

the little servants of Christ The King prayer community Sudbury, Ontario

. . . . proclaiming the power of the Holy Spirit and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

November 2017



Our Mission Statement: *"If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head by whom the whole body is fitted and joined together, every joint adding its own strength, for each separate part to work according to its function. So the body grows until it has built itself up, in love."* - Ephesians 4:15-16



Society of African Missions (SMA)

Autumn – 2017

Dear friends and benefactors,

The holidays are coming to an end and after a restful summer here we are, ready to face a new year of hard work and challenges, in the joy of sharing and of service to others.

We, the SMA Fathers had our Plenary Council meeting from the 30th of May to the 10th of June in Nairobi, the Capital of Kenya. We were about forty priests and laity representing thirty different countries of which eighteen are in Africa. The plenary Council studies the day to day situation of over 875 priests and 200 seminarians, not forgetting our lay associates and sees to it that they have the necessary means in the fulfilling of their respective duties. After that, Fr. Tiburtius, our District Superior went on an official visit to Tanzania to meet the Canadian SMA missionaries working in that country.

This summer we also received three of our confreres for holiday ministry in Montreal. Fr. Luc N'Dah, professor in our seminary in Calavi, Benin, replaced priests at St. Joseph's Oratory for a month, and gave a helping hand to the parish priest of St. Lawrence Parish all through the month of August. Fr. Lawrence Chinnappan who is the SMA Bursar for the Indian SMA District, replaced the associate parish priest at Jesus Light of the World parish in West Island for a month and a half and then did a couple of weeks of pastoral ministry at St. Joseph's Oratory. We also had Fr. Jules Adator, our Regional Superior of Togo, who gave us a helping hand in our house in Montreal for a month.

As for the projects that we have funded with your precious help since our last newsletter of Easter, here are a few of them. \$20,000 sent to Dassa, Benin, for a girls' school; \$25,000 sent to Tanzania for the MIPA catechetical Centre; and, \$15,000 of mass stipends sent for the missionaries in Tanzania for buying sewing machines for the women of the parish of Mwandoya and \$2,500 for purchase of bicycles for the catechists of the Diocese of Shinyanga. In addition, here in Canada, Fr. Tiburtius did mission preaching in two parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto for the formation of seminarians of Shinyanga. We are deeply thankful to the Providence which cares for all our needs through your constant support that is a great source of rejoicing for many poor people.

We are equally glad that these last few months quite a few new members have been added to our list of Perpetual Mass Association. We count on you to continue the mission that we are entrusted with, that is, to be at the service of the Church in Africa and of the poor outside Africa.

May we entrust the New Pastoral Year that is starting to the heavenly protection of Our Lady of Cape and of Saint Joseph, the two great patrons of Canada

Tiburtius Fernandez SMA
(Superior of the District of Canada)



FROM THE DESK OF THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FAITH: Increasing In Size Or In Significance

Faith is simply defined as a trust and belief in something or somebody. According to the Book of Hebrews, it means "being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real, even if we do not see it ... "(II:I). Essentially, it is one of the three precious gifts we receive from God. The other two gifts are the Gift of the Son of God and the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

We all would want a faith that can perform the unbelievable. We would want a faith that would be capable of challenging all the difficulties surrounding our world; a faith that is proficient in overturning every unjust reality of life.

Jesus' disciples wanted such an enormous faith when they asked Him to "increase their faith" (Luke 17:5). Jesus, instead of responding to their demand, compared their faith to a mustard seed. Although a mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds in the world, it is very significant. Regardless of its smaller size, it is rich in oil and protein and it contains unique healing properties. There are approximately 40 different species of mustard plants.

The emphasis on faith therefore is in the significance, not in the size. When it comes to faith, it is therefore not the abundance that matters. It is the substance that counts. In my opinion, God is more interested in the quality of our faith than in the quantity of our faith. As an example, mango seed is bigger in size than a mustard seed but it is not as rich as a mustard seed. We should not confuse size with significance.

Jesus is the divine Giver and the divine Sower of faith and He certainly possesses the power to increase it in size. (He can do immeasurably more than we can ask of

Him says Ephesians 3:20). However, He prefers not to do so because He isn't interested in increasing the size of our faith. He is rather interested in deepening it.

