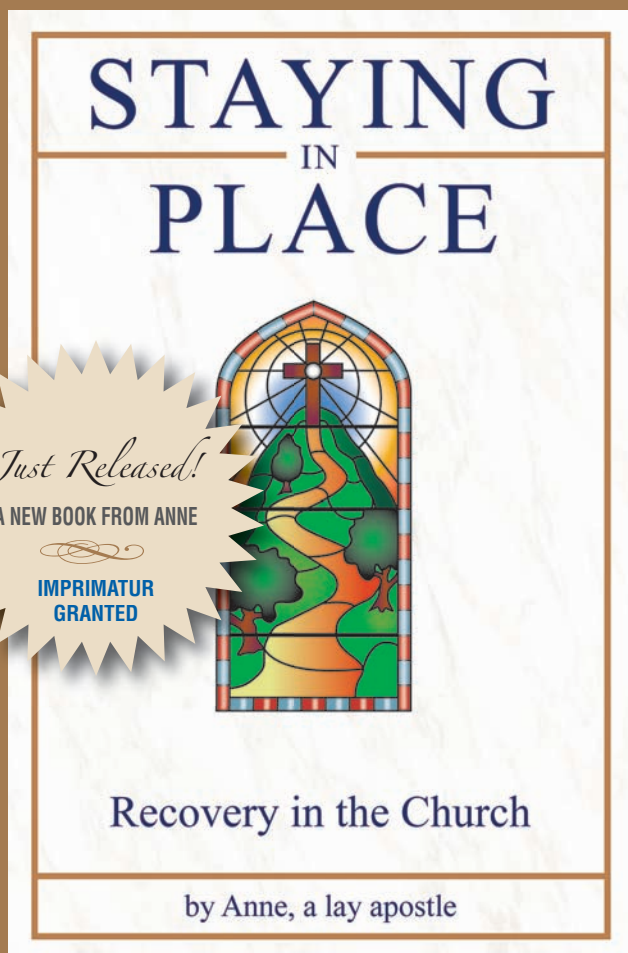


THE *Apostolate of the Returning King*

AS DISSEMINATED AND PROMOTED BY DIRECTION FOR OUR TIMES



A new book filled with Anne's thought-provoking writings is waiting for you!

Staying in Place, Recovery in the Church is filled with important considerations regarding the role of a co-responsible laity charged with representing the Gospel Message.

October 25, 2016

Jesus

“My words are intended to support God’s children in their work of transformation. And while I am intimately connected to the transformation of each person, I remain fixed in My desire that the Body of Christ on Earth also transform. To do so, My Church, My one true Church, will have to change and begin development anew in the Spirit of love ... I want people to choose the right actions because they are loved and because they crave the highest response to My love. They can only do so if they experience a Church which holds as its primary goal the true representation of the Father’s love for all of His children. Please. Help Me build this Church.”

STARTING A REVOLUTION OF VIRTUE

ANNE'S THOUGHTS ON THE CHALLENGE TO POPE FRANCIS

THE BACKPACK UPDATE – IN IRELAND AND THE USA

EIGHT STEPS TO PREPARE FOR CONFESSION

ADOPT A PRISONER PROGRAM





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JANUARY 2017 | ISSUE 41

The Newsletter of the Apostolate of the Returning King

The Apostolate of the Returning King is a new movement in the Catholic Church. We, lay people, seek to develop as co-responsible Catholics. As we become more aware of God's presence, accepting His love and healing, we are 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.

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Five Lay Apostle Guidelines

As Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King, we agree to perform our basic obligations as practicing Catholics. Additionally, we will adopt the following spiritual practices, as best we can:

1. Allegiance Prayer and Morning Offering, plus a brief prayer for the Holy Father
2. Eucharistic Adoration, one hour per week
3. Prayer Group Participation, monthly, at which we pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and read the Monthly Message
4. Monthly Confession
5. Further, we will follow the example of Jesus Christ as set out in the Holy Scripture, treating all others with His patience and kindness.

Three Charisms of the Lay Apostolate of the Returning King

1. Learning and Teaching the Catechism
2. Compassionate Listening
3. Promoting Unity in the Church

Allegiance Prayer

Dear God in Heaven, I pledge my allegiance to You. I give You my life, my work and my heart. In turn, give me the grace of obeying Your every direction to the fullest possible extent. Amen.

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The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur appear in the books as follows:

NIHIL OBSTAT: VERY REV. JOHN CANON MURPHY, PP, VF

IMPRIMATUR: + MOST REV. LEO O'REILLY BISHOP OF KILMORE, IRELAND

THE NIHIL OBSTAT AND IMPRIMATUR ARE AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION THAT A BOOK OR PAMPHLET IS FREE OF DOCTRINAL ERROR AND THAT ECCLESIASTICAL PERMISSION FOR ITS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN GRANTED.



