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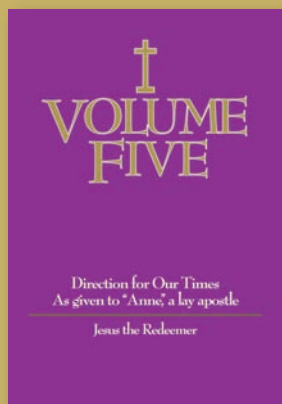
# DIRECTION *for* OUR TIMES

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.



*Dedicated to  
Mary, Queen  
of Apostles*



May 5, 2004

## Jesus the Redeemer

*"My dear earthly souls must fix their gaze on Me, much as a sailor will use the North Star to navigate his direction. If your gaze is fixed on Me, you will always be sailing toward heaven. There will be small diversions in your course, but generally you will be moving nearer ..."*

Dear Lay Apostles,

Happy greetings to you as we make our way into 2013.

We at DFOT are eagerly anticipating many projects this year including the School of Holiness in Ireland, an increased presence on social media, expansion of our prison ministry and growth in the many existing works and outreaches in various countries. Additionally, we join many of you in plans for Eucharistic Days of Renewal. The written works are being used in a wide range of applications and we will do our best to help lay apostles spread God's words even further.

In line with that goal, we bring Volume Five to publication. We do this now because we have received permission from Bishop O'Reilly to print and distribute this Volume. Volume Five will be available in early to mid February and I will be speaking about it initially at the First Thursday talk in February at St. Anne's Church in Bailieborough.

The richness of Volume Five is a blessing to each of us, just as all of the Volumes are blessings. The volumes are also an invitation to examine what God is giving us as contemporary Catholics. The Lord has goals, my friends, in giving us such a richness of works. We must receive this Volume as a spiritual gift and as another book of direction and instruction. Because the Volumes were recorded in sequence, we have found it helpful to re-read the section in Volume Four called 'Jesus the King.' We offer this as a suggestion before reading Volume Five.

Lay apostles, we have benefitted greatly from the graces and teachings God has given us. No doubt He is looking for a response from us in our prayer life, vocation and our personal relationship to our beautiful Church.

I feel grateful that the Lord brings this book out at this time because it is one more task accomplished for heaven. It is my hope that each lay apostle will receive this book with enormous gratitude for the growth he or she has experienced in the time between when we picked up our first Volume to this time, now, when we pick up Volume Five.

– With love from your sister in Christ, Anne, a lay apostle



## Direction for Our Times

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# News of the Mission

## A Letter from Anne, a lay apostle, Regarding the Monthly Messages Ending

*July 24, 2012*

Dear friends and fellow apostles,

It is with great rejoicing that I write to you today. I am writing to tell you that the last monthly message will be given in August 2012. This is good news because it means that Jesus has given us all that we will need for our prayer groups.



“... on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Rev 22:2).

We may be tempted to feel a loss because we certainly anticipated these words with longing each month. But that would be short-sighted. Instead we should rest in the privilege that has been ours in receiving these words which will direct and console apostles for many years to come.

Additionally, if you are like me, you will acknowledge that each message is deserving of a great deal of contemplation. Sometimes I felt that I did not give enough consideration to the message of the month. This is human nature, though, and the grace that is present is fresh each time we rest in the words. We will begin in September with the first September message we received and start what will be a seven year rotation of messages for reading and contemplation each month. We at DFOT will send them out as usual. We will all be reading the same message together around the world monthly. This is the Lord's wish and we will be faithful to all that He asks of us. We will be a united apostolate of love, made up of people serving God in every vocation and in every language. Truly, only God could unite us as we have been united.

Dear apostles, there is so much to be done to secure renewal with Jesus. We at DFOT have tried our best to be faithful to the call God has given us. Without your support this would have been impossible. Now we embark together upon a new time, very likely a busier time. We have so much to do to reach God's children with the words and graces we have been given. I believe that these last years were the prelude to the mission and I believe the mission really begins now.

As part of our apostolate's obligation, we have been entrusted with three charisms. One is compassionate listening. The second is both learning and teaching the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The third is promoting unity within the Church. It is an exciting thing to anticipate how we will advance into these goals so let us each begin contemplating how we can further God's wishes in these matters.

My friends, we have always been calm and grateful about the gift that God was giving us in these words. Just as we accepted the first message, let us accept the last, with thanksgiving. I must tell you that I was not surprised that the messages were finishing. There is nothing wrong. The completion of these monthly messages is the same as one of the Volumes being completed. Nothing is ending. A task is simply finished and now we must begin both using them at a more advanced level and spreading them even further. We have the tools for an extraordinary blessing for people's faith lives. Remember the hope and consolation that we were each given by Christ in these words. Truly, so many are thirsting for such comfort. Personally, I feel grateful to be a Catholic at this time and blessed to be apart of God's renewal.

I anticipate that there may be questions around this and I want to assure everyone that I am delighted to answer any that I can. Please write the office or call and we will take your questions and answer them with another letter. Additionally, I will be speaking at St. Anne's Church in Bailieborough on the first Thursday of September, God willing, and will talk about our future as an apostolate.

With love from your sister,  
Anne, a lay apostle

## From Volume Five

### Jesus the Redeemer

May 25, 2004

*"When souls criticize My Church and it's leaders, you must direct them to Me. They should never spread disunity among My followers. If they bring their concerns to Me in prayer I will give them the light to understand exactly what is happening and why it must be. I do not abandon My Church, I assure you, and those who constantly criticize its leaders are speaking with little faith because if I allowed leaders to dismantle what Peter began for Me, it would be the same as abandoning it to a flawed humanity. Be one who defends the Church. Let it be known that you will not tolerate My Church being ridiculed and vilified .... I will help you and show you how I want you to respond to attacks you witness. You must arm yourself in prayer and understand that this is a spiritual battle. I am with you and will remain with you."*

May 28, 2004

*"Any person who makes an act of sorrow and contrition for his sins will know Me instantaneously and be the recipient of My Light and guidance. I am a God of mercy, first and foremost, but I am also a God of justice. My justice, tendered with mercy, will flow into your world. Be joyful, followers of heaven, for your prayer will be answered and your souls liberated."*

May 17, 2004

*"It is important that you, children of the earth, understand that you are not suffering alone. It is also important that you understand that you have many weapons at your disposal. One of the weapons that should be utilized is the intercession of the saints who have fought these fights before you. You see, dear children, there is nothing new in your world and these struggles you contend with have been contended with in the past ...."*

## Regional Networks Volunteers Needed

As mentioned in another article, our regional networks are set up across the USA, Canada and Mexico. It is one thing to set them up and another to keep them going. This network is a communications tool that Anne is using more and more.

So many of you have expressed your desire to volunteer in the apostolate, but feel you cannot help because you don't live near the office in Justice, Illinois.

Here is an opportunity for anyone who has good organization and communications skills to work for the apostolate right from the comfort of your own home. If you are reasonably comfortable using your computer, have Microsoft Word and Excel, can make up a distribution list of all your prayer group leaders in whatever email system you use, and enjoy talking to lay apostles on the phone, this may be the opportunity you have been waiting for. Since the networks are set up, the time commitment is truly minimal.

We've posted three geographic areas in which we currently need regional coordinators. In addition, many of our current coordinators would welcome a backup coordinator. If you have any interest in this, contact your regional coordinator and talk to her. (Yes, right now they are all women, but they do not have to be.) You can also contact the Justice Office by calling 708-496-9300 to talk to them about this in more detail.

### Current areas in need of a coordinator:

California/Hawaii/Nevada

Maryland/Virginia Michigan

Minnesota/Wisconsin



## Letter from Fr. Darragh regarding Volume Five

Dear lay apostles,

Greetings in Jesus Christ the Returning King!

We have all received so many blessings from Jesus through this apostolate. How generous the Lord is! It is a great joy for us at Direction for Our Times, to be given permission from our bishop to publish Volume 5.

We are preparing to go to print but could use your help to do so. Factually, the cost of printing Volume 5 will be \$12, 200. We are grateful for all of the help we have received and rely partly on book sales and partly on donations, as you know, to cover our expenses and continue distributing books.

Despite challenging financial times, we have kept the book prices intentionally low so that we can continue to get them into the hands of many. We feel this is right because of the many testimonies that come to us from people who tell us that the Volumes and booklets describe their lives as being transformed. For every testimony of blessing we receive we know there are many more we don't hear about.