Our faith can increase in significance and not in size and the only way to do that is by putting it into action. Thus, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:17) Abraham's faith increased in significance because it was a faith that was constantly in action. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac, his son, on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by faith, was made perfect?" (James 2:21-22).

We do not need to go to the Lord to ask Him to increase our faith. A faith that wants to experience an increase must continuously be at work. Our faith will certainly increase if we become more prayerful, obedient, patient, kind, loving, forgiving and forgiven. As a body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works or actions is dead. It cannot produce a significant increase. (James 2:26)

Like a mustard seed planted in a garden, God has planted the gift of faith in our hearts. Faith, though small, can move mountains and produce miracles. If we however desire to increase our faith, then there is only one way to do it.

Put it into action!

**Our faith will certainly increase
if we become more prayerful,
obedient, patient, kind, loving,
forgiving and forgiven**

FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS, IS DEAD.

(James 2:17)

Saint Jude

Many of us have prayed at one time or another during our lives to the Saint of the impossible. I ran across this story of Saint Jude that may increase your faith in his powerful intercession before the throne of God.

According to tradition – which is our main source of information about Saint Jude – it relates to a special mission given to Jude by Jesus near the end of His earthly ministry.

King Abgar, a Mesopotamian king afflicted with a hopeless case of leprosy, had sent a messenger to Jesus from his capital in the ancient city-state of Edessa (now the city of Urfa in southeast Turkey). The messenger bore a letter from the king, declaring his belief in Jesus the Son of God, requesting a cure for his leprosy, and offering Jesus sanctuary in Edessa from the Jews who were plotting against His life.

After a trip of more than 400 miles, the king's messenger finally located Jesus walking with one of His apostles (Jude) just outside the little town of Ephraim. Bowing respectfully, he delivered **Abgar's** letter.

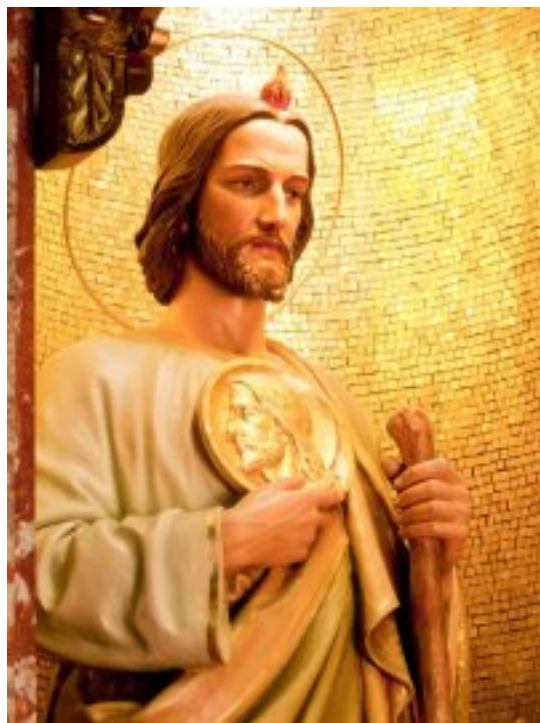
Jesus, moved with compassion, rewarded the king's faith by promising that after he had returned to His Father in Heaven, He would send His apostle Jude to cure the king's leprosy. Then, taking the messenger's linen kerchief, He pressed it to His face, imprinting His image on it, just as He would later do with Veronica's towel.

An apostle is one who "sent" to bring Christ to others, and in a very real way we are all apostles. Like Saint Jude, we too, can carry the image of Christ with us and thus be a source of hope for others in times of discouragement and despair. Through our compassion, concern, our availability, our works of mercy, others can come to see in us the reflection of Jesus, and experience His love.

By contemplating the image of Jesus in our own "Helpless" situations, we can come to see our own lives in a better perspective too, realizing that "nothing is impossible with God," and that for those who love the Lord, "all things work together unto good."

Saint Jude did indeed go to Edessa and through the image of Jesus imprinted on the linen cloth cured the king instantly – to the glory of God, Our Father.

October 28th is the feast day of Saint Jude – pray to him when your situation seems impossible – ask him to imprint the image of Jesus in your heart so that you will have faith and strength to carry your cross daily – to the glory of God, Our Father.



THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2017

NOVEMBER

Christians in Asia

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

25 WAYS TO SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS

By Eileen McCarthy; New London, CT

1. Slowly read scripture until something hits you. Then listen.
2. Say a rosary.
3. Let God look at you.
4. Tell Him something that made you happy. Then listen.
5. Tell Him what you are afraid of. Then listen.
6. Tell Him what angers you. Then listen.
7. Speak about your loved ones.
8. Pray for an enemy.
9. Talk with Him about work.
10. Sing a song for Him in your heart.
11. Promise to trust Him.
12. Imagine Mary sitting next to you and praying with you.
13. Renew your loyalty to His Church.
14. Lean on Him. Tell Him you love Him
15. Thank Him for the Sacraments.
16. Tell Him your failures. Ask for help. Then listen.
17. Slowly recite the Beatitudes.
18. Say one Our Father slowly.
19. Say one Hail Mary slowly.
20. Say the Creed slowly.
21. Pray for vocations.
22. Ask Him to show you the next step.
23. Look at yourself. Count your gifts. Thank Him.
24. Pray for the world.
25. Enjoy just being in His presence.



Come to Me

*My child I'd like to bid you
To come and rest your head
To bring me all your problems
I'll give you peace instead*

*Come and shut the door on life
and look upon My face
Share with me your troubles
and I will give you grace*

*I'm waiting in the chapel
I'm there for you each day
A quiet peaceful haven
For you to come and pray*

*So come to me My child
Come, be with Me, your Lord
Take time for Me in this life
So great is your reward.*

Rita Zimmerman
Shoreview, MN

IN MEMORIAM

We remember and pray for these members of our community who have gone home to the Lord

Anita Lyons - November 4, 1984
 Fr. Clarence Murphy - November 17, 1984
 George Fleming - November 10, 1992
 Patricia Kolosky - November 5, 1993
 Darlene Sweezey - November 26, 1993
 Fr. Brian McKee - November 15, 2000
 Aliana Violiono - November 23, 2002
 Fr. Patrick Moore - November 20, 2004
 Helen Healey - November 28, 2004
 Eli Roy - November 16, 2006
 Larry Cyr - November 19, 2006
 Ron D'Entremont - November 6, 2007
 Mary Claire O'Brien - November 24, 2007
 Marie-Anna Cecchetto - November 7, 2008
 Helen Kelly - November 9, 2008
 Peter Van Sprundel - November 21, 2009
 Helen Laliberte - November 30, 2009
 Marcel Lariviere - November 5, 2010
 Lise Gravelle-Rouleau - November 1, 2011
 Alex Plausini - November 8, 2011
 Lillian Cormier - November 15, 2011
 Lucille Levesque Bergeron - November 26, 2011
 Sr. Jeanne Castonguay, csj - November 26, 2011
 Perry D'Aoust - November 16, 2012
 Vac Coufal - November 27, 2012
 Elizabeth (Betty) Martin - November 3, 2013
 Lucienne Labre - November 18, 2013
 Alice Milks - November 20, 2014
 Margaret Manitowabi - November 21, 2014
 David Mahaffy - November 10, 2015
 Jean Fulin - November 26, 2015
 Elizabeth MacMillan - November 23, 2016

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
 Amen*

Our Lady's Rosary Today

Pope Francis gives everyone he meets a rosary. He had said, "Our Lady is always close to her children and ready to help when we pray to her, when we ask for her protection. Let us remember she is always ready to serve and never keeps anyone waiting." How lucky we are to have such a source of strength behind us. And how easy it is to hold the beads, made of wood, plastic or glass and recite the repetitive and restive prayers.

Technology is a great help if you can't get to church to pray the rosary with a community. There are apps that allow for audio versions and step-by-step instructions on how to pray the rosary. There are also many books for both children and adults that illustrate the proper order of prayer and the mysteries.

Most scholars agree the rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. In praying the rosary we see Christ's life through her eyes, the eyes of a mother and seek her help in following Him faithfully as she did.

The Rosary is a prayer both simple and profound and so it is suited to every kind of person. In praying the rosary we place ourselves in each mystery of her life and see it with her as we plumb its significance for us in our own circumstances.

The beauty of the rosary allows the faithful to slow down and truly focus on our Lord. The rosary reminds us of our Lady's love for us and her Son.