EXCERPT FROM A TALK GIVEN BY ANNE, A LAY APOSTLE

Looking at Jesus in Scripture, particularly in the Sermon on the Mount, it seems that He promoted a virtue based spirituality, rather than a sin based spirituality. The virtues have love at their core. Let us remind ourselves that the four Cardinal Virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. The theological virtues are faith, hope and charity. We must fill our minds with the consideration of these virtues and look for them, all throughout our days here on Earth.

What kind of experience would we have if we decided in the morning to search all day for signs of prudence around us? Then, whenever we spotted prudence, we brought it to the attention of others. “Look,” we might say, “I see that political leader has made a prudent decision to cut the budget and save money.” Have we ever, ever heard that? Or, “That was an excellent choice you just made to talk about what is hopeful and not what feels hopeless.” Or “I understand criminals because I, too, have made mistakes.” That is an abundantly charitable statement. And if we heard someone say something like that, we could, perhaps, contemplate the charity in it.

A holy man once said, “Humility is simply knowing one’s place.” And humility, the humility that comes with knowing one’s place and one’s role, can only be obtained through contemplation, through remembering and reminding. We must remember our place. We must remind ourselves that we carry the message of another.

Modern technologies have given us access to a lot of information. And while that is good, and I hope we never go backwards, it does not make us all experts, at anything really. God always knows more. The flash and drama of today’s headlines and our opinionated conversations about them do not generally change a thing for people who are suffering. Only through the study of virtue will we be ones who bring about more virtue and in it, relief for others.

So we ask ourselves, ‘What is a virtuous person? What does a virtuous person look like?’ We examine the Catechism which tells us that a bearing toward the virtuous life allows a person not only to perform good acts but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person “tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions” (CCC 1803).



Eight Steps to Prepare for Confession

Step One • Think of everything you are doing right.

Step Two • Call to mind some mistakes you have made in the past. Ask yourself which of these mistakes might elevate to the level of sin.

Step Three • Ask yourself why?

Step Four • Use the formula,

"I was afraid and then I _____".

"I was angry and then I _____".

"I felt lonely and then I _____".

Step Five • Spend some time thinking about how it could have gone better and how you might try to make a different choice next time. Ask yourself how you would handle a similar situation if you were a saint.

Step Six • Bring the sins to Confession.

Step Seven • After confessing your sins, tell the priest how it could have gone better and how a similar situation will look if you make a different choice next time.

Step Eight • After confession, spend some time 'pushing off' the particular sin into the corresponding virtue. Using all of your senses, immerse yourself in the image of the virtuous action. Dream and think about how you would look as a saint and how joyful you will feel when you make a choice to do the right thing.

Step Nine | **Start at Step One again – Think of everything you are doing right ... and do more of it!**

SUGGESTION: CUT THIS OUT AND LAMINATE. IT MAY HELP YOU WITH CONFESSION.

To give the best of one's self, one's highest expression, one's very holiest decisions and actions ... these are exciting possibilities. Jesus Christ gave the best of Himself on Earth all the time, not just to those who were important, but to everyone. With prayerful discernment and reflection we can do the very same.

We have to THINK about life. We must silence our voices for a time each day and give the deepest consideration to what we are about. My friends, this call, to become thoughtful men and women of God, is an urgent one.

People, unwilling to face that which is painful for them, their wounds and their propensity to wound others, occupy their minds with the constant stimulation of their opinions. 'Who,' they ask, 'is saying what, about whom?' This leads to noise, not silence. This leads to a conversation in which points are made but people remain unheard. It is worth noting that the section of the Catechism on virtues begins with very solid advice from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians:

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil 4:8).

Think about it. When we turn on the television or go online, how much do we hear of what is just, honorable, pure, lovely, or gracious? Not a lot. But, I do find a lot of beauty floating past me on social media. I realize not everyone does and maybe I have good friends but I see what used to be the subjects of human discourse, great stories about triumphs and sacrifice, wonderful information exchanged and yes, some really great recipes, too. I see people talking about who is hurting and pointing to injustice, but also to justice. So while some people mis-use social media, I find for me that it can be wonderful at times. If our minds are filled with that which is pure, honorable, gracious and excellent, we will talk about these things, attract more of these things and even perhaps share them on Facebook.

The next time you go to Confession, and I pray you are taking advantage of this sacrament monthly, try this. Briefly confess your sins and then tell the priest how it could have gone and what you should have done and what you hope to do the next time. If there is a wrong action, there is always a right action to match it. Let us say, a better choice. Because a thing is not a sin if you cannot help it. A sin is a choice to do the wrong thing.



PUSH OFF THE **SIN** INTO THE Virtue

DECIDE NOW WHAT YOU WILL DO
THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE TEMPTED
TO MAKE THESE SAME MISTAKES.

