiful spiritual experiences in that I was able to learn a lot about perseverance in suffering. About an hour or so in I realized how much my thoughts were becoming increasingly negative. I wanted to complain, but I knew this would make it so much more of a challenge for all of us. I knew that it was necessary to give from my poverty of spirit and

so I simply prayed, "Come Holy Spirit," in order to tame my natural instincts.

God is SO good and faithful, because after that prayer I was able to start to make so many parallels between this hike and my spiritual life. I recalled many things I had learned from St. Therese and St. Jose Maria Escriva which motivated me to continue making the steps up the mountain. I know that these lights came from the Holy Spirit because He is faithful to all who call and the consolations I was able to provide for the others around me were inspirations for me as well! We certainly bonded as a group through this climb. All I wanted was to make it to the top because Jesus was waiting for me there. Once we arrived at the summit we received our Source and Summit in the Eucharist at Mass in the small chapel on top of the mountain.

Despite the harsh weather conditions, we spotted a rainbow over Clue Bay after Mass. The view was absolutely spectacular! Even though I was soaked to the bone I was overwhelmed with joy because I realized that though the mountains, plains, and islands in the bay were so beautiful and a testament of God's power, I was convicted of how much more glorious each of us were upon receiving Christ in the Eucharist. Of course there is much more I could say about the lights we all received from this hike, but I must tell you it's something you certainly don't want to miss. The view alone is the best I saw in all of Ireland.

We finished our retreat with a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock ... AWESOME ... and then ate dinner at a Bed and Breakfast for pilgrims run by the Daughters of Charity. Overall, this retreat was an incredible opportunity for me spiritually and it is something I definitely recommend.

Many Blessings in Manipur, North East India

By Sunny George, lay apostle

A Spiritual Convention was held for the young people of Don Bosco College, Maram, Manipur, India on October 4th through October 6th. It was an event for the entire college of 2,000 students and staff. Sunny George, a lay apostle, journeyed hour after hour by train to introduce the lay apostolate to these students. The Principal of the College, Fr. Benny, SDB, welcomed Sunny to the event and introduced the Apostolate to the entire Salesian family of the College. Sunny gave a presentation about the apostolate and distributed 1,000 prayer cards to students. He taught the Allegiance Prayer and the Morning Offering. Anne's recorded talk for the people in India was very informative and inspiring to the participants. Following is Sunny's account of this beautiful event.



Sunny George presents at Don Bosco College.

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

I am so glad to write this article and share my experiences of the recent trip I took to the North East of India. I left home on September 27th, and reached Guwahati (Assam state) on October 1st at 1:30 a.m. The train was seventeen hours late! The train journey was



Over 2,000 students learned about the lay apostolate at their Spiritual Convention.

not that comfortable, so there were ample opportunities for mortification! I had offered all the discomforts for the success of the programs. Four full days of journey in a train is obviously difficult. However, I could recite more than twenty rosaries each day, and read the Heaven Speaks booklets once again. Now I thank God for giving me such an opportunity.

I had to catch another train on October 1st to finally arrive at Dimapur. The train departed Guwahati at 4:00 a.m. the same day I reached Guwahati. The journey lasted for 6 hours. Once I reached Dimapur, a Don Bosco Father picked me up from the station and brought me to their house for a shower and breakfast. I was so grateful to them for their great hospitality. After lunch they sent me to Maram, Manipur, our destination, via road. I reached there at 8:00 pm. It was a hilly region, with beautiful mountains and vegetation. I enjoyed the Jeep trip. There were army officials throughout the place, as many riots were going on. Because I was in a Don Bosco vehicle, I

was not physically examined by these officers. Don Bosco institutions are so famous in the entire North East of India. They were the pioneers in providing education to the local people, and they introduced the Catholic faith to the people.

The next two days were really nice. I relaxed until the other priest, Fr. Anto, arrived for the youth convention on the night of October 2nd. Fr. Anto, Mr. Paul Emil (Youth Coordinator), and I spent much time in prayer and discernment for planning the program. October 4th, 5th and 6th were the dates of the program.

Fr. Anto is a very gifted priest with many charisms. He was so glad to receive the Volumes. He got a message from God that many of the students were addicted and depressed. When I told him that we have booklets on these topics, he was amazed by the Lord's work! These three days were glorious in the history of the college, Father principal commented. The entire program was so Spirit-filled and we had



intercession before the Blessed Sacrament during the entire program. Many religious sisters helped us with this.

The entire program was in our hands as I got ample time to talk about the Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King. Thus 2,000 college students received these soul-touching messages of Heaven! They received the prayer cards and booklets with gratitude. The college authorities distributed rosaries along with the prayer cards. The majority of the students were Catholics. A small percentage of students were Baptists.

Although the main program was over on October 6th, I remained there for one more week. Almost every day I spoke to small gatherings in the convents and parishes. Everywhere people received the messages whole-heartedly.

During my entire stay in the North East, I was feeling so much resistance from the enemy in the form of acute headaches. The pain was so intense that at some point in time, I thought I would die! Thank God the headache subsided when I left Manipur. No medicine or balm could alleviate the pain. So, it was the first time with this mission that I had experienced such a spiritual warfare.

So, let us join our hands to thank God for all the blessings we have been receiving! We

are just His instruments! Let us decide to serve Him in every present moment!