We have recently celebrated Thanksgiving Day. It is a time set aside for giving thanks to a gracious and generous God, especially for all the material gifts given to us. A time also, to give thanks for all the spiritual gifts that are bestowed upon us by the same gracious and generous God

Do you remember the Gospel message "Were not all ten made clean – where are the other nine? Is there just this Samaritan returning to give thanks?" How it must have hurt Jesus to see only this stranger coming back and giving thanks to God for being healed of leprosy. We most certainly should not wait for Thanksgiving Day in October of each year to stop and give thanks to God for all his material and spiritual gifts and graces. This should be a daily practice for all Christians to stop and give thanks to God for all He does for us!

Our gratitude should at least be as sincere as the one stranger who returned to thank Jesus for being healed. Let it not be said of us, as disciples of Jesus, that we have been found lacking in gratitude for the love and care He showers upon us daily.

Witness your thanks and gratitude (big or small) to others by bringing it forth to the CKP Group. Together we can share it with the prayer community. Our God is an awesome God, and your sharing brings blessings of hope to all of us!



NOMINATED FOR "BEST E-MAIL OF THE YEAR"

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said:

"Let me see if I've got this right....."

You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behaviour, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instil in them a love for learning.

You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride.

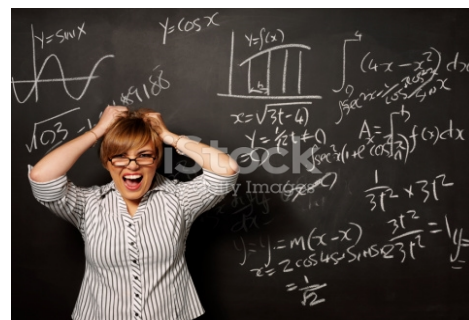
You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a chequebook, and apply for a job.

You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behaviour, and make sure that they all pass the final exams.

You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.

**You want me to do all this and
then you tell me.....I CAN'T PRAY!"**



November Birthdays



- 3 - Nicla Donnelly
- 4 - Patrice Campeau
- 6 - Gerry Shannon
- 8 - Jeannette Laforge
- 10 - Rose Marie Dureau
Eddie Loyer
Debbie Monaghan
- 13 - Marie Persechino
- 14 - Gerry Bertrand
- 16 - Leo-Paul Groulx
Vikki Tinker
- 17 - Stella Hoeg
- 18 - Pauline Houle
- 19 - Concetta Matarazzo
- 25 - Avis Boyd
- 26 - Debra Poulin
- 29 - Henry Lupien
- 30 - Mary Mancini-Felhaber

*Happy Birthday
and
God's Blessings*



"Come unto Me all you who are heavy laden
and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28)

A Message Of Thanks

Dear Brother / Sister,

I ministered in Sudbury between 2003-2006 at the University of Sudbury as a part-time professor and as the university chaplain and was actively involved in the prayer meetings of the little servants of Christ The King prayer group at Our Lady of Hope Parish. It was a great joy and privilege for me to be part of this charismatic prayer community. I have been in Vancouver since 2006.

I would like to subscribe to your newsletter, if that is possible for someone from "the outside". I received the September 2017 issue from a dear friend from Sudbury and was quite impressed with the quality and the depth of it.

Thank you kindly and please give my warmest greetings to those who knew me back then.

God bless you!

Father Gabriel O.P.

(Gabriel de Chadarévian)



A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman, "Which book has helped you most in your life?" The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book!!"

Wife: I wish I were a newspaper so I'd be in your hands all day.

Husband: I, too, wish that you were a newspaper so I could have a new one every day!

Father Jozo's visit to Sudbury - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Tuesday, August 29, 1995

9

At our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, built high on the hill overlooking the City of Sudbury, pastor, Msgr. Raymond H. Farrell celebrated Mass for approximately fourteen hundred people. One thousand people gathered in the church, and an overflow crowd of approximately four hundred more seated on the lawn outside. The church built in the shape of a boat with a huge cross at its hull, was the perfect setting for the visit of Father Jozo Zovko and his message of peace and love. The church's unique shape allowed the people (who travelled from five different dioceses from across Northern Ontario) to see and hear Father Jozo clearly as he spoke at the altar. Outside, a permanent grotto to Our Lady stands on the east side of the hilltop, about fifty yards from the church.