In Confession, let us begin to practice bouncing right off the sin. Let us spend most of our time talking about and thinking about the right way to do a thing in the future. We must move away from sin and toward the virtue, in our actions, yes, but also in our thoughts. We cannot kid ourselves. Thoughts prompt actions. And the best way to think about yourself and others is in virtue and hope, resting in the promise of growth and transformation.

Lay apostles, let us start a revolution. Let us not be like the news which negatively scrutinizes ourselves, others and the world. Let us take the spotlight off sin for a few decades and push the virtues and see what happens. Let us, as an apostolate, heed the advice of that verse of Scripture and dream about ourselves as holy people, full of hope, full of kindness, full of Christian action. Let us do as the Holy Father asks and advance and develop. Let us become Christ on Earth so that He can reflect His Church with accuracy.

Remember this, no matter what anyone tells you. You will never become a saint by studying sin, in yourself or others. That is what the enemy wants us to do. We will only become saints by studying virtue in ourselves and others. That is what God wants us to do.



“

The swimmer is pushing as hard as she can off the wall into the next lap. She is headed somewhere else and wants to get there as quickly as possible. After we have identified a mistake and asked ourselves what human feeling prompted the mistake, we go in the other direction.”

A NEW BOOK FILLED WITH ANNE'S THOUGHT-PROVOKING WRITINGS IS WAITING FOR YOU!

Staying in Place, Recovery in the Church

Staying in Place, Recovery in the Church is filled with important considerations regarding the role of a co-responsible laity charged with representing the Gospel Message. Our personal relationship with God can only be enhanced by the rich treatment found in the writing on the mind of God, which compels us to become even more thoughtful in a time of distraction. How many of us have asked ourselves how to present God to those Catholics who find themselves in challenging circumstances? What are God's goals for this time and for us, as we try to know Him better and better? How do we recover from wounds when people in the Church hurt us or misrepresent God?

This book begins and ends with powerful locutions from Jesus, Who asks us,

"How will you know if you are part of the recovery process? Perhaps you can contemplate the following questions.

Do you suffer to remain in service to God?

Do you see clearly that without effort, God's Church will diminish in scope?

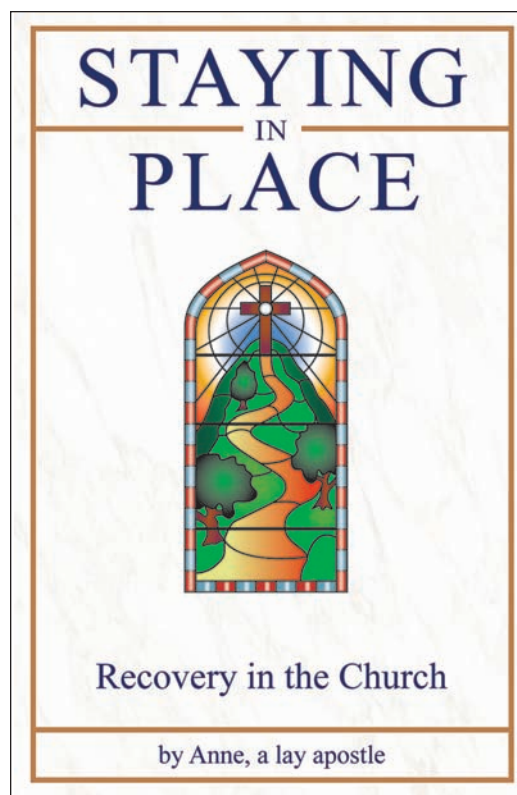
Do you feel pain for those who have sought the Savior but been turned away by the human issues of a troubled Church?

Are you suffering the uncertainty of change and the persecution that accompanies reform?

Is your contribution to God's Church on Earth costing you?"

Considering these questions might cause us all to pause and reflect on the need to stay in place for Christ.

Staying in Place, Recovery in the Church has been granted an Imprimatur by Bishop Leo O'Reilly. The Imprimatur was granted on the last full day of the Year of Mercy. This book describes a way forward into the mercy obtained by our prayers last year. The Year of Mercy, after all, is meant to announce a new time for offering God's mercy. We are at the beginning of this job, not the end.



Price: \$21.95 • 250 Pages

TOPICS INSIDE THIS BOOK INCLUDE:

2014 Church Visions • The Church in the Individual • Expectations • A Church of Attrition? • Grace in Various Circumstances • Examining our Interactions with those who have left the Sacramental Life • In Defense of the Sacramental Life • Peter – Love • Diminished Accountability • The Mind of God

Excerpts from “Staying in Place”

“The growth of My Church on Earth remains intimately connected to Heaven ... Prayer allows Me to lower from Heaven the plan for renewal and recovery. You see, dear apostles, recovery is needed and recovery is happening” (Jesus, October 24, 2016).