Manipur is a state in northeastern India. Don Bosco College, Maram (Manipur, India) is a minority Catholic Educational Institution permanently affiliated to Manipur University. It is established and administered by the Salesians of Don Bosco, Dimapur Province. Don Bosco is a world-renowned educator of youth. His system of education known as the Preventive System of Education is based on reason, religion and loving-kindness. It recognizes the vast potentialities latent in one's faculties of mind, heart and body, and tries to bring out and develop them in a balanced manner. The College takes into account the social and economic dimensions of life. It places before the staff, students and parents the high ideals of humanism and service towards which they are continually invited to strive.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

November 1, 2011

Jesus

My dear apostles, I am with you. I am with you when you are working, and I am with you when you are resting. I am with you when you are at peace, and I am with you when you are unsettled. You are unsettled less and less, though. As I watch you, struggling for holiness and struggling for My will, I can see that you are advancing. You are becoming stronger and more sure of Me. Even allowing for your human doubts, I can see that you are accepting My comfort daily, which makes it easier for you to come

through your trials with less suffering. The greatest suffering is, after all, abandonment. The greatest cross is that of being left alone while craving the comfort and love of someone who is dear to you. My friends, often there is confusion in human relationships which causes terrible suffering. This part of the cross is heavy, indeed, and I, Myself, suffered this. It is during these times that I comfort you with the greatest and most tender graces because I understand the confusion which accompanies abandonment. For Me, it was important to remind myself that My Father would not abandon Me. For you, this is also important. I will never leave you. If you feel that you have been abandoned by someone you love, either through death or rejection, then you must come to Me

for comfort. I will remind you that in heaven there will be no tears, no grieving, no heartbreak. In heaven you will be reunited in love with those who also love Me. Never worry about those who have gone before you. Pray for them and trust Me. The family of God is vast and includes people you know and people you do not know. You will rejoice in heaven and, even now, heaven rejoices in you. Dear apostles, heaven rejoices in you at this moment, as you read these words and acknowledge Me as your King. In the world, the cross was My throne and you, too, are celebrated by heaven in your suffering. You will not be forsaken and you will not be forgotten. I will be with you and we will move forward with heaven's goals for your life. Have courage, apostles. All of heaven assists you and protects you.

Behind the Walls

By Susan Baker, lay apostle

As a young woman I would drive by a state penitentiary where a known mass murderer was incarcerated. I always just hoped we would not have a car problem around that bend and I would look at the guard towers hoping to see them alert, maintaining security – for me. I never thought about the life of the men and women behind those walls. I never thought there were innocent victims falsely charged, suffering, separated from their families. I never thought that the hardened criminals may be searching for a new meaning in life and that the love of Jesus could break through the walls and the hearts of inmates. I never dreamed that some of those people incarcerated could become ministers to their fellow “cellies.” How amazing is it that the Holy Spirit can touch each of us, including those banned to a life behind walls!

Now I am a little older and a little wiser and called to serve and to listen to those serving inside the walls of jails and prisons. There are many lay apostles who regularly visit the men and women in prisons and they are taking the messages from Direction for Our Times with them. Some are doing retreats and sleeping in cell-like rooms in Mexico with cockroaches for roommates. There are those who have gone in only to experience a lock down and guards who have forgotten that they were



there. There are those that have had to deal with snakes. But, they press on and the stories they tell of the prisoners lives that are touched and changed makes one bubble up with praise to God!

Lay apostles are doing much to bring the love of God to those who sometimes feel hopeless. We are encouraging those that have found a relationship to God through Jesus to grow and step out in faith. Sometimes the inmates tell us they are ridiculed, isolated or scorned for their strength in the Lord. Sometimes we hear stories of how the *Heaven Speaks to Prisoners* booklet and the Volumes are turning inmates into powerful ministers for others, including those of us that meet with them.

I know I was so humbled recently when one of the prisoners stopped everything when he felt we needed to pray before proceeding any further in our two hours together. He stood up and the men linked their arms in a circle and included me as they deeply prayed for certain needs. The prayers that were offered rose like incense to the “golden bowls” in heaven.

If you offer your time and talents in a jail or prison and would like to share your stories about how the writings of this apostolate have made a difference, please email me at susan.baker300@gmail.com.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

October 1, 2011

Jesus

All is well, dear apostles. Does this statement console you, even as you look at the changes occurring in the world? Why do I tell you that all is well when you can see clearly that difficulties have arisen in many areas? I hear the prayers of My children asking that I send relief from the sufferings that afflict them and cause them to question their security and even their faith. How often I have to teach mankind that I am the only true security and that reliance on Me will bring peace and all possible benefit to each man and to the intentions of each man.

In heaven's eyes, all is well, even as many suffer. Are God's children suffering with the benefit of the truth? Do they understand that I am with them and that I have overcome even death? My friends, if there are those remaining who do not understand the extent of My love, then your work is not finished. If there are those remaining who do not understand that joy is possible, even in suffering, and indeed especially in suffering, then your work is not finished. If there are times when you are afraid, then you must come to Me. I will protect you from anything that is outside of My will for you and for your work. Will you be overcome? Consider My authority, dear apostles, and do not consider the extent of your weakness. Never be distracted by the strength of your enemy because the enemy's strength is an illusion and even the illusion is fleeting.

Be assured that I will compensate for your weaknesses as I compensate for your beautiful humanity which so endears you to Me. Where you are weak, I am strong. Where you are frail in your humanity, I add my divinity and what goes out from you is blessed and protected, but only if you are relying on Me. You will know when you are relying on yourself because you will be afraid. Consider how I conducted Myself on earth. I trusted the Father and I was gentle, going about My tasks in the day with conviction. If the Father willed it for Me, then I accepted it and saw to it as best I could. When I was rejected, I quietly moved on. When I was accepted, I offered the Father's love and gave to the fullest extent of the Father's will. Do the same, beloved ones. Do the same. I am with you and all is well.

Heaven Speaks to THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED GOD

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

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



December 14, 2006

Jesus

I speak today with the greatest seriousness. My beloved one, you were created by God. God did not create you to reject your place in His family. You are important in this family, which includes all of mankind. To cast yourself out of God's love is to cast yourself out of your family. You object to this, telling yourself that you do not reject mankind, only the Creator of mankind. My friend, this is like reaching into your chest and removing your heart with the goal of rejecting your heart but accepting your body. The body will not function without the heart. It cannot. In the same way, the family of God cannot function without the sustaining hand of the Father.