Here is a testimony we received from a former prisoner:

My story begins in solitary confinement in 2008. I found a copy of *Heaven Speaks to Prisoners*. It actually inspired me and led me to realize Christ too was a criminal. He broke the law several times in His life. One was a capitol offense. Many people have asked me what the worst part of prison is. I actually have five answers for that. Number one, witnessing a rape. Number two, watching a man die. Number three, feeling helpless no matter how much you are wronged. Number four, longing for freedom and realizing it will be years and years. And number five, solitary confinement (RHU, the hole ... etc.).

I actually wrote to Direction for Our Times and requested *Volume One, Thoughts on Spirituality*. Much to my surprise a hand written response came with the book. That one sentence, (if you need anything else let me know) changed so much. There is a moment during a person's change (rehabilitation) when there is a renewed faith in humanity. The note was signed 'Justin.' And I knew that God had gotten hold of Anne and a man named Justin and put them in my path. My spirit lifted. I had many dark thoughts in prison. Several, were during solitary confinement; we won't be discussing them here.

The darkness vanished when I got that single sentence on that single half sheet of paper. My faith in humanity had been restored. So I began to read. I noticed one thing, very quickly. Anne suffered a lot. I began to realize that I too suffer. So, I began to work in tandem with Anne. I never have written to Anne, spoken to Anne, or met Anne. But I feel connected to her deeply. Through my readings of her sufferings I learned to suffer with dignity and humility. I learned then to enjoy times of non- suffering. Then I finally learned how to apply those ebbs and flows into tandem. Especially with Anne. My hope was that, my



happy(calmer) times were part of her worst and that vice versa- her being happy were because of my suffering. I thought, if I can suffer and make Anne better or happier in her life then I would gratefully go through it. I don't know if I was following what Anne wrote correctly, but I was learning a profound lesson non- the less.

During the time I was reading her books I was writing to Justin. We developed what I dubbed a 'pen-ship' calling myself "your friend in the pen." Justin encouraged me, gave me purpose, and although I love my family very deeply. Justin was a friend. A non-family person to write to. For years we wrote while my days in prison ticked by.

In 2012 I was granted parole. I spent many hours in prayer thanking God. I went to a halfway house and immediately wrote my friend Justin. Justin was as excited as me. So on September 3rd, 2012 at 1:30pm EST I called Justin for the first time. We talked about a lot of things. I asked him how Anne was doing. He said fine. I think of Anne daily and read her writings often. The *Direction for Our Times* organization really should take a bow. They calmed me down, leveled me out and gave me purpose. Anne and Justin, I owe you both my freedom and my life. Thank you.

I will continue to thank you both, to my dying day. I finally got what I desired for so long. Freedom physically and freedom spiritually. Once again, thank you.

– Your friend, nearly free, Jason Stover

Jason received the prisoner booklet because a lay apostle somewhere was generous enough with their time and resources to place this booklet. We are very grateful to Jason for sharing his story and allowing us to share it with you. Through your generous support to date we have been able to keep a small staff so that we can maintain relationships such as Justin did with Jason. (Please help us with our prison program. It needs significant funding since there is huge demand from prisons for our materials. More information will follow soon.)

As you are aware we have translated the writings of the apostolate into many languages. The translation process is often made possible through the generous time giving of a translator who feels inspired to work with us or through the financial generosity of someone who feels inspired to fund the translation. If you would like to contribute to the process of translating Volume 5 or any of the writings of the apostolate into your language please let us know.

Whilst we are organizing to print Volume 5, we are also reprinting Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 10 and many of the *Heaven Speaks* booklets as well as planning the printing of Anne's writings on Heaven and Purgatory in separate small books.

May God continue to bless you and bring you closer to Him,

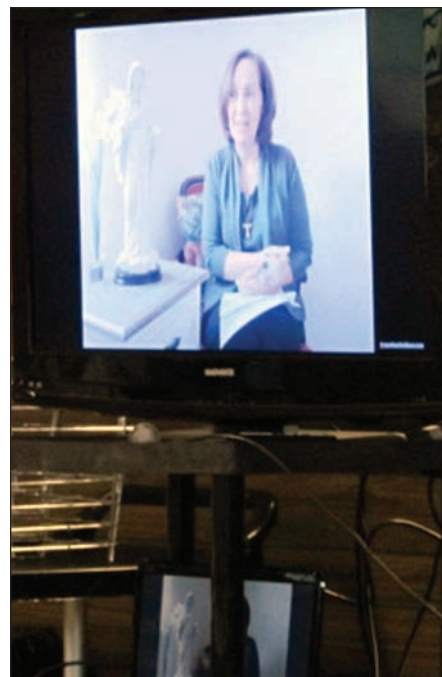
– Fr. Darragh Connolly, Chaplain

## Anne speaks to lay apostles in Maine, New York

On November 3rd, 2012 Anne had a chance to speak to lay apostles in the Maine, NY area. Through the grace and gift of the internet, we were able to live stream her discussion to the lay apostles attending the New York event.

It was great to have one of our staff members on site at the New York event. He fielded questions and then relayed them back to Ireland so Anne could respond to everyone out there watching. We also opened up the channel to anybody who wanted to join us but could not attend the event in person.

Keep on the lookout for announcements via email and or social media sites for future talks that will be available to watch live and online. We are working on uploading and updating these videos to our social media network sites and webpage. Please also consider hosting an event of your own and perhaps we can arrange for Fr. Darragh or Anne to give a talk to your group.



## The Value of a Prayer Group

*By Anonymous, a lay apostle*

When I became a lay apostle, I made a commitment to follow the five guidelines of the lay apostolate. You know them: Daily allegiance prayer, CHECK, Daily Morning Offering, CHECK, Monthly Confession, CHECK (give or take a week or two), Do my best to behave like Jesus did as we read in the Scriptures being kind and loving, (Always working on this one) CHECK. But it was the last one that posed my biggest challenge: Participate in a monthly prayer group during which we read the monthly message from Jesus and recite the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. This filled me with the greatest anxiety.

First I tried to get someone else to start one. They did, but it fizzled out. Then I bit the bullet and hosted one in my home. When summer came, kids' schedules changed and VOOP another prayer group dissolved.

I am embarrassed to admit that it was sheer guilt that has prompted my now flourishing prayer group.

This summer I went to a family reunion. My cousins from another state first heard about the apostolate because of my involvement. These cousins started one prayer group which has now spread to ten other prayer groups being formed. And what was I doing? Shrinking by the minute in

embarrassment. So I said to my parents, both in their eighties, "We are an embarrassment to our family. The Lavelle's make us look really bad. They are *all* in prayer groups and we don't have a single one."

Being quite competitive and basically good eggs we made a commitment to start a prayer group as soon as we got home, just me and my parents. Well the riches from this monthly commitment are dazzling.

The first time we met I learned that my mom has prayed a daily offering and a daily Rosary since she was a small girl. How did I not know this?

My dad responsibly prints out the monthly message in preparation for our meeting. He reads it aloud and he talks briefly, but from the heart about how it affected him. When I see my dad throughout the month, most times during our visits he will tell me a short story about how he is trying to live out the message. One day he told me what inspired him to go back to confession after being away from it for a few years.

Another day he told me how the message inspired him to respond to a casual request from the priest for transporting the sick in the parish. My dad saw this as a way of acting on the message. Yet another day while attending

a woman's funeral he remembered that *she* was the reason he started attending daily Mass years ago. He said he never told her. But again he spoke about this because he wanted to tell me how his realization led him back to the monthly message.

So what am I saying? Having this prayer group allows my parents and me an easy way to talk about the new things we are learning about our walk to unity with Christ. If we were meeting monthly to play cards or watch a sporting event I think our conversations about those topics would flow easily too. Meeting as a prayer group sets the expectation, however subtly, that we are in this walk to holiness together.

I applaud my dad every time he offers me one of these stories. Why? Because I know these acts are important to Christ and I know that the changes that Jesus can make in his soul with these offerings of service are of infinite value. And there is joy in my dad when he shares these acts. I know he feels good when he does these small acts of kindness. I know how great that feels and it brings me joy to seeing him experiencing his own goodness.

I thank the Lord for allowing me this beautiful time of sharing and learning with my parents.