“When one is resistant to this desire by God to adapt continually in the world in order to comfort and direct His children, one then begins to create human structures of function. Humanity, when stuck spiritually, can only attempt to recreate limitation. Humanity, when stuck spiritually, will always try to pin God to the floor, as if to say, “Now stop moving, God, so I can get on with the exercise of my will, my way, and use Your name to do it.” God simply flows out and around, searching always for a like-minded soul, willing to dynamically incorporate truth with Him and for Him. God will never be pinned” (Anne, a lay apostle, Pages 173-174).

– An excerpt from *The Mind of God*

“For people to receive God’s mercy they simply have to turn toward Him. God’s mercy cannot be limited. In prayer and contemplation, it would seem that there is no exquisite point where we, through the greatest compliance, become most worthy of the mercy of God. We can be intensely pleasing to God in moments of integrity, even if we are outside of our faith practice. Could that be a wrong statement? Does God reject acts of virtue because a person has not yet fully accepted all teachings, or achieved full compliance with all teachings?” (Anne, a lay apostle, Page 64).

– An excerpt from *Grace in Various Circumstances*

“Most of the people who have left our faith practice do not return during their life time. This is our family’s reality. But some do return. And others attempt to return but feel barred. Why is this? What kind of welcome home are we offering to people who have been outside of faith practice for many years? Are we considering their wounds to the correct degree? Are our expectations of them realistic? Do we accept that often incorrect formation, inadequate formation or absolute misrepresentation of the Gospel may have been what drove them out in the first place? Are we curious enough about their stories? Interested in their suffering? Or do we spout the ‘rules’ mechanically, advising them of what we think they need to do in order to be part of our family again?” (Anne, Page 87).

– An excerpt from *Examining Our Interaction with Those who have Left the Sacramental Life*

“I concluded that the highest way to ‘plumb’ the mysteries of Heaven and God remains through the sacramental life. The sacramental life offers us communion with the Divine Life in Heaven. This communion is likely less available without the sacraments. If people understood the sacraments, they would never leave. They would be willing to stay in place and do battle, against themselves and others for reform in the Church” (Anne, Page 92).

– An excerpt from *In Defense of the Sacramental Life*

“The Popes are not politicians. We must often listen to him and contemplate the Spirit which prompts him, as much as the words. If the Vicar of Christ is trying to adjust the heading or pointing to an obvious or subtle correction, we would want to be listening carefully” (Anne, Page 94).

– An excerpt from *In Defense of the Sacramental Life*

“In terms of same-sex attraction, much of our Catholic public dialogue has served to further traumatize people who already feel concern or who have had to ask themselves real questions about their sexuality. Are these people radically different? Or are they mostly the same? More the same than different, perhaps? Well then maybe we should get on with inclusivity, understanding that we all need to engage with the highest transformation with regard to our sexuality” (Anne, Page 66).

– An excerpt from *Grace in Various Circumstances*

“The goal of co-responsibility must be advanced with all speed. Most of our faith community is non-practicing. Again, people say, loftily, “That is their choice.” But why is it their choice? Certainly people come and go in their process of development and the Church is waiting to receive us all back when we identify that craving for God which nothing else can satisfy. But there should also be honest appraisal of the experience of the vulnerable amongst us. The same-sex attraction people, the irregular union people, the people overburdened by distortion and scrupulosity in their primary formation. ‘We’ have hurt people. ‘We’ should accept the guilt for that and try harder to represent the Gospel Message more accurately. It is immature of us to judge people for leaving something that may have become damaging to them” (Anne, Pages 76-77).

– An excerpt from *Grace in Various Circumstances*

SCHOOL OF HOLINESS

Testimonies



The School of Holiness (SOH) has changed me. Before I came here, my spiritual life was pretty small. I went to Mass on Sunday, prayed before meals and bedtime but that's basically where it ended. The

teachers and staff at SOH helped me grow in my spiritual life immensely and taught me how to trust in God and His plan for me.

When I first heard about the School of Holiness, I was unsure about going, leaving the country by myself, and going to a place where I didn't know anyone.

I decided to take a leap of faith. I applied, and as soon as I was accepted, I bought a plane ticket to Ireland. I wasn't sure what would be on the other side, but I am so glad I did it.

The teachers met me at my level, never trying to force me up to theirs. They build us up, teaching us about God and how our minds work. Not only was I able to come to Ireland for a retreat, but I also got to experience and learn about the Irish culture and history. On the weekends, we were able to take trips to different locations. One weekend, we went to the beach and learned how to surf. The next, we went to visit beautiful Glendalough and hike up a mountain. Both of these were first time experiences for me.

We were given the opportunity to visit Knock where a Marian apparition occurred in 1879. While praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Knock, I had a mystical experience that amazed me. My dad died unexpectedly when I was fourteen. I could sense his presence in a real and tangible way. After that moment, I was changed in a way that I never imagined.

I made many friends and memories that will be with me for life. This experience is definitely something I will never forget. I hope to come back next year. I would certainly recommend SOH to family and friends. I could not be more thankful for the teachers, staff, and friends that I made there. Thank you for the incredible and unforgettable experience!"