Even the earth would fail to exist if the Father were to withdraw His benevolence. Your rejection of God proceeds from anger. You move to deny this. Perhaps you cite scientific evidence that claims to supplant God's existence. When you die in your body and you come before Me, Jesus Christ, you will be dazzled by the extent of what humanity does not know. The body of knowledge on earth at this time, while exciting for you, is miniscule when seen against the light of the full truth that you will be allowed to explore in heaven. I bless all science of good will. God has been merciful in the extreme through science. Many men have studied science and been brought to a profound respect for the Creator through the knowledge they have gained. They will continue this study in heaven, of course, and be blessed even more. Additionally, many men who study science have served their family, humanity, profoundly through their cooperation with Me in their studies. Do you understand? They cooperate with God and God, through that cooperation, blesses humanity. It is arrogance on the part of mankind to believe that they have discovered anything that I did not wish for them to discover. You, as one of God's created ones, must come to accept that those using science to subvert Godly principles are working against the Creator. They will be accountable for any damage done to the Kingdom of God. I am merciful to those who repent and I will be merciful to you. I speak to you today, not to condemn, but to save. I am with you. Do not reject Me.

St. John of the Cross

My friend, you cannot persist in rejecting God. It is too hard for you. Perhaps you do not understand the burden you carry. I will tell you about your burden so you will understand just how heavy it is and perhaps agree to put it down for a moment. The weight of your burden is such that your soul cannot be lifted. I am strong in my determination and I am strong in terms of God's divine power. Try as I might, though, I cannot lift you. You are as heavy and immovable as ten tons of bricks. When a soul believes in God and respects God's dominion over mankind, that soul can be lifted like the lightest feather. We can give that soul comfort and consolation. We can gain graces for the soul so that he can feel our love and the love of the Creator. The soul who accepts God is light and can be drawn easily into the divine truths. The acceptance of God gives souls a buoyancy that keeps them up above the water line, faced into the light of truth. This light flows steadily into these souls and the love that grows in them nourishes both the individuals and all those around them. You do not have this. You have rejected access to the One who loves you unconditionally. We surround you, hoping for an opportunity to help you but you block us out. Consider those around you. Think of those you love. Do you wish them well? Do you desire their safety? This love you feel, this caring, is the evidence of God inside you. Though you purport to reject your God, you cannot do so entirely because to fully reject God, you would have to reject all forms of love. Please understand that there are only two ways to proceed. One is from love, God's way. The other is from

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hatred, the enemy's way. "Ah," you say, "John is simplistic." I must tell you that I take that as the highest compliment. Heaven is simplistic in that it originates and is sustained by love. We will continue, you and I, to explore your rejection of God together. I am trying to help you, my friend, because I love you. You do not know me enough to love me, but when you get to know me, you will love me. Thank you for entertaining my thoughts for these few brief moments in time.

St. John of the Cross

There are several ways to proceed. One, you can continue on in your rejection of God. Two, you can accept that God loves you and ask Him to make Himself known to you. Three, you can accept that God exists but continue to deny Him access to your life. If you do the first, nothing changes. You will have the greatest difficulty when you die and meet God because you will have to accept that you rebelled against perfect love. This will be painful for you, in the extreme. God is merciful, of course. He will give you an opportunity to repent and if you do so, you will be taken joyfully into the family. At that time, however, you will have to begin learning all of the lessons of love and humility. This will take time but God has prepared a place for you to do this. It is called purgatory. If you follow the second option and accept that God loves you, asking God to make Himself known to you, you will begin learning about God's love on earth, in your life and through your relationships with others. You will know joy again, my dear friend, and you will have hope in your heart. God will flood you with graces, we will surround you and defend you as you grow in virtue, and upon your death you will be welcomed with the greatest joy and celebration. Truly, when you accept God and let Him teach you about love, the day of your death is a happy day indeed. The third option is not the option I would take but it is better than option number one. You can accept that God exists but keep Him at a distance. This is better than option number one because you are giving God some

measure of respect. God rewards all such respect with untold generosity. Also, if you at least recognize, even in the smallest way, the existence of God, you leave a door open to a relationship with God. Perhaps you are not willing or able to ask God to reveal Himself to you. Possibly you are fearful of what God will ask of you. This is shortsighted because anything that God asks of you becomes easy when you embark upon it with Him. At any rate, though, at least tell God that you recognize Him as the Creator and there will be a link between you and your God. It will be like It will be like being in deep water and holding on to a rope. You may not make progress, in that you are not allowing God to pull you into the boat, but neither will you be lost.

I love you. My heart has the greatest interest in helping you come back into our family. You see, I am looking at you with heavenly eyes. I see all that you can do to help others know God's love. We need you so badly. You have potential that you have not touched. Only with God's grace can your full potential be realized because God ignites the growth process, just as truly as He takes a seed and creates a massive tree. You have seeds of the greatest, most powerful goodness in you. Come back to God's love and He will ignite the growth process in each of these seeds. God Himself sowed these seeds and He has a divine purpose for each of them. Be at peace as you consider your options. You have heaven's assistance.