# Lay Apostle = Co-responsible Catholic

By Anne, a lay apostle

We, Direction for Our Times, have acquired the property known as the Abbey. Yes, dear apostles, the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King has a headquarters for the future! We are the official owners. May God be praised.

Meanwhile we recently finished another retreat with fifty young college students. Three days of immersing ourselves together in the beauty of the Catechism and our Catholic faith left us all filled with hope and enthusiasm. To participate in the youth activities of this apostolate leaves little room for doubt that God is serious about Renewal.

If the retreats for young people were all that was happening, it would be enough. But simultaneously, our work with prisons continues to thrive. This is the result of committed lay apostles, dynamic prison chaplains and also many, many holy prisoners. May God make us all worthy of this sublime

work which brings hope to so many who are incarcerated, and, through their efforts and prayers, their families.

In the meantime, our prayer groups soldier on, receiving God's graces and drawing others into the spirituality which is helping to develop a co-responsible laity, meaning, a lay people who take equal responsibility with clergy for the spread and identity of the Church on earth. This is us, apostles!

And through all of our efforts, the apostolate in India has anchored itself by the forming of many prayer groups. Many blessings are being received through the veneration of the image of Jesus Christ, the Returning King there. This is no surprise to us but fills us with gladness all the same.

I, myself, recently heard the testimony of a former prisoner who, upon release from prison, made it his ministry to bring whatever Volumes he could afford each month and

hand deliver them back to the prison. "Anne," he said, "These books are like water to men in a desert. I know what they need and that's why I do it."

We, DFOT, and you, the dedicated apostles serving alongside us, are working hard. It is clear that if a renewal is to happen swiftly, it will require the following: a co-responsible laity acting with serious commitment to their vocation and serving in communion with the local parish and home diocese. If this occurs, a global renewal occurs. We must always remember that the Church can only be reclaimed through personal holiness.

Rejoice, dear friends. God has asked for our help and we have answered 'yes.'

— With love from your sister in Christ,  
Anne, a lay apostle

## Advice from Father Darragh Connolly, Chaplain of the lay apostolate ...



Father Darragh Connolly.

Direction for Our Times staff and volunteers are always trying to keep up with the momentum of the mission and the way the Holy Spirit is seeking to unite us through the messages and the Volumes of Jesus Christ the Returning King. A safe place to start is the monthly message read at the prayer group. However, recently when Fr. Darragh spoke to the crowds in Naperville, Illinois he had this to say to lay apostles everywhere ...

"Along the line of encouragement, I would encourage everybody here, particularly those who are diligently working in the Church, in whatever field, to take with you Volume Ten. Make it your commitment to take *Volume Ten* as a source and a subject of prayer over the next period of time. Because at times we can experience discouragement and encounter opposition. The Lord wants to encourage us and keep us going. He does that very beautifully, expressing His gratitude in *Volume Ten*.

Then, maybe as well, consider *Volume Six*. It offers such beautiful assistance to parents and to families. If you know a family where there are children, bring a copy of *Volume Six* or copies of some of the children's books with you. They are such a blessing to parents.

And so I encourage you, as chaplain of the apostolate to use the treasury of works and writings that God has given us in this apostolate for the benefit of those around you. And if you can't afford a book go to the internet and print it off from there. They are all available there for free as well."



# Snapshot: A Servant's Heart

By Jackie Weldon, a lay apostle, Co. Meath, Ireland

I was a sewing machinist all my life. Nine years ago I gave up my work to spend more time with my family. During prosperous times, we had been blessed with no financial worries. Then came a financial crisis. My husband's work started to slow down, and now he works less. Because he is self-employed, we are not entitled to anything from the government. Bills became harder to pay. There were no jobs for my sewing, so going back to work was going to be difficult for me as I had no other skills. But God had a plan.

Jesus planted a seed in my head. "Why don't you become a healthcare assistant?" This thought kept coming to me, but I had no qualifications. I left school at fifteen years old and to go back to studying would be daunting for me. I'm far better working with my hands than with my head. Still, I couldn't shake off the thought of being a caregiver.

I applied for a job as a housekeeper in a nursing home and within a few weeks I was working. Three months past and I asked my employer if I could become a care assistant. God watered the seed and I was able to obtain a certification in a short time. It really seemed blessed.

I have been working as a caregiver since last August. I get to live part of the beatitudes every day that I am working. Every day, I assist elderly people who need assistance with eating and drinking, often due to strokes. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, they will be filled."

We have residents with Alzheimer's who because of their illness can feel very confused and angry. I have learned to be patient as their needs can be very demanding. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

We have residents who are perfectly sound of mind, but their bodies are failing. Some spend most of the day praying with



Serving often brings joy to others.

rosaries in their hands. I am blessed to be able to assist with their activities of daily living. "Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God."

In our nursing home there is a particular religious sister who dies of mortification every time we have to change her or give her a bed bath. I pray with her every day and when she gets distressed I whisper in her ear to try and console her. "Blessed are the meek, they will inherit the earth."

There are residents who are dying, and God in his mercy allows me to pray with these beautiful people and with their families. "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

We have one man who had a stroke quite young. He coped very badly and he would persecute the caregivers by verbal abuse and even physical lash outs. He died a few months ago but I am so happy about how much Christ allowed me to treat him kindly every time I was near him. I gave him hugs and told him how I prayed for him throughout the day. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

I am so grateful to Jesus for showing me how to move through these situations with calmness and joy. I am grateful for the courage he gives me in these often scary situations. I asked him in prayer to help me to love and to see as He does. I only realized later he was really answering my prayer with these graces and gifts.

He is really there for us and takes us seriously when we say we desire to live these beatitudes. They don't all have to be done at once but each day you can try to live one with His help. When He is with you it is not only possible but often times even joyful.

CCC 1728 – The beatitudes confront us with decisive choices. They purify our hearts in order to teach us to love God above all things.

September 12, 2006

## Jesus

**"There is joy, little apostles. I call you little apostles because a little apostle allows Me to become powerful in his soul. You will be exalted in heaven, My dear one. Be content to be small on earth. I see an army of apostles serving Me in this time. They are armed with truth and they are humble. What peace this brings the Savior. How easy it is for the Savior to flow through these ones who are comfortable with humility. Your eyes look ahead to the heavenly Kingdom and in this way you serve steadily, connected to the Source of love. I rejoice in the kindness that others find in you. Dear apostles, it is My kindness that comes from you. You have graciously allowed Me to use you to return heavenly kindness to the world. You will not be sorry. Regret will not visit you upon your entry into the heavenly Kingdom. You will be filled with joy and gladness as you are escorted into your eternity."**

# Catholic Marketing

By Sheri Gilboy, lay apostle

October 6, 2004

## Jesus

*"My dear apostles, how hard you work for your Jesus. How beautifully I am able to flow through you. You will witness many conversions through your service to Me during this time because I am sending a flood of graces into the world. Souls will return to me and the, too, will join the rescue mission. We will grow in number and strength."*

This past August, Direction for Our Times attended the Catholic Marketing Network trade show held in Dallas – Fort Worth, Texas. The purpose of the Catholic Marketing Network is to encourage the most effective production and distribution of Catholic literature, music, gifts and other products and services consistent with the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church. Vendors come from all over the USA displaying their products, including bibles, rosaries, statues, books, music, church goods and the list goes on. The CMN Marketing group encourages bookstore owners and those who may be interested in opening an actual bookstore or an online store to come to this trade show.

The CMN group provides a Catholic Resource Directory and now we are one of them! Being present at this trade show gives us the opportunity to introduce ourselves and to talk personally about our ministry to the bookstore buyers and distributors from around the world. Our goal is to encourage them to carry our books, booklets, beautiful framed pictures of Jesus Christ the Returning King, and to make it more accessible for our lay apostles to purchase the books and to further spread the messages throughout the world. The CMN trade show takes place once a year and the location changes periodically to make it available financially for all bookstores.



Immaculee and Sean at the CMJ conference. Lay apostles can help us by getting the "Volumes" into bookstores in their area.

I, Sheri Gilboy, an employee for Direction for our Times had the pleasure to travel with Jim Gilboy, President of CMJ Marian Publishers and Distributor and Mary Curtin, the operations manager and web site designer for CMJ to the annual Catholic Marketing Network trade show.