The evening celebration commenced at 6:30 p.m., however many people arrived by car, on foot, and by bus several hours earlier, singing and praying the rosary of Our Lady. Once the formal presentation began, Father Jozo led the meditation on the sorrowful mysteries. "Ave Maria" was sung after each decade. Father Jozo then proceeded with his presentation on Mary – "Here is Your Mother", holding the congregation's complete attention during his 105 minute talk. Mass was then celebrated by Msgr. Raymond H. Farrell, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, assisted by Father Ilija Puljic, pastor of Sveto Marko Croation Church in Sudbury. Father Puljic's brother is Bishop Zelimir Puljic, Bishop of Dubrovnik, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Both Father Ilija Puljic and his brother, Bishop Zelimir Puljic, have known Father Jozo for many years. Father Ilija Puljic assisted Father Jozo throughout the evening, joining him and Msgr. Raymond Farrell as they walked among the congregation at the conclusion of Mass, blessing them with the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance.

"The evening of prayer was a very peaceful, reverent, moving and Christ centered event" reported Msgr. Farrell. "The people are extremely grateful".

Numerous people have shared on the many graces and blessings they received. One couple, who had experienced serious marital problems for several years, reported on a reconciliation of their marriage. "Our marriage is becoming stronger each day. We are praying together for the first time in many, many years, and we thank Mary, Our Blessed Mother and Her Divine Son Jesus for working this miracle in our lives".

A man from a city outside Sudbury reported that when he saw the poster announcing Father Jozo's visit, he felt compelled to go. He had never attended anything like this before, however, arrived early and watched carefully "as an observer". He said later that he was "overawed and overwhelmed by the experience". "It wasn't until several days later that I realized that I could not get Father Jozo's words out of my mind. I felt a deep desire to come closer to God, to get to know Him and His son, Jesus. I am now praying daily, reading Scripture and attending Mass frequently. My spiritual life has grown incredibly, and I thank God for this".

A lady noticed a poster in the grocery store in a little Northern Ontario town, and she sensed she had to attend. She brought a friend with her and reported: "It was wonderful. We received so much peace. My life has become bearable again, and I thank God for this"!

Father Jozo reported to Msgr. Farrell and his organizing team, that he found the people's hearts were very open and willing to receive the messages of Our Lady. He was impressed with their warm welcome, with their attentiveness, and with their deep faith. Everyone remained until the conclusion of the evening at 11:15 p.m.

In his talk "Here Is Your Mother", Father Jozo referred often to the precious woven icon banner of Our Mother of Perpetual Help which hung on the wall beside the altar. The banner, made by a cloistered order of religious sisters in Holland has an honoured place in the church dedicated to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

The organizing team believe that Our Blessed Mother sent Father Jozo to Sudbury and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in thanksgiving for our faithfulness in adoring her Son, Jesus. November 1st, 1995 is the fifth anniversary of Perpetual Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament held in a special chapel built off the main entrance of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sudbury. Perpetual Adoration takes place twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, year round.

The Lord touched and healed His people! One person summed up the evening in this way:

"OUR BLESSED MOTHER GATHERED HER CHILDREN TOGETHER ON THE HILLTOP, SO THAT HER SON, JESUS COULD BLESS AND HEAL THEM".

As of November 1st, 2017 the Adoration Chapel will have completed 27 years!

Praise as Warfare

(Chronicles 3)



The lifting up of the hands is one of the most powerful praise ministries we have (1 Timothy 2:8) Raise them up high because you need the strength that comes from on high. Even simply standing with our hands uplifted in the presence of God is a very powerful declaration (Ex.17:11-12). Your praise permeates the room with the fragrance of God, and will change the atmosphere not only in your home, but also in your workplace and in your church. **STOP** criticizing and complaining and do some praising!

Your voice is a powerful instrument of warfare. You can bring the glory into any place in the world by your voice. Start praising and in a moment you will hear the glory of your voice. It will fill the room! (Psalm 34:1-3)

Excerpt from: "Glory – Experiencing
the Atmosphere of Heaven"
- By R.W.Ward



Purgatory and Prayer

...from the Catechism

Purgatory and prayer for the dead

Para. 1030

All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

Para. 1031

The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire (1 Cor. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:7):

As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come (Mt. 12:31). From this sentence we understand that certain offences can be forgiven in this age but certain others in the age to come.