St. John of the Cross

You have been patient with me and I am grateful. I have a few more thoughts to share with you so I will presume upon your patience for one additional moment. If you have held onto your rejection of God for some time, you will find that these thoughts are unsettling. I, John, speak of choices as though these were easy choices with no subsequent emotional effects. I know what I am saying to you in that I understand the emotional impact of making choice number two or even three. You will not be left to walk through this alone. Any aloneness you have

felt in the past has been self-imposed. Listen carefully to this. I know that you have felt isolated and abandoned in your pain. Jesus felt the same way on the cross. In truth, He was not abandoned and neither were you. You simply locked us out. We, the saints and angels, cannot help you without some willingness on your part. The best we can do in these situations is to seek to protect you while we wait for the smallest opening in your heart. I ask you to take some time in silence and consider these words. You will see that I am reasonable in my contention that if you feel any love at all, you are still interested in being in God's presence. To say that you do not believe in God or God's enemy is to simply deny a truth as obvious as the truth that water is wet or wind produces movement. You can argue about the truth, you can distract yourself and others from the truth, but ultimately the truth remains. God exists. He loves you. To reject Him is to choose His enemy over Him. This is a mistake for you. Accept God again, if only in the smallest, most limited way. These words and the graces that accompany them are not simply for this moment. I am going to stay with you and remind you of them. I, John, love you and I will not give up on you. Feel the heavenly calm in your soul. There is no need for anything other than calm. If you are not ready now, do not be distressed. There will come a time when you are willing to accept God. I am with you now and I will be with you then, praying for you and gaining all possible graces for you. You may feel anger at me. You may say "John is a fool. I am ridiculing John and yet he continues to express love for me." You are right. I love you even though you ridicule me. I am in heaven, you see, so I am like God, in that even if you ridicule God, He continues to love you and hope for your return. In simply reading these words, you have had your first lesson in the unconditional love that is God's. Be at peace. You are not alone.

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Messages of Love, Hope and Healing

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

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

Each display arrives with:

- Cherry Wood Display Case, designed for a counter top or wall mounting
- 8 copies of each of the twenty “Heaven Speaks” booklets listed below
- 25 Brochures introducing the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King
- Launch Kit filled with ideas to help you to introduce the booklets in your parish
- Reorder pad
- Donation Box (Optional)

The display and initial inventory price is \$200 plus shipping. Reorder booklets are available for \$1.20 each.



Booklets:

Heaven Speaks about Abortion

Heaven Speaks about Addictions

Heaven Speaks to Victims of Clerical Abuse

Heaven Speaks to Consecrated Souls

Heaven Speaks about Depression

Heaven Speaks about Divorce

Heaven Speaks to Prisoners

Heaven Speaks to Soldiers

Heaven Speaks about Stress

Heaven Speaks to Young Adults

Heaven Speaks to Those Away from the Church

Heaven Speaks to Those Considering Suicide

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Do Not Know Jesus

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Are Dying

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Experience Tragedy

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Fear Purgatory

Heaven Speaks to Parents Who Worry about Their Children's Salvation

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Have Rejected God

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Struggle to Forgive

Heaven Speaks to Those Who Suffer from Financial Need

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

Coming from the Male Point of View

By Kevin Sullivan, lay apostle

They will never know what they're missing.

One of the first mornings back home from the last lay apostle outreach tour with my dear bride Crystal, I came across an article on one of the Catholic websites which was lamenting the fact that so few young boys were becoming altar servers. The article left me feeling sad for young boys who would never experience the special graces that God showers upon those who are willing to serve him around the altar. I am sure it was these very graces that called me back to my Catholic faith some twenty years later after I had fallen away and into one of the darkest periods of my life.

The article also caused me to reflect on my own experiences during this past year as Crystal and I traveled throughout the country visiting with lay apostle prayer groups. At virtually every stop we made, women in attendance outnumbered men by at least seven or eight to one. There were times when I was the only male present. Now, I understand that without the blessing of early retirement, I



Little Kevin at 8 years old, ready to serve.

probably would not have been at one of these events either. But I can't help to think of what so many men are missing by not answering the call to serve as lay apostles when I reflect back on what I may have missed if I didn't follow

Crystal into the service of the Lord through our Apostolate.

I never would have discovered the strength, confidence, and peace that come from turning each day over to the Lord through the allegiance prayer, morning offering, and daily mass. The troublesome and often quarrelsome days of the corporate world melted away over time, replaced by days of calm and confidence which were the result of living my day for the approval of the Lord instead of business colleagues.

I realize that I would have missed out on the regular reminders of the love and acceptance of the Lord that I experienced in Eucharistic Adoration. The confidence, courage and peace that is grace for us in the Eucharist really has come to life through the gift of time in silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

I can also assure you that I would surely have missed out on the comfort and grace of the sacrament of reconciliation. A sacrament which I had given up on decades ago has

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

September 1, 2011

Jesus

It is with joy that I speak with you today. When I contemplate your fidelity to My plan for mercy, I feel joy. When I contemplate your fidelity to holiness, I feel joy. Do not pause in your commitment to becoming holier. This calm movement into the Spirit of gentleness and kindness should help you to view others with compassion, yes, but also yourself. Do you view

yourself with compassion? Do you offer kindness and mercy toward yourself when you contemplate your condition? My friends, My dearest friends, be careful to view yourself as I view you. Be careful not to view yourself in harsh light that seeks to condemn. If you are tempted against mercy for yourself, then truly, you are tempted against truth. Because it is only with mercy and love that I greet your present condition and your attempts to advance in holiness. I am love. I could hardly ask you to love others and then withhold love from you. That would be a flawed plan, destined to fail. My plan is perfect. I give you a receptive heart, you receive

My love in abundance, and then stand for Heaven to be a well on earth which both stores and distributes love. Beloved apostle, search your heart today. If you do not find mercy and compassion for yourself in your heart, come to Me at once and ask Me to give these things to you. My plan for you and for the world will not advance as quickly as necessary if you do not accept your present condition and understand My perfect love for you. Your potential for holiness has not yet been fully achieved, of course, and I want you to advance. And I ask that you do so in confidence, joy and hope. Rejoice. I am with you.

Blessed Mother



Dearest little child of heaven, you are not as intellectually advanced as you think. If you were truly advanced in your intellect, you would be working hard to become a

saint because when one authentically applies the intellect to the consideration of truth, one is enchanted with the limitlessness of God's knowledge. One then desires to proceed more and more deeply into these heavenly truths. This can be done during your time on earth.