One of the big highlights for us was to meet Immaculee Ilibagiza, a lay apostle and the New York Times bestselling author of "Left to Tell," the story of how she survived the Rwandan genocide and through her deep Catholic faith, came to forgive the people who killed her family. Immaculee came into our booth to have a picture taken with her producer Sean Bloomfield. Immaculee loves Anne and the messages given to our apostolate.

She recently produced a film called "God came Down to Warn Us if Only We Had Listened." The documentary tells the story of the Vatican-approved apparitions of Our Lady in Kibeho, Rwanda. It is now available on

DVD. If you want to hear this amazing story, you can contact CMJ Marian Publishers at 708-636-2995 or go to [www.cmjbooks.com](http://www.cmjbooks.com). It is an amazing story you will never forget!

We also had the pleasure of meeting up with a couple of other wonderful, talented lay apostles who have worked alongside us over the years as we have worked together to spread the apostolate. International Irish Tenor Mark Forrest, and John Kaplan, an acclaimed pianist who accompanies Mark, have added the most beautiful music to the Holy Hours of Eucharistic Adoration as lay apostles have met all over the United States and Ireland.

In addition, we met with professional film maker and producer, Rob Kaczmark. Rob is a good friend of the mission and has done many projects with our staff and volunteers.

If you are interested in looking for Catholic products, services or ministries just go to [www.catholicmarketingnetwork.com](http://www.catholicmarketingnetwork.com).



# Prayer Group Corner

By Kathy Barger, lay apostle

## USA/Canada Prayer Group Networks Now in Place



Back in November 2009 after a Eucharistic Day of Renewal in Post Falls, Idaho, God put it on my heart to start networking (or connecting) with other lay apostle prayer group leaders in my area. I called all the registered prayer groups in nearby states to collect email addresses and just to get acquainted with them.

I asked “What does your group do? And, “How did you hear about the Volumes?” It was so good to connect with other lay apostles and to hear their stories.

After getting things started in the Pacific Northwest, I contacted the staff at the Direction for Our Times office in Justice, Illinois and suggested that we do this networking across the USA and Canada.

In August 2012 we completed this network. All prayer groups in the USA and Canada should have been contacted and invited to join one of the fifteen networks in the USA/Canada. Of course, we’ve only contacted registered prayer groups. So, if your prayer group isn’t registered, now would be a good time to register either online or by calling the office in Justice.

Your regional coordinator will get in touch with you and invite you to join in the sharing. If you were previously contacted and declined to participate, you are always welcome to contact the Justice office and you will be warmly welcomed to your regional network.

So, why have a network? As Anne wrote in a recent email blast, “We embark together upon a new time, very likely a busier time.” God is putting ministries on people’s hearts and through this network we can get the information out to everyone in a timely manner. This connection to each and every prayer group via the network, we can keep people informed.

As a network member, you have a local forum for asking questions and sharing information.

I would also encourage you to visit each other’s prayer group meetings. Hopefully bonds will form between lay apostles located near each other.

One more thing, please check your prayer group information on the Direction for Our Times website ([www.directionfourtimes.org](http://www.directionfourtimes.org)). If it is incorrect, please contact the Justice office and get that information updated. It’s frustrating to a new lay apostle to call to join a local prayer group and find the phone number is disconnected. Please keep your information current!

We need each other to keep this apostolate strong and to get Jesus’ healing messages to more people. The regional networks are a tool to help us to do this.

Thank you to all the regional coordinators and prayer group leaders. Your work is important.

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**Note:** *If you live outside the USA/Canada/Mexico, why not form a network in your own country or region? The process we used is available via email from the Direction for Our Times offices in Justice and Ireland.*

## Mary Carter, a lay apostle shares a grace received at the Las Cruces, New Mexico EDR Event

“As organizer of a recent three day Eucharistic Weekend of Renewal, I relished the prayers and the graces from all the apostles who were praying for the success of the event. It was a year in the making and as the big weekend approached, I teasingly told Jesus that I am doing my best in getting my human brothers and sisters to attend, would He please do His part in getting heaven’s inhabitants to attend?

On the Saturday morning of the Renewal, I was one of the first to arrive at the church to set up. I walked into the lobby and physically felt the change in the atmosphere. The scent in the air was fresher and even smelled “holier” than I had ever known it to smell. There was a peaceful excitement all around me. As I carried a few boxes inside with my teenage daughter beside me, I casually mentioned to her that I think “heaven” had arrived while we were sleeping.

The impression became even more apparent later in the morning as the adoration hour commenced, I felt the “pressing in” from heaven so profoundly, that I leaned over and mentioned to Anne: It’s shoulder to shoulder in here! (Even though, clearly to look around, there were many empty seats).

I love Jesus so much, He always does His part and He does it so well. I stay continually amazed that ordinary people like me can engage heaven in such a way as to impact the world around us. Thank you for attending our Eucharistic Weekend of Renewal, both humans and heavenly inhabitants alike!”

# Invisible Reality a Precious Gift

By Kate Burns, lay apostle

One of my dearest of friends introduced me to the writings of Anne based on inner locution by our Lord. It started slowly with *Volumes One* and *Two*, on a visit with a number of our college girlfriends, about seven years ago. I would say that both books sat on my family room coffee table, serving often as a coaster (yikes, yes, several beers no doubt) for close to two years. I may have ventured to read one of them briefly, but wasn't quite in the mind-set to go very far.

Finally, one day, for whatever reason, I picked up *Volume One* and little by little, over several days, completed it and vowed to read *Volume Two*. From there, I was on my way. I've since read each Volume, and many of the "Heaven Speaks" booklets. I still reread them, over and over, and each time, there are things I grab onto that guide me as though I haven't read them before!

Also, I've fully read *Climbing the Mountain* and *The Mist of Mercy* several times.

To me, the whole apostolate has been a blessing and a "live" guide, helping me to better understand the Bible and His teachings on how I am to conduct my life.

He is so much more alive in my life, not just a God who lived a mortal life many years ago or who spoke to my ancestors only. I have so much more peace and hope and direction from all these works! What a priceless gift this apostolate has provided to me and to so many others whom I know.

My trip to Ireland more than a year ago now, to attend a Eucharistic Day of Renewal at St. Anne's Church and my attendance recently at the Eucharistic Evening of Renewal in Naperville, Illinois, reinforced my lessons of God's love for me and all mankind. Yes, I was raised a Catholic (total cradle-Catholic!) but I now feel and believe, with all my soul, that our Lord is literally alive and active in my life and that He speaks to me in many ways. I can finally understand the notion of "offering up to God," a term my grandmother often used, but I had no idea what it really meant! I understand when I do this I "ask" for His will, not so much my own, since His will is best. For a stubborn type A girl, this is huge! The gift and the power of prayer has come alive in my life!

I also now have a wonderful understanding of the Communion of Saints and that they (and the angels too) are always with us, trying to help lead us to our Lord's will. I'm comforted that they find joy in serving in this way too.

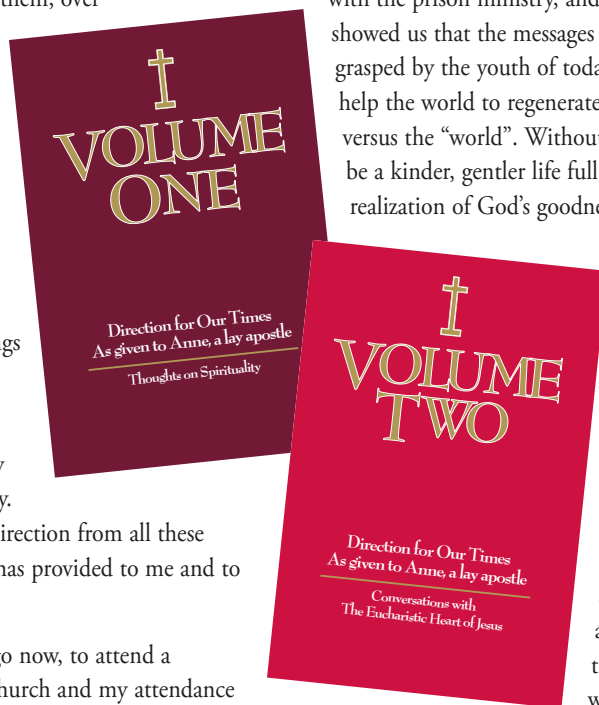
At the Naperville event, I got that the apostolate is really reaching out and taking hold throughout the world, and especially to the youth and to those who are in prison. We heard from a woman who works with the prison ministry, and from an impressive young man who showed us that the messages from this apostolate are capable of being grasped by the youth of today. It's so comforting to me that this can help the world to regenerate a focus of living life looking to our Lord versus the "world". Without a doubt, the outcome for each person will be a kinder, gentler life full of peace, hope happiness, and the realization of God's goodness for every single soul.