– Angela Jergovic, Nebraska

Impact of the School of Holiness A Mother's Perspective

Direction for Our Times sent a newsletter with an invitation to the School of Holiness (SOH) early this year. I was intrigued by the description. I wondered what kind of young people would be willing to answer an invite like this and be willing to attend a 3-week adventure. I read about it, viewed the video, and thought of how I would present it to my 19-year-old daughter, Angela.

I thought the School of Holiness had the potential to be a significant moment in time in Angela's life. I was "oh so hopeful" that it would open her to receive the love that I was certain God was wanting her to know.

Angela's initial reaction was what I suspected ("Go to Ireland with a bunch of 'weird' people?! Mom, seriously ...?"). I told her to take a look at the testimony video and see what she thought. She came back, pleasantly surprised. She noted that the young people attending were "normal" and not only that, they loved their experience in Ireland.



We talked about the logistics of taking the time off of work, paying for the school and the travel, and the potential for an experience that could be life-changing.

Life-changing indeed it was. Angela's dad died unexpectedly during her first semester of high school. Angela had been particularly close to her father and losing him at such an important time in her life was very difficult. I was concerned about the wall she had built around herself and the distance I could sense in her relationship with God and her family. I prayed the School of Holiness would help Angela to know of the Love that God had for her and to know that her Dad was with her, just in a very different way – behind the veil that separates us from eternal life.

The School of Holiness did just that. Angela learned how to trust, how to love and how to receive love once again. She learned how to pray, contemplate and listen. She also had an immense amount of fun meeting new friends, hiking, kayaking, traveling, playing multiple outdoor games, visiting the towns and “counting cows.” She loved the adventure in all ways. The School of Holiness gave Angela an irreplaceable gift.

– Lisa Jergovic, Nebraska

Jumping Out of My Comfort Zone

I was nervous coming in to School of Holiness because I was leaving my comfort zone and throwing myself into a completely new setting, with new people, and not to mention in a new country. I had no idea what to expect. What I found when I got there was a welcoming community of loving people who shared my interests and values, and were immediately willing to embrace me as a friend. I ended up building relationships over those three weeks that will last a lifetime.

The lessons that I took away from School of Holiness not only taught me how to grow in my relationship with God, but also how to see the world in a completely different way. I learned how to follow the example of Jesus by approaching every situation and every person from a place of love and understanding.

When the three weeks were over, I did not want to leave. School of Holiness was an adventure that I will cherish for the rest of my life!

– Sean Noll, Colorado



ANNE'S THOUGHTS ON THE CHALLENGE TO OUR HOLY FATHER, Pope Francis



TAKEN FROM A TALK GIVEN ON DECEMBER 1, 2016

My friends, the Holy Father is being challenged to explain himself. Has anyone heard about this? I would say we have. Well, this is hard for him because he is dealing, I think, with a spirit, not with logic and reason, although the people challenging him make certain to appear logical and reasonable.

Now when a wrong spirit comes at you, it often does so with a good technical performance. But the wrong spirit will show itself, because people harboring the wrong spirit are not willing to be obedient, nor will they admit to fault. They find it hard to back down and this is a problem. A wrong spirit tends to harbor arrogance, superiority and then, disobedience. This will ultimately insist on division and destruction and it can go very far indeed.

Our Holy Father is leading us to baby Jesus in the manger. He has been chosen, carefully, to do so. I would like to think that nobody would ever be fooled by people who claim to be saviors of the Church, protecting us all from our Pope. But some people can be seduced by

reason, even when it lacks mercy, humility and willingness to be led. Remember what I've always told you, quoting somebody else, 'Humility is simply knowing one's place'.

Let us consider a question. What do we all have in common, those of us on this side of the Church? Everyone sitting here, what do we have in common? Not one of us is the Pope. Right? That is a true statement.

Now, what do all of those people on *that* side of the Church have in common? The same thing; none of them is the Pope. Let us be honest. No matter which Catholic church people are sitting in, they share this reality. Unless their name is Pope Francis, they are not the Pope.

At this time, my place seems to be reminding us that the Pope is in charge of the Church, and life in the Church should not resemble a reality TV show.

Perhaps everyone needs to focus on ingesting the beautiful teachings of the Holy Father and allowing those teachings to change our thinking and direct us into service with the greatest possible emphasis on mercy. "What is right about people?" God seems to want us to

ask. As opposed to leading with, “What do we find people guilty of?”

Let us take people living in an irregular union. How many of us know people living in irregular unions? I think we could probably all raise our hands.

The Holy Father states, “I am in agreement with the many synod Fathers who observed that the baptized who are divorced and civilly remarried need to be more fully integrated into Christian communities ..., while avoiding any occasion of scandal.” He goes on, “The logic of integration is the key to their pastoral care, a care which would allow them not only to realize that they belong to the Church as the body of Christ, but also that they can have a joyful and fruitful experience in it. ... They are brothers and sisters. The Holy Spirit pours into their hearts gifts and talents for the good of all.” Isn’t that beautiful?