You are loved. You are cherished. We in heaven have many hopes attached to your conversion to God in your heart. The first reason that we harbor such hope is that we see the goodness in your soul. You may detach this goodness from God, stating that this goodness originates in you. In other words, you claim this goodness as your own. I am Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, and I tell you today that any goodness in your heart originates in God. Do not claim something that came from your Father. Would you claim your genetic composition? Did you have anything to do with it? Did you choose it or design it? This is silliness, of course. It was chosen for you so that you could serve in the way God intended. Do not reject the One who lovingly created you to serve at this time. All of heaven is interested in your acceptance of God. You are that important to us. My motherly heart suffers at your rejection of God because I witnessed what Jesus did for you. Be at peace. I will help you and you are loved. Take John's advice and accept God into your life. You will be so grateful that you did.



An older Kevin, ready to serve.

become a regular source of the comforting blessing of our Lord's Divine Mercy and an experience of the divine grace needed to help overcome some of my most entrenched sinfulness. I know where I would be without this grace because I lived that life for almost three decades and it wasn't very peaceful.

Becoming a lay apostle of Jesus Christ the Returning King has given me the extra special blessing of journeying with the members of our lay apostle prayer group. While I have come to experience the reality that Jesus is always with me, there is great encouragement and comfort to be found in knowing that there are others sharing the same journey on the path to holiness. In prayer groups I find living examples of the patience and kindness of Christ that we are all called to share with others.

Our travels have allowed us to experience these same fruits abundantly in the lives of lay apostles throughout the world. I have also noticed something very special in those families where both husband and wife are committed to the journey together. There is a

joy, quiet confidence, and a sense of peace that emanates from these couples.

All of this reminds me of what I was told nearly fifty years ago as a young altar boy. It is a great privilege to serve the Lord and great and special graces await those who answer the call. I thank my parents for encouraging me to take on Latin and learn to be an altar server. I also would like to thank my beloved, Crystal, for encouraging me to embark on the path to holiness laid out for lay apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King. Because of them, I have not had to miss out on all of the graces that are available to those who serve in these special ways.

So, as we approach the New Year, I would encourage all parents (and grandparents, as well) to encourage their children, both boys and girls, to take advantage of the opportunity to serve at the altar. I would also urge all lay apostles in the year ahead to invite at least one person close to them to join them on the lay apostle journey. They don't know what they're missing. But you know what they have to gain.

Serving with a Smile

By Crystal Sullivan, lay apostle

Have you ever entered a room and had the feeling that you were walking into a family reunion, with relatives that you might not know very well but with whom you share a special bond?

This is the experience my husband Kevin and I have all the time, as we travel throughout the United States and abroad, with the goal of spreading the good news that is being brought into the world through this apostolate. From east coast to west coast and everywhere in between, we meet lay apostles who are serving Christ where He has placed them. The term 'brothers and sisters in Christ' takes on new meaning, as we recognize our 'family' by the traits they exhibit: a deep inner awareness of God's presence and love; a joyful acceptance of life's joys and sorrows; and a strong commitment to help share the messages with others. And just like in every family, everyone might have a different job or a different way of getting the job done, but they are all working toward the same goal.

Our latest tour began in September as we headed west, stopping first in Glenwood, Iowa to visit lay apostle Monica Hughes, who organized a successful EDR last year. She continues to give *Volumes* and *Heaven Speaks* booklets to all who cross her path.

On to Idaho and Washington, where we met with several lay apostle prayer group leaders who are faithfully praying and spreading the messages. In Bend, Oregon, lay apostles organized an event where Kevin and I gave a talk on the importance of all vocations: single life, married life and religious life. The priests and religious sisters who attended were especially appreciative of the message that we are all called not only to evangelize from within our vocations, but also side by side.

Next stop: Portland, Oregon. We met with our beautiful Chinese translator, CeCe Talkington, and her husband and two young



Crystal and Kevin meet with Kathy Barger, a lay apostle who organized the entire three week tour of the Pacific Northwest.

children. Hearing first-hand the sacrifices she endured while in China to be able to live her Catholic faith humbled us and made us even more determined to bring the messages deeper into the heart of her native country.

In Washington state, we were invited to present information about the apostolate to two different groups. Jamie Welch and Penelope Walsh hosted an information session in the basement of their church in Tacoma, and Marlene Raymond hosted one in her home in Anacortes. Once again, the positive response of the priests and religious who attended the events was noteworthy. All present were thankful to be reading the words from heaven given to us for these times.

In Bothell, Washington, we met a family whose reputation for evangelization preceded our meeting. Regan Corwin, along with his wife, Susie, and their daughter, Christina, have been hosting an information table in the back of their church for over two years. The staff in the office of Direction for Our Times in Justice, Illinois are all familiar with Regan and his great efforts.

While at their parish, we watched the Corwin family evangelize first-hand. They set up a complete display of *Volumes*, *Heaven Speaks* booklets, and Anne's bigger books in the vestibule of the church. As people leave Sunday Mass, the Corwins invite parishioners to take material home. Their daughter Christina has a special line that she likes to use when talking with parishioners, "Here, read this little stress booklet. Everyone has stress!" As a result of their efforts, they have brought the messages of this apostolate to hundreds within their parish.