I've discovered that even being "little" in my life, following Christ, can encourage and attract others to Christ. That is where I have found my calling and I challenge myself to live in His example, even in my "little-ness". Trust me, it is still a struggle, and I'm trying for better consistency!

Hearing Anne speak, provides such a peace for me, like a salve for my worries and struggles. It provides direction, looking to our Lord and helping to carry out His will as I live my little life. I realize that yes, I have "crosses" to carry, but it is so much comfort to "offer it up" to Him, and pray that He use this willingness to do to bless others, my family and myself for doing so.

I loved how Anne talked about the "front porches" in our lives and how every little way we relate to people can help them turn to Christ, maybe even those who don't know Christ. I'm originally from the South side of Chicago. My grandparents and my parents lived in typical Chicago-style bungalows with porches. Anne's analogy really hit home! Our lives are one big front porch opportunity!

For me, this apostolate has opened doors and window to better understanding my Catholic faith and to better take ownership of it. I wish everyone this peace and direction.





# Beauty of our Souls

By Richard Robinson, UK

I don't know if any of you have trouble remembering what is in the "Volumes," but both my wife and I certainly have. And no matter how intently we read and re-read the messages, neither of us seems able to retain the information in detail. Perhaps the following anecdote might explain why.

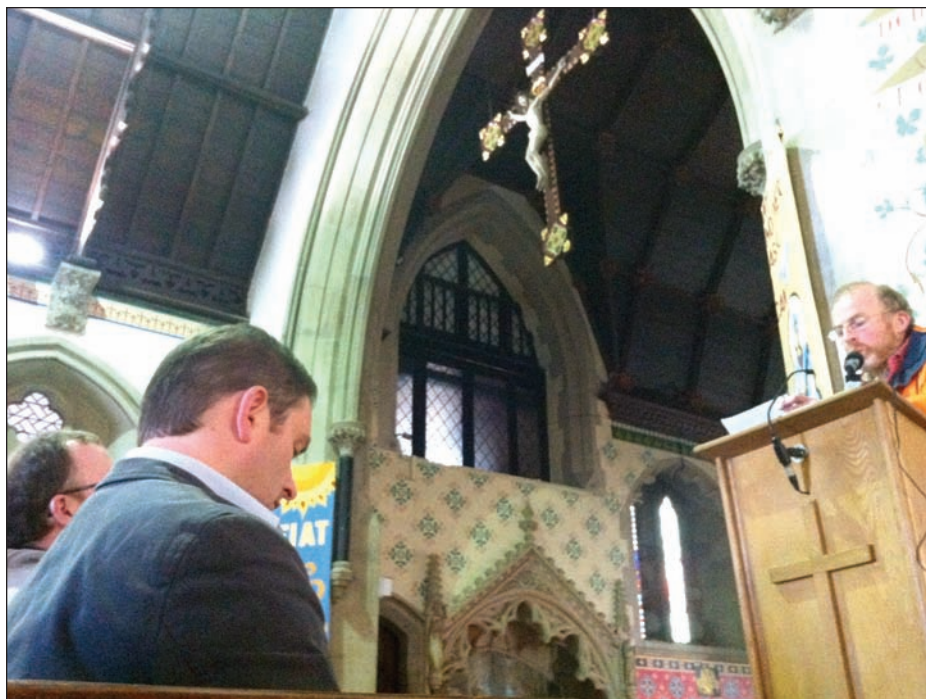
A few weeks ago my wife Anne-Marie was going to an early morning weekday Mass in Milton Keynes. After Mass she noticed an African lady sitting on her own. Anne-Marie went over and asked her if she had heard about Anne and her mission. She said that she had not. So Anne-Marie briefly explained it. She said how Jesus and Our Blessed Mother's messages given through Anne very much emphasized the contemplative approach, and spending time in silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

At this the woman lit up at the idea of the contemplative approach. She said that she would certainly be interested in having a look at the messages. She told Ann-Marie that she came from a part of Nigeria where there is much suffering and hardship. She said that when people are struggling every day simply to clothe and feed themselves, they learn to be really dependent on God.

She went on to explain that when you are surrounded by darkness and chaos you learn to look within to find the inner light and joy that the world cannot give, and so you become unaffected by all the noise and chaos going on around you.

As she spoke, it was as if the *Volumes* were coming to life.

A recent severe crisis in her son's life had led her to visit the Blessed Sacrament every day for several weeks to plead for mercy, for a situation that was humanly unsolvable. One day, out of the blue, she heard an inner voice that she had never heard before, which said,



Richard speaking in Pantasaph, Wales, at our Eucharistic Day of Renewal.

"Be at Peace. All is well." Several days later the same inner voice repeated the same message, and suddenly the situation was miraculously solved.

As the woman was telling her story to Ann-Marie, beautiful words were cascading from her mouth like 'joy', 'serenity', 'tranquillity', 'peace,' and 'bliss.' And each time she used one of these words, Anne-Marie found herself suddenly remembering sentences from the Volumes. So during the conversation, extract after extract of Jesus's and Mary's messages came into her mind, such as from Volume Two, "In silence comes peace, little ones. You will find Me in silence." Normally Ann-Marie could not remember a single thing from them.

She then realized that this was because the communication was happening at a soul level, and not at the level of the mind or the intellect, and the words from the Volumes

which had been planted in her soul had been reactivated by the language of the soul that the woman had been using, and thus brought back to her mind.

In Volume One Jesus says, "***I want to speak directly to souls at this time,***" and this is exactly what He is doing.

That is why often we do not remember as much as we would like to of Anne's messages, because in the messages given through Anne Jesus is bypassing our mind and our intellect, and acting on our souls – gently purifying and transforming them. As Jesus says in the Volumes, "***I am changing the world, soul by soul.***"

That is why the messages given through Anne are something very pure, very precious, very unique, and something we should all be extremely grateful for.



# Anne in Pantasaph

By Maire McGurdy, lay apostle

October 27, 2012

*What is it like to attend a Eucharistic Day of Renewal? Well, every one of them is unique and has its own experiences to each person who attends. We are always reminded that Jesus really does hear each of our intentions to serve him and gives us special graces when we seek him out in community and prayer. These retreats center on the Eucharist, the Rosary and a talk or two by Anne or other guests. One lay apostle at our Pantasaph event relates her experience of the day. – R.C.*

It was a lovely clear autumn morning. Difficult circumstances had affected the numbers of people able to come on the day, and a large number of lay apostles were already at Pantasaph for a retreat weekend. This meant that for every person who was able to be there, at least one person wasn't able to come, although some of the group did join us for part of the day. On the coach down we prayed for the people who were not able to come, and that the people who were travelling would have a safe journey and feel uplifted by the day.

We arrived just in time and were treated to brief talks from some of the team followed by the Rosary and Holy Mass with Fr. Darragh and Fr. Michael McCormick. Fr. Darragh gave a wonderful homily on the five guidelines of the lay apostolate. On his trip to India he was amazed at how people constantly praised the Lord and felt that we should do the same. He said "Praise the Lord" and everyone in the church would reply "Praise the Lord." This helped to bring us out of our shells, and helped fill us with enthusiasm. At Holy Communion the song Ave Maria brought a stillness and prayerfulness to all our souls. I could feel the Holy Spirit descending upon us all.

After a short tea break, we assembled in the church for Anne's first talk of the day. As



Anne, Maire McGurdy and Fr. Darragh in Pantasaph.

she spoke I was moved to tears. I felt as if it was Jesus, speaking to me personally, to my need, my personal situation, the bits I struggle with but don't know how to resolve. I felt clarity and an understanding of how to move forward in these areas. Afterwards, everyone I spoke to had had a similar experience.

She spoke about co-responsibility in the Church, duty to our family, about whispers from Hell and whispers from Heaven and how we can distinguish one from the other by whether it encourages or crushes.

I remembered, that as I had entered the church that morning I had a little thought 'You're a fraud! You're not holy at all! You

shouldn't be here with all these holy people!' I thought, 'Yes I am a fraud, I am the least holy person in this church, but I need all the help I can get, I need to be here!'