So the Pope and the exhortation are identifying that we *need* their contribution.

He goes on, “Their participation can be expressed in different ecclesial services which would necessarily require discerning which of the various forms of exclusion currently practiced ... can be surmounted.” So, they recognize that people in irregular unions feel excluded.

“Such persons need to feel not like excommunicated members of the Church, but instead as living members ... able to live and grow in the Church and experience her as a mother who welcomes them always, who takes care of them with affection and encourages them along the path of life and the Gospel.”

Later, we read about this, that what is being proposed is a process of accompaniment and discernment. Now, could this possibly be wrong? I do not think so.

I am quoting from *Amoris Laetitia*, *The Joy of Love*, the Pope’s apostolic exhortation. It is so beautiful.

Now, if I wanted to interfere with the progress that the Pope is trying to make, I could say, “I’m confused. People are confused. It’s all so confusing.”

But it’s not confusing at all, actually. This document, like the Holy Father’s leadership in other areas, is full of light unless you have an agenda which seeks to undermine his authority and his obligation to keep us all moving and developing. His leadership is full of light.

Be very careful here. Most of us will not be, in any way, involved in this challenge to the authority of the Holy Father. I am certainly not. But, if we believe that the Lord, Jesus Christ is the author of the Volumes, then we will listen to Him carefully in *Volume Five* because Jesus warns us.

He says:

“There are many who claim to be My followers. Some follow My lead, but others do not. They follow their own will, but do so behind a guise of obedience. The reason this obedience is a guise and not a genuine obedience is because they have rejected My Church, in that they feel they have greater wisdom than the soul whom I chose to represent Me.

“Children of God, you are accountable. Do you think I made a mistake when I asked this current man to be My earthly vicar? Well then you must take that up with Me upon your entry into My kingdom. That will be the appropriate time to discuss what you may feel are the mistakes I have made. Until that time, I am calling on you to be respectful, obedient and supportive of this man, your pope.”

My friends, do not be part of a camp which offers a pretense of fidelity to the Magisterium while simultaneously attempting to weaken and discredit it.

The Pope’s challengers are like that person who holds your gaze with a smile while standing on your foot, and trying to crush it. “We’re trying to help,” they say. But they are behaving differently, with passive aggression.

Now, again, I pray that people will come down on the right side of this because the ramifications of this are grave and dangerous to us.

This is God’s Church. It belongs to God. And He will have His way. God will protect the development of His Church. I feel alert in this. It will not go well for those who seek to create disunity in our Church family. It will not go well for them. And so, we have to pray for them. Do not stand with these people.

I do wonder, in all of this, what the enemy is trying to distract everyone from and maybe we could contemplate that.



EVENTS

Parish Mission Holy Redeemer Church Vancouver, WA

BY ANN DEBOLT

On November 18th and 19th I had the privilege of attending a parish mission at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Vancouver, WA., USA. Privilege is the correct word. Anne, a lay apostle, Father Darragh Connolly and Margaret McGahon were the guest speakers. It was a wonderful experience to listen to them share their holy experiences, time and talents. What gifted speakers!

I learned that there is a longing in our hearts to draw closer to God whether we are fully aware of that or not. We desire Love. And perhaps we do not know how we can possibly get there. So often, God seems distant and inaccessible to us. This event was truly a rare opportunity to learn how to draw closer to God; to open our hearts and minds to His graces. I learned that there is a process and path for every single one of us. God is *in* Love with us!

There was a palpable sense of excitement in the assembly as Anne shared some personal stories of speaking with heaven – and about purgatory. When Father Darragh read aloud one of the messages Anne had received from Jesus, it seemed that everyone was leaning forward and straining to capture every single word. You could have heard a pin drop.

Margaret's knowledge about psychology and human development was the icing on the cake. She has so much knowledge about how our brains work and how we can put them to work! This was a new discovery for me. I had no idea.

The retreat included Mass, the presentations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession was available throughout most of the day.

All in all, it was a gifted time and one I will reflect upon and pray about for a long time. Everyone that I spoke with afterwards about the retreat agreed that it was a wonderful and positive experience. God is good!

THE APOSTOLATE IN CANADA

On August 26 -28, lay apostles met in Manitoba, Canada at the 15th Annual Marian Eucharistic Conference.

Fr. Darragh and Anne were among the main guest speakers. Direction for Our Times had a booth with books in the hall which was staffed by hearty volunteers. James Frendo, a young man from Vancouver who just participated in the School of Holiness 2016, and his mother Angela were at the helm. They volunteered the whole weekend to ensure that everyone at the conference had a chance to check out the writings of the apostolate.