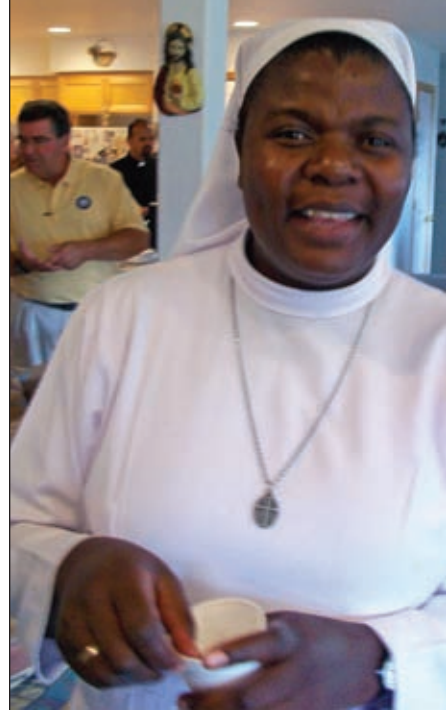
Kevin and I were struck again at how the Lord asks us as lay apostles to evangelize in the way which best suits our particular state in life. This family has answered His call in their own unique way.

Next we crossed the border into British Columbia. Lay apostles Gen and Chet Gazin may be physically restricted in their ability to travel to spread the words of this apostolate, but they heard a different call. They decided that they wanted to help distribute these words

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After Mass with Lay apostles in Missoula, Montana.



A joy-filled Sister Kevin in Bend, Oregon.



Carla and Chuck Sicotte, Bend, Oregon.



Lay apostles in British Columbia, Canada.



Kevin with Fr. Francis Obijekwu from Nigeria of St. Katherine's Catholic Church in Joseph, Oregon.



The Corwin Family with their display set up in the back of Church in Bothell, WA.

in Vietnam. They do their part by distributing Volumes to friends who take them back home to Vietnam.

Another lay apostle that we met, Eva Lehoczky, has donated her time as a translator to allow us post the monthly messages in Hungarian for the last three years. This humble and kind woman expressed how much joy she has received through the translation process, as she fully enters into the meaning of each of Jesus' messages.

Over the next two weeks, we met with lay apostle prayer groups in homes and church halls. From Canada to Montana to Idaho and then to Wyoming, the trip was one grace-filled stop after another. Rather than list each one, I will conclude with the observation that each lay apostle prayer group showed exceptional "joy in service." It reminds me of Jesus' words in Volume Ten:

***"My dear little apostles,
I will always be with you. You walk
in the world and My graces flow out
from you. Because I confirm you in the
light, you spread heavenly light
wherever you go."***



Hungarian Translator Eva Lehoczky.

Lay apostle Kathy Barger, whose organization skills were responsible the success of this trip (she had created the entire months' itinerary), summed things up: "I think the trip was a great success and will strengthen the apostolate significantly. It was so good to get answers directly from Kevin and Crystal on what is going on in the apostolate."

We came home feeling profoundly grateful to the Lord. He allows so much joy for His lay apostles, not only for Kevin and me, but for those serving in such unique ways



Chinese Translator CeCe Talkington and her young family.

in the mission field. We praise God for each and every one of you!

If you or your lay apostle prayer group would like to host Crystal and Kevin for an information presentation or a parish presentation, please email Crystal at crystal@directionforourtimes.org.

Evangelizers in the East

Back on the road again, this time to the east coast of the USA, where two prayer opportunities had been organized by our lay apostles in New York state. Arriving in the Bronx on the heels of a powerful Nor' Easter (snow storm), we were impressed by our lay apostles who continue in their faithfulness in a city which can be very ... distracting. Even we 'Chicago kids' were in wonder at all the action of the city, which made the time in Mass and Adoration before the information session even more special. A big thank you to Joanna Nycz-Wasilec and Eileen Frazetta for all they did to make this event possible.

Then it was time to head north for the Eucharistic Day of Renewal in Maine, New York, the second one hosted by lay apostle Matt Karp.

Lay Apostles from Scranton and beyond came to take part in the day, which included watching a talk recorded by Anne, a lay apostle, especially for this day.

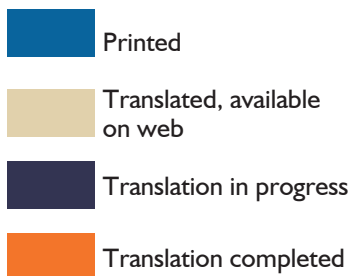
As we headed back home, we couldn't help but comment on how similar the trip out East had been to that which we had made just a month earlier to the west coast. Lay apostles throughout the country are so trusting in God and zealous in evangelizing through this apostolate.

What would we do without all of you? We continue to pray that your hearts remain open to hearing the Lord's voice and sharing the good news. ***"Each of you has a divine purpose and a role in the coming of My Kingdom. Each of you has a certain***

Lay apostle Eileen Frazetta from New York City.



number of souls who can be brought back to My loving heart through your service. If you say "yes" to Me, I will use you." – Jesus, Volume Ten



Spreading the Writings all over the World – Translation Progress Chart

	English	French	Spanish	Portuguese	Lithuanian	Ukrainian	Polish	Chinese	Danish	German	Hungarian
Volume 1	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translation in progress	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web		Translated, available on web
Volume 2	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			Translation in progress
Volume 3	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed			Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			
Volume 4	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed			Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			
Volume 6	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Translation in progress		Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			
Volume 7	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed			Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			
Volume 9	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Translation in progress		Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			
Volume 10	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed			Translation in progress	Translated, available on web			
HS Abortion	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web		Translated, available on web	
HS Addictions	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Cleric Abuse	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed				Translated, available on web	
HS Consecrated Souls	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Depression	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Divorce	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web			
HS Prisoners	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Soliders	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Stress	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Young Adults	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Away From the Church	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed				Translated, available on web	
HS Considering Suicide	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web			
HS Do Not Know Jesus	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web			
HS Dying	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Experience Tragedy	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web		Translated, available on web	
HS Fear Purgatory	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed				Translated, available on web	
HS Worry Children Salv.	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
HS Rejected God	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web			
HS Struggle to Forgive	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed		Translated, available on web		Translated, available on web	
HS Speaks to Sinners	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed							
HS Suffer Financial Need	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed					
Climbing the Mountain	Printed	Translation completed	Translation completed								
Mist of Mercy	Printed	Translation in progress	Printed								
Obedience Booklet	Printed	Printed						Translated, available on web			
Serving in Clarity	Printed		Translation in progress								
Monthly Messages	Printed	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web	Translated, available on web
Mission Brochure	Printed	Printed	Printed	Printed							
(Dubbed or Subtitle) Video	Printed		Printed								
Newsletter #1	Printed		Printed								

Greetings from Amityville, New York!