Para. 1032

This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin" (2 Macc. 12:46). From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead, and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead:

Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them (Job 1:5) †

Exorcism, prophecy, speaking in tongues, and less spectacular abilities like teaching are critical to the Church's "rejuvenation"

Although the book of Acts does not explicitly mention Our Lady's presence at the actual descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, depictions of Pentecost almost always show Mary right alongside the Twelve. The traditional belief in Mary's presence at Pentecost, however, is much more than a simple expression of Marian piety. Rather, acknowledging Mary as being in company with the Twelve Apostles at the very moment of the Church's foundation communicates something important about the nature of the Church.

And so it is fitting that the recently published letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* ("The Church Rejuvenates") was officially signed this past Pentecost. Written on the topic of "the relationship between hierarchical and charismatic gifts in the life and the mission of the Church," *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* alludes to the deeper meaning of who was present at Pentecost and why. As *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* was officially addressed to the Church's bishops, it often makes use of some very technical theological language and concepts. Still, this should not dissuade the rest of the faithful from appreciating the profound spirituality this letter contains.

A central premise of *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* is that we can speak of the Church as having both a hierarchical and a charismatic aspect. But what does this mean?

The hierarchical element of the Church generally refers to the role and function of those in Holy Orders, who are the direct successors to the original twelve Apostles - i.e., the bishops of the Church, and the priests and deacons who assist them. These men are called to carry on the work of the Apostles in the three-fold ministry of teaching (that is, authoritatively proclaiming Catholic doctrine), sanctifying (celebrating the sacraments), and governing (administering the Church's affairs and ensuring good order within the Christian community).

On the other hand, the Church also has a charismatic dimension, which is equally important, or as *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* frequently phrases it, "coessential". The word "charism" literally means "gift". In terms of Catholic theology, charisms are special gifts of grace from God that are bestowed on individuals for the good of the Church as a whole. Just as the Twelve Apostles were the first members of the hierarchy, we can think of Mary as representing the charismatic dimension of the Church in a prototypical way, as her wholehearted response to God's extraordinary gift of grace is as much a foundation of the Church as the vocation of the Apostles.

Iuvenescit Ecclesia includes several paragraphs detailing how charisms are described in the New Testament, noting that these gifts of grace included not only highly visible gifts such as exorcism, prophecy, and speaking in tongues, but also less spectacular gifts like teaching, service, or works of mercy, which became increasingly central to the Christian community as the Church gained maturity. While the New Testament descriptions of charisms still apply to the life of the Church today, since Vatican II the word "charism" has also been used to refer to the foundational inspiration of

a religious community. Or in other words, a charism is an initial gift of grace to a founder which informs the identity, spirituality, and mission of his or her religious family. Likewise, other forms of consecrated life, as well as the new lay movements within the Church, are considered expressions of the Church's charismatic dimension.

Unlike the call to ordained ministry, charisms can be given to any member of the faithful, whether male or female. Because charisms are a direct gift from God, who grants whatever He wills to whomever He wills, the Church's charismatic aspect is often much more mysterious than the organized handing-down of the Church's hierarchical gifts in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Because of this, the Church's charismatic and hierarchical dimensions are at times mistakenly seen as being in conflict with each other. For example, in certain instances there might be an impression of the hierarchy as excessively rule-bound and closed-minded to the point of failing to appreciate the real inspirations of the Holy Spirit at work in the faithful today. Or the problem could be reversed, such as when those who feel they have received a special charism disregard the need for prudence, stability, and obedience to those whom the Lord has legitimately placed in positions of authority.

Yet the purpose of *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* is to underscore the complementarity of the Church's hierarchical and charismatic elements. Because charisms and the hierarchical gifts both find their origin in the Holy Spirit, they are meant to work together for the building up of the Church. Specifically, the hierarchy is responsible for discerning the authenticity of various charisms and guiding them toward greater fruitfulness within the wider community; and recipients of charismatic gifts are charged with bearing a convincing evangelical witness for the continual rejuvenation of the Church.

In this sense, both the "Apostolic" and the "Marian" dimensions of the Church truly support and harmonize with each other, and can be considered equally essential in our understanding of Church's identity and mission.

- Jenna M. Cooper – June 23, 2016



the little servants of Christ The King prayer community
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 Our official address is:
the little servants of Christ The King prayer community
1935 Paris Street
Box 21056
SUDBURY ON P3E 6G6



Official E-Mail Address Is:

ckprayergroup@bell.net



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