A few longtime lay apostles from Minnesota, Gerry Keymer and Mary Jo Bakowski, were at the conference. On each break they assisted in answering questions about the writings and the lay apostolate.

This is the second year Anne and Fr. Darragh have participated in this conference. It was exciting to speak with people who had been exposed to the writings over the years and were quietly distributing them in their areas, and to hear the many stories of active lay apostles in Canada.



The Prisoner Rescue Mission

2016 marks the third year of the Direction for Our Times Prison Ministry. Over 260,000 *Heaven Speaks to Prisoners* and *Heaven Speaks to Soldiers* booklets have been distributed in that time.

Because 10% of the United States prison population is estimated to be veterans, *Heaven Speaks to Soldiers* is a huge blessing and resource in the penitentiary system.

The Prison Ministry initiative has spread and become a global phenomenon. Booklets are mailed regularly to prisons in the United States, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Ghana, Mexico, Mozambique, Scotland, Panama, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela.

So far so good. But we know we have a lot more countries and prisons to reach ... in the United States alone there are over 500,000 prisoners!



ADOPT A PRISONER

Prisoners write to us every day in response to receiving a *Heaven Speaks to Prisoners* booklet in prison, usually with a request to receive more of the 21 booklets. In response, we sign them up for the *Adopt A Prisoner Program* where they receive three booklets in the mail each month for seven months. The cost is \$70.00 for the postage and booklets. Please consider adopting a prisoner so we can get another one of our prisoners requesting materials on the program today!

Following is one letter we received from a women's juvenile detention center when the ministry was beginning:

Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.

August 20, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

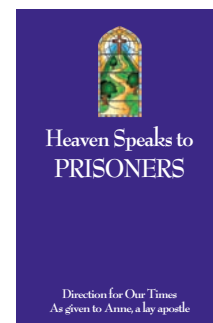
We would like to say thank you so very much for your support of our Chaplaincy programs at Ron Jackson. People like you make a huge difference in the lives of our young ladies.

Inspirational reading material, such as "Heaven Speaks to Prisoners" and all the "Heaven Speaks" are an important resource in creating positive change for the young women here. They enjoy reading and these booklets and books help them so much.

Thank you so much for your generosity to the students at Ron Johnson Juvenile Correctional Complex.

Sincerely,

Barbara McBride, Community Relations Coordinator
Allison Voss, Chaplain



PRAY



FOR OUR MISSION

Donate to the Mission



We spend around \$10,000 a year in postage. Additionally, we are running out of the booklets and need to print more.

JOIN THE PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Call the office for more information on how you can help!



The Backpack in Ireland • BY ANNIE CLARKE AND RACHEL MCCORMACK

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM IS BUILDING MOMENTUM IN IRELAND. HERE ARE A COUPLE OF EXCITING EVENTS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS:

MAY • To celebrate the successful first year of *The Backpack* parish groups, we threw a graduation party for the “Backpackers” who participated in our twelve-week programs in our diocese of Kilmore. Each Backpacker received a t-shirt and a certificate at an awards ceremony. The atmosphere was lively and vibrant and the students were all excited to come together with the members of their fellow parish groups.



JUNE • The Kilmore Diocese Backpackers got a chance to volunteer at the School of Holiness which took place from June 1 – June 24 in Cavan. Our Backpackers cheerfully carried out small tasks to help run the School of Holiness, such as cleaning the dining hall and preparing the kitchen for meals.

In addition to helping out with this work, the Backpackers worked with a leader to develop fun games and skits that complimented the daily curriculum that was being taught in the SOH. Backpackers organized fun activities such as the color run and the obstacle course. The Backpackers had their own schedule of contemplative prayer, games, gratitude exercises and class. They joined the older group for lunch and afternoon activities such as kayaking or hiking. The Backpackers’ good humor and positive energy contributed immensely to the success of SOH 2016.

JULY • *The Backpack* Leaders team dedicated its talents to the creation of a few key resources to make leading *The Backpack* program easy. A Leader’s Guide was created and we filmed short videos which capture the basic teachings presented in each of the 26 lessons of *The Backpack* workbook. By the end of the summer we were triumphantly able to announce *The Backpack* Packet. This packet is available for anybody who would like to lead a Backpack group. It includes all 26 videos on a green USB bracelet, a Leader’s Guide, a Leader’s Workbook, posters for every lesson and an article which explains the research behind the program’s creation.



AUGUST • We had a “Backpacker’s Day Out” at Dublin Zoo. Students from several parish groups reconnected after the summer.

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER • Throughout the fall *The Backpack* team attended and hosted upwards of eleven presentations, in-service training days for teachers and parish leaders, and conferences in various dioceses across Ireland. The program in our diocese has already been implemented independently in seven schools and is continuing to spread steadily. Additionally, we recently held

our first training day for parish leaders of the program. The participants, from parishes around our diocese, were eager to bring good skills and spirituality to young people. The involvement of these lay people will offer the Backpack as an invitation to healthy and thoughtful living for young people.