By Rita Bily, lay apostle

I thought other lay apostles might be interested in hearing about our unique and very small prayer group. On the second Thursday of each month, we gather in a small chapel in The Motherhouse of The Dominican Sisters of Amityville, NY. Faithfully, we say the Rosary and read the monthly message from Jesus. Each month, beautiful words are spoken by our members as we reflect on the message. Perhaps it is how one particular sentence in the message hits home on a personal level. Often, a member will say, "I know Jesus was speaking to me when He said ..."

Who are we we ask? Our four member group consists of me and three Dominican Sisters. The youngest Sister is ninety years old and the oldest, Sr. Grace Regina, celebrated her 100th birthday on November ninth of this year. I am the youngster in the group. Well, not so young. I am a wife, mother and grandmother of nine. We have tried to increase our numbers by advertising the local church



bulletin, but to no avail. One of the Sisters said recently, "God must want us to remain a small group."

I was actually the last lay apostle to join the prayer group. I had been watching the Direction for Our Times website for quite some time. Having read the Volumes, I had been looking to join with others locally. The list of prayer groups on the website kept growing but none emerged in Amityville.

Then, three years ago I noticed this one appear. I was delighted to meet the Sisters. They may be elderly but their minds are sharp. Each month, I look forward to seeing them. I learn from them and admire their faith. They love life and love our Lord. We enjoy our monthly meetings so much we even meet in the summer. It works for all of us. The Sisters rarely leave the convent (the very same convent they entered so long ago.)

I am retired so there is rarely a conflict for me. We follow our Chapel visit with a social visit. We have tea and coffee and learn about each other's lives. I find these beautiful sisters to be quite a blessing in my life. I am so glad that I found this Lay Apostle Prayer Group.

Monthly Message

As given to Anne, a lay apostle

August 1, 2011

Jesus

You are friends of My heart. As such, please be patient with Me as I bring you along in holiness. Would you like to be holier? Perhaps you identify My teachings as good but you feel frustrated because you see that you fall short on some days. This is when you must be truly patient and trust that I am bringing you along as quickly as is needed. Remember that

you may see very little progress on some days, but your decision to remain with Me in the process of becoming holier creates a disposition for heaven that keeps the light where it should be, that is, on the need to examine yourself for failure instead of examining others. How easy it is to see the flaws of another. How much more difficult it is to identify which pain in you creates the disposition for repeating a mistake, perhaps again and again. Yes, patience is necessary, both with oneself and with others. I, Jesus, am patient with you. And so you must be patient with yourself. And then you must be patient with others. Do not be distracted by

events around you. Do not be drawn into thinking that many events or big events mean that you can take your eyes off of the process of becoming holier. No, dear apostles. I speak gravely when I say to you that you must concentrate seriously on becoming holier because your holiness and your commitment to holiness is a crucial part of My plan to bring comfort to others. Allow Me to see to the world. If you see daily to the condition of your soul and if you love others then you will have fulfilled My plan for you. Rejoice. You are committed to Me and I am eternally committed to you.

So, as the stripping advances, we become increasingly more comfortable with our core and we begin to spend more time there. Peace and integrity of mind come upon us. We begin to love ourselves in Christ's light, and instead of proceeding in fear of shame after experiencing weakness, we simply repent and seek to advance into virtue. Less and less can distraction snatch us away from self-examination. Less and less will conversation seem an attractive use of our time. We are at full surrender and those seeking to strip us for bad purpose are seeking to strip Christ Himself.

This core is a place of safety and for this reason the saints could accept death joyfully. It was all the same to them. They were proceeding into death, for them a place of perfect safety, from another place of perfect safety, that is, life. Now, we must not be too disappointed if we cry out when we are stripped. We must view our condition realistically and accept that in our humanity we experience pain, much like an infant cries out instinctively when receiving an injection. Does the injection sting and leave a sore spot? Yes, but the sting in no way eradicates the truth which is that the injection brings with it hope for a greater good.

There is a sublime fruit that occurs naturally when we cooperate with Christ during these periods of intense purification. That fruit is the merciful and compassionate gaze that comes from the purified soul and seeks out others in love. The journey to holiness is really a journey to Christ. Only by accepting the compassion of the Savior for ourselves are we fit to lavish this compassion upon God's children.

Dear apostles, Jesus asks us to remain firmly fixed in the vertical relationship so that we can accept His healing and go on to help Him by flowing out to others. This is the road to renewal. We must journey to Christ as quickly as He wills by seeking greater virtue in every experience so that God can make us better and better conduits of His love.

With regard to the experiences of stripping we endure in life, if we want to become wise and holy, we will have to suffer the tuition.

Spanish Translations Available

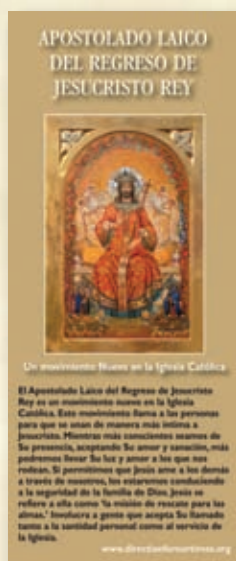
Many lay apostles are spreading the writings and graces of this apostolate in Spanish-speaking countries throughout the world. Six months ago, a lay apostle stepped forward and offered to fund a full-time translator for the Spanish language to work with our staff to assist us in completing the translations of all the currently printed books and to help us move forward in our outreach by translating our website and the various materials that we produce to help introduce the apostolate in new areas.