Anne spoke about asking Jesus "Show me what's hurting me?" "What's holding me back from union with You?" and "What's helping me?"

She spoke about how our prayer life needs to be realistic, not overburdening ourselves. Doing what we can within our limitations, and taking this commitment to Jesus.

We broke for lunch. This was a mixture of meeting people I hadn't seen for a long time



Two lay apostles at EDR.

and meeting new people. I had the added privilege of helping to sell the books. I spoke to my friend Frances the next day, and she said that she met a lady that she hadn't seen since a March pilgrimage. They hugged, and someone commented on how this was a strong friendship. Frances said that this is how she feels about the people she meets in the lay apostolate; an instant and lasting affection, a feeling of belonging and being accepted. Although there never seems enough time for these meetings, Jesus can do a lot with a little.

We then returned to the church and were treated to some witnesses by two lay apostles, and a further talk by Anne followed by Eucharistic Adoration with confessions.

The day was blessed. We felt the presence of Jesus and Our Lady powerfully. There was a deep feeling of peace and joy, mixed with anticipation.



St. Pio of Pietrelcina.



Franciscan Friary at Pantasaph, Wales.

Thank you, Anne, Fr. Darragh and all the team from Ireland. Thanks also to the Franciscans at Pantasaph for their hard work and love, and to anyone who helped out on the day, and all the people who came, and all those who wanted to come and gave their support through prayer.

P.S. Last week a lady asked me why I was a lay apostle. I thought for a minute and said

that before the Volumes, I was going to Mass every day, saying the rosary and lots of other prayers. (I was trying to be good enough.) The *Volumes* helped me have a closer relationship to Jesus and God the Father. I feel loved by them and because of this I am able to love myself. I know I'll never be "good enough." But My Jesus doesn't care about that, He just loves me.



# Here Come the Irish!

By Carmel Uí Churraoin, a lay apostle

*“Cruinniú Paidreoirachta d’Aspail Tuata d’ Íosa Críost an Rí atá ag Teacht.”*



For some time, Carmel, her husband Bartle and their friend Diane had been attending the nearest lay apostle prayer group in their local own. Travelling together, they went with great anticipation of the spiritual graces they were about to receive each month.

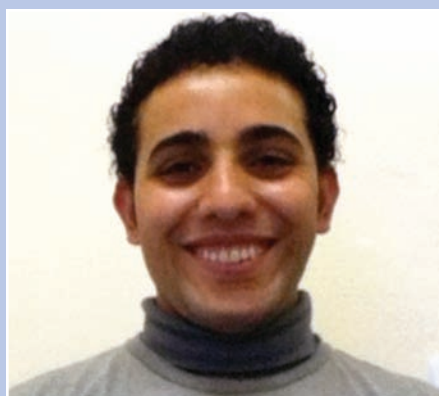
The facilitator there regularly encouraged the group to discern if they were being called to start a group in their own area. Returning home together, they would discuss their burning desire to be conduits of these graces to others in their locality which is a Gaeltacht (a predominantly Irish-speaking area).

The idea of translating the messages and conducting prayer meetings in Irish was

## Reflection from Nabil, a School of Holiness Student

ST. AUGUSTINE ONCE WROTE: “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page”. I travelled a long way from my village by the Nile in Upper Egypt to Ireland, not only in miles, but in experience too.

The only way to describe the School of Holiness was like finding an oasis in the desert. When I finally arrived, I was really tired after a year and a half of revolution, violence and death in my country. As Christians living under a new Islamist government, our future seemed dark. My own future looked even darker. With tourists afraid to visit Egypt, my oldest brother, who supported our family, lost his job in Sharm el-Sheik. Then days later, I was rushed to hospital with a ruptured



appendix for an emergency operation, and worse, our home was robbed of all our life savings. In the SOH, I spoke to no one about all this but could only pray: “Jesus, I trust in you!”

An old Sufi proverb says: “If you want a hot cup of tea, you must first empty your cup.” So I decided to leave all my problems behind and open up my heart to the Holy Spirit to fill me, and He did. Besides the exciting “Catholic” (i.e. “Universal”) experience of being with other students like me from different cultures, I soon discovered that Jesus is speaking tender words of faith and love directly to us today in our suffering through Direction for Our Times. He has not left us alone in the storm.

Especially in these messages, Jesus gave me new hope! With daily Mass and adoration, teachings on the spiritual life and lessons from the Catechism by holy men and women, trips together around beautiful green Ireland



challenging and exciting and the inspirational idea met with an enthusiastic response among the local Gaelic speaking community.

Now, in the Ráth Chairn Gaeltacht in County Meath, is a flourishing lay apostle prayer group which is entirely spoken in the language of Irish. The group is going from strength to strength since its first meeting on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 2010. This "Cruinniú Paidreoireachta d'Aspail Tuata d' Íosa Críost an Rí atá ag Teach," meets on the second Wednesday of each month to pray, reflect and to discuss the monthly messages as given to Anne, a lay apostle.

Carmel and Diane lead and guide the group of roughly fifteen people (including three married couples) in prayer while Bartle, a native Irish-speaker, translates the messages.

Five children now join at the start of the meeting saying the rosary with their parents. It is heartening to see young and not-so-young, praying together in a joyous and meaningful way.

These meetings have encouraged a great sense of community, not only with those who join at this meeting, but also with lay apostles worldwide. It gives us all great hope and faith in the future.

May God bless you all in DFOT and the many other groups big and small around the world.

Beannacht Dé oraibh go léir.

*[Deep faith and spirituality was always an integral part of Gaelic speaking Ireland. God is ever present in their language, their expressions and in many aspects of their lives. Irish speakers greet one another with "Dia duit" (God be with you) and the response "Dia agus Muire duit", (God and Mary be with you), in daily sayings, eg "le cúnamh Dé" (With the help of God) "Bail ó Dhia ort" (May God bless you) and in proverbs, "Nar lagáí Dia Tú." (May God spare you)]*

(I really liked surfing!), and simply enjoying new friendships in our little SOH family, I remembered Psalm 126:5 "Those who sow in tears will reap with joy!" Coming from a peasant farmer family, I knew this, but in the retreat, I came to really understand this in a deeper spiritual sense.

At the talent show on our last night, each one was given an award plate to best describe us. Mine read:

"NABIL – JOYFUL SPIRIT AWARD."

Thank you, Jesus, and a big hug and prayers for all the sponsors who helped turn my tears into joy!

August 18, 2006

## Jesus

**"Do not fear the battle, My beloved apostles. You suffer at times from feelings of emptiness. This emptiness is necessary. The more your soul is emptied of the things of this world, the more I can fill it with the things of the next world. This is a process. The word process implies change and change is necessary for the souls of My beloved apostles in order for them to be filled with Me exclusively. As this process advances, as the changes occur, you will find that I flow through you and out from you more freely, without any great effort on your part. My moving from your soul to the souls of others will become natural and effortless. It is this way for all truly dedicated apostles and it will be this way for you. Rejoice in this, even as it costs you some discomfort to abandon the ways of the world for the ways of the Savior. This is an answer to your prayers and an answer to the prayers of other apostles for you."**

# Summer Retreat – School of Holiness

By Justin Sofio

This last summer, Direction of Our Times hosted what we are hoping will be our annual School of Holiness summer retreat. For three weeks students enjoyed food, fellowship, and fun ... all the while being able to soak deeply into the teachings from the writings of the apostolate. We studied, played, and prayed. It was so much fun.

*Here is a letter written by one of the students relating her experience:*

Greetings on Day 17 – Today we had some beautiful guest speakers; dressed in grey, with beards, and sandals...can you guess who they were? Franciscan Friars of the Renewal! These two CFR brothers from Limerick, Brother Sean and Brother Simeon, spoke to us about the Franciscan Spirituality, leaving us with a better understanding of this spirituality and a greater love for this spirituality.

They asked us what comes to mind when we think of St. Francis. Naturally, we responded with things including, “Animals!” “Bird fountain Saint!” “Nature!” “Simplicity!”

They described St. Francis to us as a lover of God, *through* nature. He did not worship creation, but he worshiped the Creator, and he saw a reflection of God in creation!