We are so excited about the potential of this program and the incredible impact it is having not only on the lives of the young adults we are so honored to serve, but also on the leaders and teachers who are implementing the program in their classrooms and parishes.

Bringing *The Backpack* to the Teenagers in my Parish

BY JANE GOMULKA, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

When I first saw the workbook called *The Backpack*, I thought to myself, 'Wow, I wish someone would have taught me these things when I was a teenager.' I went through the workbook page by page, drinking it all in. Then the next logical thought, as a lay apostle, hit me. 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if the young people in my parish could benefit from this program?' But how? I am not a teacher, I am not involved with curriculum decision-making at our school and I do not teach CCD. How would I ever have any input in this area? I prayed and stewed about this.

Anne's writings have been available in my parish for years. One lay apostle has sponsored a *Heaven Speaks* Booklet Display Case at the back of our church for the last two years. Thousands of booklets have been quietly distributed from this one little effort. Last year this same lay apostle obtained a quantity of Volume Ones and since then, with the permission of the pastor, he has distributed close to 1,000 copies of this book. We also just started a lay apostle prayer group.

Given that people were open to the spirituality of the apostolate, I hoped they would be open to *The Backpack*.

In the spring, I approached the principal of the grade school and gave her a copy of the workbook. I also approached the health teacher who meets weekly

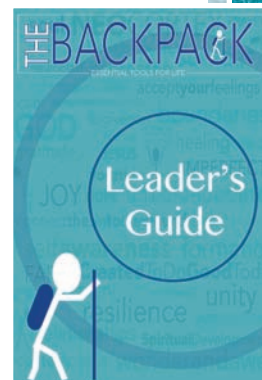
with the 8th grade students to teach health in body, mind and soul. They were both receptive. I gave them time to review the material and checked back with them a few weeks later. They were impressed with the curriculum.

Over the summer, a Leader's Guide was created which gives helpful instruction and additional resources for any person who wants to lead a group, whether it is in a classroom, a parish center or even a family room. Short videos were produced which teach the key concepts for each Lesson in the book.

In the Fall I received a copy of the Leader's Guide and the videos. I was so excited to see these additional resources. I thought to myself, 'Even I could lead this program with these resources.'

When I brought them to the attention of the school, they were ready to go. They presented the program to the Catholic Identity committee that oversees the Catholic initiatives at the school and they received full support to start the program.

I feel like the Lord wants this program made available to young people and I am so grateful that my parish is providing this to them. I guess, as a lay apostle, my job was to bring it to their attention and pray that the Lord's will be done. **I can do that!**



THE *Apostolate of the Returning King*

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LABEL

INDIA MISSION

BY SUNNY GEORGE

The seeds of the mission in Indian soil sprouted in the summer of 2011 when Fr. Darragh Connolly and Miss Nora McCarthy visited India. Dr. Luke and Dr. Leela were instrumental in spreading the messages to the people of God in India. This group travelled around Kerala, Bangalore and Calcutta, visiting several retreat centers and parishes. It was amazing to see the way God worked through these people. Hundreds of people listened to God's messages and slowly God began to intervene in their lives.

Later it was decided to work in three areas to spread the messages far and wide within the state of Kerala. Parish ministry, outreach to youth and young adults, and printing and distribution of the *Volumes* were given priority.

Parish based prayer groups are active in three parishes of Kerala. Monthly gatherings are attended by ten to thirty people.

The *Volumes* have been translated into the Malayalam language. So far 4,000 Malayalam copies of

the *Volumes* have been distributed and a little less than 2,000 English copies of the *Volumes* have been distributed. The books are distributed during retreats, conventions, and parish based prayer groups. Many give witness that the heavenly messages have helped in strengthening their faith and sacramental life. People from diverse backgrounds and belief systems find the *Volumes* bringing them new hope and joy. This could be why people constantly ask for the printed books to give away to their friends and relatives.

Annually, three retreats are conducted in the parish setting. Usually retreats are one to three days in duration. Messages and insights from the *Volumes* as well as the other works are shared and reflected. The *Volumes* are given to the retreatants as free gifts. The retreats are very well received by both young and old. In a typical retreat in a parish setting, different streams are available for kids, teens and young adults. The volunteers are mainly young adults. The support of priests and parish council members lends greatly to the success of the retreats.

Prayer Groups

There are at present eleven different prayer groups in Kerala functioning well. Out of these, three are parish based and the rest of the prayer groups are conducted in homes. Sometimes, prayer group durations may extend up to three or four hours. There is good support from the clergy. The prayer group members regularly conduct pilgrimages to major shrines and basilicas together. During the year 2015, four such pilgrimages were organized. In February 2016, there was a pilgrimage to the Sehion Retreat Center Attappady.

The DFOT mission is alive and active in India!