"Heaven Speaks" booklets



Newsletter One



Mission Information Brochure



Children's Books

Coming soon ... a Spanish version of our Website!

What can be done with one minute of prayer?

By Father Joseph Homick



Mount Tabor Monastery main entrance.

One of the most urgent reasons for praying for sinners who are about to die in their sins is that an average of 150,000 souls leave this world every day to make an account of their lives before the Judgment Seat of God (sure keeps St. Peter and his staff busy!).

I think, though, that big numbers like 150,000 don't register very easily, at least with little brains like mine, so I thought I'd break it down a bit, to increase the sense of urgency even more! 150,000 souls per day is 6,250 souls per hour, which is approximately 104 souls *per minute*. Just think of it: every minute of every day and every night, 24/7, over 100 souls leave this world and are ushered in to the presence of God, who will examine their lives and declare to them their eternal destination. How many of these are prepared to go? How many have believed in the Lord and loved Him and labored to do his will?

This endless flow of souls may seem overwhelming, and we might think that there

is little or nothing that we can do to help – though we should be eager to help, for these are our brothers and sisters, and there will inevitably arrive a moment in which we ourselves will be found among the daily harvest of souls, and we sure would be glad to have someone praying for us at that ultimate moment. So we can at least pray for the 6250, pray for the 104.

As individuals, we can't help them all, this is clear. But if by our prayers and sacrifices we are able to help save any of them who would otherwise have been lost, then this is eternal glory for the Lord and eternal happiness (not to mention eternal gratitude, though I just did) for this soul or these souls whom our prayers have assisted.

People often complain that they do not have time for prayer. I won't get into that whole issue now. But everyone has time for *one*

minute of prayer. Make yourself a note somewhere that you will easily see it, at home, at work (make several while you're at it). Use your one minute of prayer to pray for the 104 people who will die within that minute. You can do this often during the day, whenever you think of it, even when you don't have so much as a whole minute: "Lord, have mercy on the 104 souls that are leaving the world this very minute!"

The Lord will hear your prayer. It is true that every soul has to choose personally to embrace faith and love for Christ, but in

extreme cases, this can be done at the last moment of life. God will provide the grace to help them do it, if He sees that someone in this world cares enough about them to offer urgent prayer to help save them at the last minute. Remember what Dostoyevsky wrote: "Remember too, every day and whenever you can, to repeat to yourself, 'Lord, have mercy on all who appear before Thee today.' For every hour and every moment

thousands of men leave life on this earth, and their souls appear before God. And how many of them depart in solitude, unknown, sad, and dejected, so no one mourns for them or even knows whether they have lived or not. And behold, from the other end of the earth perhaps, your prayer for their rest will rise up to God, though you knew them not, nor they you. How touching it must be to a soul standing in dread before the Lord to feel at that instant that for him too there is one to pray, that there is a fellow creature left on earth to love him. And God will look on you both more graciously, for if you have had so much pity on him, how much more will He have pity Who is infinitely more loving and merciful than you. And He will forgive him for your sake ... (from *The Brothers Karamazov*).





So come now, you literally do not have a minute to lose. Pray for the 104. Wait till you get to Heaven and see them all running to embrace you, because you prayed that God would give them one more chance, and they accepted it! This is a very simple thing to do. Just do it from the heart. You can have a much greater role in the salvation of souls than you might ever have imagined. Start right now. Don't say, "In a minute," because then it's too late for that particular 104. The Lord will bless you richly if you love what He loves, if you care about what He cares about, if you do something for the souls for which He lived and died. Nothing is more important to Jesus than to see his beloved people in Heaven; therefore nothing should be more important to us. Try it; there's nothing to lose and everything to gain!

Father Joseph is a priest-monk (and abbot emeritus) of Holy Transfiguration Monastery (aka Mt. Tabor Monastery), a Byzantine-rite Ukrainian Catholic monastic community in Redwood Valley, CA. He is in his 30th year of monastic life and his 21st as a priest.

Embracing your Call to Holiness ...



Direction for our Times is delighted to announce that, this summer, we will host our first Summer Session for College-aged students called Embracing your Call to Holiness.

This 4 week program will take place in the diocese of Kilmore and be run by the staff and volunteers of Direction for Our Times.

The lay apostolate will provide housing, food and transportation during the course of the program. Students will reside at the Hague Building in Cavan, in dorms located near the Direction for Our Times offices.

More information about this program will be forthcoming through the internet and within a newsletter in the next few months.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Justin Sofio, our college retreat coordinator at justin@directionforourtimes.org or call him at 708-496-9300. In Ireland, contact Fr. Darragh Connolly at frdarraghdfot@gmail.com or call him at +353 (0)49 437 3040.

Students will need to provide their own transportation to and from Dublin.

Stay tuned ... more to come!

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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.

Statement by Bishop Leo O'Reilly regarding Direction for Our Times

September 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I offer an update on the present status of Anne, a lay apostle and Direction for Our Times.

I initially granted permission for the distribution of the messages and written materials of Anne. This position remains unchanged. The writings and materials may continue to be distributed. As pointed out in my letter on the DFOT website, the permission to distribute the messages does not imply a final judgment on whether they are authentic private revelation. A final judgment on that question must await the outcome of an official Church inquiry into these matters.

Following Church protocol, I set up a diocesan commission over a year ago to inquire into the writings of Anne and to evaluate her reports of receiving messages from heaven. That work of evaluation is continuing and the outcome of it will be made public in due course.

I hope this statement is helpful in the clarification of these matters.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Leo O'Reilly
Bishop of Kilmore