The Franciscan spirituality involves a life of simplicity and poverty. Jesus came through the world in poverty, so the Franciscans take this vow of poverty to follow Christ’s example. They taught us the four degrees of poverty:

1. External poverty: Detachment from things of this world and from certain lifestyles.
2. Internal poverty: “Blessed are the poor in spirit...” Detachment from roles, positions, talents, and even from other people.
3. Spiritual poverty: Detachment from holiness.
4. Total poverty: Detachment from our will, “Not my will, Lord, but Yours be done.”

They also taught us about St. Francis’ love for the Church. They focused on five



Fr. John, carrying the Monstrance when the School of Holiness students visited Corpus Christi. Procession at St. Anne’s in Bailieborough, Ireland.

main aspects of his love for the Church and how each is linked to the one before it:

1. Eucharist: Incredible love for the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Priesthood: Eucharist is directly linked to Priesthood; he loved Priests.
3. Bishops: Was always submissive to the Bishop.
4. Pope: Went straight to the Pope when he knew God was calling him to something great.
5. Roman Catholic Church: the Eucharist that we celebrate sets us apart as Catholics.

They gave the response to the common question that we all ask, “How can I become closer to God?” The answer is that we need to allow God to be God in our lives. We need to

live simpler lives more reliant on God. And through this love of God and His providence for us comes *true freedom*, gratitude, and joy! With presenting the Franciscan Spirituality to us, they left with the thought that everything, and our faith, has to become personal to us.

They said the key to what we need to cultivate this in us is humility! We have to constantly remember that “God is God and I am not.” They encouraged us and reminded us of the need for frequent reception of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist through daily Mass (when possible) and Adoration, monthly Confession, and daily Rosary.

This ties in perfectly because in his daily homilies, Father Darragh has been focusing on each of the five practices that we are called to in this Apostolate as lay apostles. It is great to have constant reminders of these very

# School of Holiness

Est. Cavan, Ireland 2012

important spiritual practices that we absolutely need to continue on the mountain to holiness!

The Franciscan Friars and two TOR Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal then gave each of their personal testimonies, sharing with us their conversions throughout their life leading up to their calling to their vocations!

After lunch, Anne shared with us about “Choosing the right person,” as some of you may have read some about in “Lessons in Love”. She described marriage as sacrifice and service. So, if we think of marriage in terms of service, we will be in the right frame of mind. She also described marriage as a committed partnership for God, and that each person giving 100% makes a good marriage. She said that beautiful graces come to the Church through the couple if the marriage is healthy.

Anne presented five specific things to look at when choosing the right person:

1. Does this person view marriage the same way?
2. Are you attracted to the person?
3. Are you the right person? (How is your prayer life/relationship with Jesus?)
4. Are you free to be yourself with this person?
5. Is it evident that this person is practicing their faith life and has made a faith journey?

We then took some time to list out the ways in which a relationship can be emotionally abusive and the ways in which a relationship can be physically abusive, so that in turn we had a better understanding of what to stay away from when choosing the right person. Anne has emphasized with us that we are not supposed to be spending all of our time looking for the right person, but we are to be spending our time *becoming* the right person.

– In Jesus and Mary, Caitlin and the Team!

The School of Holiness (SOH) is held in Cavan, Ireland every summer during the first three weeks of June. This past summer was our first time holding the SOH and it was a great success! Students who participated came from Egypt, India, USA and Ireland! These students came from all different backgrounds and different rites of the Catholic Church including Roman Catholic, Coptic Catholic, Syro-Malabar and others. So as you can imagine this was truly a Catholic (i.e. Universal) experience.

As Anne says, each of us, simply by being lay apostles, is participating in the School of Holiness. Each day we are learning and growing in the teachings of Jesus in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in many ways through our trials, failures, reconciliation and perseverance in trying to be holy.

Since each of us is already in the School of Holiness, this School of Holiness is simply the physical manifestation of our apostolate. During this three week period we had different guest speakers come in and speak to us about the many different ‘Living Streams of the Church’. This included topics on Apologetics, the Lives of the Saints, Grace and Virtue, Whispers from the Cross, Marian Spirituality, Theology of the Body, and many others.

Our guest speakers were bishops, lay people, doctors, CFR friars, TOR sisters, diocesan priests, psychotherapists and others. So we had a new depth of knowledge and varied backgrounds from each of these different speakers. That was appropriate because each of our participants came from such diverse backgrounds not only physically where they are from but also, each had different perceptions, understanding, and knowledge of the Catholic Church. Everyone was learning, about each other, about the Catholic Church and her doctrine and beliefs and, I would say most especially, everyone was learning about themselves.

This interior knowledge was the most important thing because I believe that self-knowledge allows us to grow so much and it is true that ‘God fully reveals man to himself.’ So as we know ourselves, our talents and gifts, we can better use these gifts for the greater glory of God – (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam).

This is the process of holiness each of us is partaking in as we say our allegiance prayers and strive to serve heaven each moment through our smiles, laughter, work, talents and sufferings.

The School of Holiness is open to young adults and those close to that age. Most students are in their twenties but a few were still in their teens. Our campus is safe, supervised and staffed.

If you know someone who is interested in attending the School of Holiness 2013 in Ireland please contact me, Justin Sofio by calling the USA office at 708-496-9300 or you can e-mail me at [Justin@directionfourtimes.org](mailto:Justin@directionfourtimes.org).



# The School of Holiness, Cavan, Ireland









# The School of Holiness, Cavan, Ireland





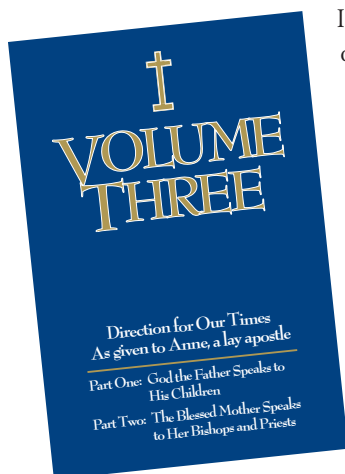
# To Serve is to Love

By Bonnie Young, a lay apostle



AS A YOUNG CHILD, I could make a killer mixed drink for my father. Jim Beam and 7-up. I can still remember the taste of the whiskey on my finger after manually stirring my perfect concoction to serve him after a long day of work. I would proudly hand him the cocktail while he reclined in his favorite chair, feet elevated. He would take one sip, tell me it tasted perfect, then give me the biggest hug and kiss for serving him. Yes, my father had an alcohol problem, but was never angry, abusive or hateful. I learned early that serving equalled love. Serving God is, in a way, like serving my father ... all I want is to please Him and make Him happy. And today's Scripture (Jer 15:10,16-21) reminds us of the graces He is ready to bestow when we commit service to and for Him:

*Thus the Lord answered me: If you repent, so that I restore you, in my presence you shall stand; If you bring forth the precious without the vile, you shall be my mouthpiece. Then it shall be they who turn to you, and you shall not turn to them; And I will make you toward this people a solid wall of brass. Though they fight against you, they shall not prevail, For I am with you, to deliver and rescue you, says the Lord. I will free you from the hand of the wicked, and rescue you from the grasp of the violent.*



In *Volume Three*, God the Father promises us that serving Him on earth will be rewarded in heaven:

*"Souls who have waited for this time, your wait is nearly over. You have struggled valiantly. Continue to do so for the moment, knowing that your God is grateful. How happy you will be that you served heaven while you remained on earth. I cannot reveal all of heaven's secrets because your humanity would not withstand such knowledge and truly, you would insist on coming home immediately. But I will reveal some of the joys that await you. It is My will to do this because in this time, souls on earth doubt the very existence of heaven. This spiritual starvation has left many without hope, so in response, I have willed*

*that Jesus, Mary, His mother, and many saints give you both guidance and heavenly information. I Myself am speaking to you now to give you the path or map to these times. I will not leave souls abandoned in such darkness. I have always provided My children in earthly exile with prophets and I do so now in many areas of the world. You must see with your eyes, dear souls. Do not turn away from My heavenly direction as through it I give the extra help that many need. If you are called upon to assist with the spreading of these words, do so in all joy. Your reward will not disappoint you."*

Lay apostles, now, more than ever, we need to unite bringing God's love and messages to all those lost or in darkness. Serve God and others today. Not next week, next month, or next year. You will be glad you made the effort come the day you are face to face with our Savior.

Thank you, Lord for teaching me that to serve is to love. God bless.

**Jesus and Mary Children Books:  
Great gift for your children or  
grandchildren this Easter!**



Recently we have been able to update the book *Mary Speaks to Children* by adding in some beautiful artwork of the Blessed Mother done by Charles Jaskiewicz. Both the books have many graces attached to them and will bring a smile to the face of every child! Because of the love found in these books they are being used in many Catholic grade schools and Religious Ed classes throughout the USA and Canada. To order these books for your loved little ones in your life, please call our office at 708-496-9300 or visit us online.

Consider how Mary and Jesus might be prompting you to spread their words to the children in your family? parish? school? neighborhood? There is a lay apostle who wants to help in this regard so if your funds are low please inquire to our office. Also, to make a donation to this project, please call our office.

# Eucharistic Day of Renewal

by Robert Byrnes



## Naperville, Ill.

Like many people, my journey towards Direction for Our Times came through an introduction to the Volumes. I first learned

about Direction for Our Times over two years ago from an online blog by a man named Deacon John Giglio, a retired New York Deacon now living in Florida. It was just a short blurb explaining the Volumes and providing a link with a tag line of "This is really interesting!" I followed the link and spent a whole weekend reading all the Volumes. As a result, I have joined a prayer group and tried to live my life by the spiritual practices as best I can, including morning Allegiance Prayer, an hour of Eucharistic Adoration each week and Monthly Confession.

I looked forward to the Eucharistic Day of Renewal (EDR) for what it was; an evening of reflection and Adoration. But I also understood from my prayer group that Anne had not visited the Chicago area since 2009 and this was a rare chance to hear her speak in person. My son joined me in attending the EDR. He is a theology major at Illinois Benedictine University but had no prior knowledge of Anne or Direction for Our Times other than he knew it was something I did. His reaction was simple and direct – "If this is true, it's big!"

We arrived at the event just as the rosary was ending. It was a peace-filled room with a wonderful group of lay apostles in attendance. Fr. Darragh Connolly introduced Anne. You may know him as the priest who conducts the lay apostle prayer group in Ireland on the first Thursday of each month. Fr. Connolly gave a warm welcome to all attending, introduced Anne as only he knows how; in a gentle and

humble manner. For me, it is nice to see that Anne is accompanied on her travels by a priest. We are fortunate to have Fr. Connolly.

Before introducing Anne, Father announced that DFOT is the official owner of Holy Trinity Abbey in Kilnacrott. Stating, "Now we have a headquarters for the apostolate. The Norbertines will be remaining on the premises for three years, and then we will take occupancy." He joked "It is nice not to worry about cutting the grass for a while."

Anne stepped up to the podium, shuffling papers and joking that this talk is different every time she gives it. Once started, Anne spoke with authority as she described the ministry's mission highlighting many points explained in detail in her books. Anne's speaking style is similar to her writings; very logical with many analogies presented with a rare, straight-forward approach.

Referring to her book, *Climbing the Mountain*, Anne emphasized we are all on a





journey towards Christ. When we fall, we fall off the path and need to return before ascending in holiness. We should not be discouraged; we should love our neighbors and God while doing our service with joy, united with faith in Jesus Christ. She reminded us that we are cherished. We all must work for souls. It is the reason why we are called.

She continued saying it is the Spirit that connects us to goodness. It moves through us prompting us to pledge our allegiance to the Father. We should welcome Him as He sustains and supports us.

Her next point featured our desires for holiness and becoming the right person as described in Lessons in Love. She reminded us to love those who have fallen away from the Church; to be a witness of love to all. God has a plan for us; for our lives. God wishes us to know that we are valued beyond our imagination. It is important that we live good lives, that we live our life as close to God's will as possible.

Anne spoke of St. Peter who denied Jesus three times before being charged with the responsibility he had at the beginning of the Catholic Church. A fact that assures us that our Church was built on Heaven's acceptance of our humanity. Our Church is founded on repentance and forgiveness. She said we are all on the same team, all sinners, we are all welcome.

Referring to her book, *Whispers from the Cross*, Anne's talk next reviewed creating a vertical relationship with Jesus Christ while creating a Christ-like horizontal image before fellow lay apostles and other people we encounter on our journey. Anne reminds us that our eyes should be always raised upward. She explained that the success of our vocation depends largely on how well we participate in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

## ***"I looked forward to the Eucharistic Day of Renewal (EDR) for what it was; an evening of reflection and Adoration."***

In order to serve the King, we must allow the King to possess us. We must welcome him into our soul and let our lives become more perfectly ordered to His will. Only then can He flow horizontally to others through the Spirit.

Anne's next point concerned the laity. How the role of the laity is so important now. The laity needs to take their place as leaders in the Church. According to Vatican II, the laity is uniquely placed in the world and can witness where God has placed them. As laity, we are called to bring the Gospel teachings and principles to others wherever we find ourselves. We are also called to serve alongside priests, bishops, and cardinals as leaders in the Church, helping to bring about its forward momentum.

Anne wrapped up her talk covering how to identify and handle spiritual attacks. Spiritual warfare as described in *The Mist of Mercy*, and the importance of the Allegiance Prayer and a consistent prayer regimen. She spoke a great deal about Heavenly truth and how we should not be fooled by the earthly falseness present by the enemy. She described how it feels to be under attack; how we should remain on our path.

Before answering questions, Anne announced that the monthly messages ended in August and explained how DFOT will continue to publish the past monthly messages in sequence starting with September using the monthly message first presented in September 2005. She elaborated how the monthly

messages have and continue to be a great gift to the world. She shared with us that she always knew that they would end someday and emphasized that this moment does not mark the end of our mission, but the beginning. We have completed our education, now it is time to take our message to the world!

Next up to the podium was Justin Sofio. Justin works in the Chicago office (Justice, IL) and recently coordinated and led the School of Holiness for young adults in Ireland. Justin provided an overview of the program and gave a few anecdotes regarding the students who attended and highlighted a few activities during the three week program last June. He told a warm hearted story about a young man from Egypt who embodied the spirit of the event. The program has grown tremendously in the past few years, and we expect it to continue. We look forward to next year's event, scheduled for the first three weeks of June.

The last person to the podium was Pam Robertson. Pam is a lay apostle and long-time friend of DFOT. She's an active volunteer working closely with the Chicago office. She was very excited to introduce a new prisoner outreach ministry: The Prisoner Rescue Mission: A Mission of Hope. She explained that the United States has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world; that the federal prisons of 117 institutes house 218,128 prisoners. 73% of prison chaplains consider access to high quality religion-related programs to be absolutely critical for successful rehabilitation of prisoners. She explained that DFOT has *Heaven Speaks* booklets ready to be distributed. She called on all lay apostles to take an active role in getting the material to prison chaplains and others who may be able to distribute them to prisoners.

The evening ended with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Thank you to all for attending.



## 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.**



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## New Framed Art Available

In September of 2005, Anne received a series of locutions from Saint Faustina, who revealed to her that the apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King would be an extension of the Divine Mercy mission. The next month, Anne was invited to attend a pilgrimage to the International Divine Mercy Shrine in Poland. On this pilgrimage, Anne received the image of Jesus Christ the Returning King as a gift from the Mother Superior of St. Faustina's order. The Mother Superior told Anne she was confident that the image was meant for this mission. St. Faustina confirmed the importance of this image in an October 28, 2005 locution, saying, "The image of Jesus Christ the Returning King should be spread throughout the world. There are many graces attached to this image. Like the Divine Mercy image, this image will be widely recognized as a source of goodness and healing. All who venerate this image will be blessed."

For many years we have been selling this image as a framed art print. As a result of the efforts of one dedicated lay apostle, we have several more framed prints for sale, each a little different and one-of-a-kind. If you'd like to have one of these special images in your home, in a beautiful and custom-cut frame, please visit our website to see pictures of the available art. We also have unframed prints available.

Jesus has asked that lay apostles have this image in their homes. It can be especially powerful to have the image of the Returning King displayed during monthly lay apostle prayer group meetings. It reminds us of why we are gathering together and keeps us centered on prayer. This is the reason that with every new prayer group packet we send out, we include a small copy of this image. If you don't have a copy for your prayer group, this might be the perfect time to consider getting one! As Saint Faustina said, "*All who venerate this image will be blessed.*"

Please visit our website at [www.directionforourtimes.org](http://www.directionforourtimes.org) for more information on the image, to purchase copies of the image, or buy a one-of-a-kind framed art print for your home.