



A NEW HEART FOR A NEW WORLD



News and Spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Vol. 2—No. 4 November 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

Our nation and our families will soon celebrate Thanksgiving—a time for us to recall those things for which we are grateful. Although some experts are predicting that the recession is officially over, many people will still find it difficult to be thankful this year. Even so, we know from history and from our own experience that a time of trial or difficulty can also provide an opportunity to reevaluate our lives and our priorities.

Probably the most important area of our lives to evaluate involves our relationships: with God, with ourselves and with others. Our relationships are the place where we can usually find the most reasons to be thankful. All relationships are interconnected, and we look first at the most important one—our relationship with God. All our other relationships are affected by that one.

In order for us to experience gratitude, we have to ask ourselves: What or how is my relationship with God? If we think of God as the One who sends us suffering in order to test us, or as the One who punishes us for failure, or as the One who constantly watches us to catch us in wrongdoing, then our image of God is faulty or misplaced. True, life tests us; poor or sinful choices bring on our own or others' punishment; the effects of original sin continue to bring suffering. But these are not from God; they are from us and from the fact that we share in the human condition.

The Spirituality of the Heart, reflecting the Heart of Christ, invites us to see God as Jesus saw God. God is a forgiving, compassionate, unconditional lover. God has no need to test us or to have us prove our love. God is above all that. Perhaps we expect such things from ourselves or from others, but there is no reason to believe that God has such expectations.



When we possess the image of God that Jesus teaches us, our spiritual, mental and even physical health are affected. With a loving God as our center, we become healthier in mind and body. We find that it is easier to forgive, that there is more peace in our hearts. We are able to let go of our false expectations of others. We begin to see biases for what they are. We no longer need to get caught up in the webs and wounds of the world around us. In short, because we believe in the God of love, we are set free.

All that, of course, gives us much greater reason to be thankful! As you review the past year during this time of Thanksgiving, may you discover anew that God loves us unconditionally. We hope you will find the tips and articles in this issue helpful on your journey to wholeness and gratitude.



Happy Thanksgiving,

V. Rev. Raymond Diesbourg, MSC
Provincial Superior
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

A Message from the Office of Development

Dear Friends and Family:
We Thank God for you!

During this Thanksgiving season, we, the MSC, are thankful for our life, for the work that we are fortunate to do. We are also grateful for having food and shelter, friends and family who continue to be our most supportive and generous companions. Your commitment and contribution continues to support our foreign missions and ministries around the world and it also helps us to be more responsive to local communities in need.

It is an exciting time at the Development Office! We are happy to share with you our effort to get two community-building projects off the ground here in Aurora, IL, where our Provincial offices are located. One such project is the Giving Heart Education and Vocational Center. This is a partnership with the National Latino Education Institute (NLEI) and will be offering employment assistance and job readiness services. Other services offered will include:

- ESL (English as a Second Language) courses
- Job placement assistance
- Tutoring support for GED and Vocational Training for Students
- Mentorship training

Our other project is the Giving Heart Counseling Center which will be providing counseling services to individuals struggling with depression, anxiety, and addiction.

Since our founding in Issoudun, France, in 1854, by Fr. Jules Chevalier, we have always been dedicated to addressing the issues of social justice and human rights everywhere in the world. Today, we are witnessing many



Above: Classroom that will be used for the MSC's education and vocational training services at St. Therese of Jesus School in Aurora, IL.

issues that desperately need our attention here at home. We are blessed to have strong community partners in our effort to develop new ways of meeting the needs of our community. We believe these partnerships will allow us to serve a larger number of individuals needing help.

We have lots to do and we ask that you continue to support our efforts. If you or someone you know is interested in hearing more about our community efforts, volunteer or donation opportunities, please call the MSC Development Office at (630) 892-2371 (ext. 30).

Once again, thank you for your support. May God bless you and your family and may you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Fr. Phil De Rea, MSC
Director of Development



Fr. Phil's Ministry Highlighted in GQ Italy September Issue

Fr. Phil De Rea, MSC, Director of Development for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (USA Province), was highlighted in GQ Italy (September 2009 issue) for his involvement with the international car-racing community.

Fr. Phil is involved in IRL (Indy Racing League) Ministry and has been ministering to the racing community since 1971.



MSC Scrapbook: Celebrating The Year of the Priest



South Africa - An MSC Novice (back) of the MSC Africa Union at the Holy Family Child Care Center. The center is run by Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and cares for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS



Milwaukee, WI - Fr. Benedict Ko, MSC (right) and members of the Korean Community of St. Paul Chong Hasang at the celebration of Korean Thanksgiving



Chicago, IL - Fr. Hugo Londoño, MSC (left center) and Fr. Joseph Jablonski, MSC (right center) during the welcome Mass for members of Jornados, the St. Joseph Parish group for young adults

News from Around the Province

Updates from California

Congratulations to Fr. Earl!



On September 6, 2009, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC celebrated his 40th anniversary as an MSC priest. Fr. Earl works in Native American Ministry in Soboba, California and is involved with St. Jude Catholic School.

St. Jude Catholic School is expecting to have 30-36 students and an accreditation in the school year 2009-2010. September 16, 2009 marked the 99th year of St. Joseph Church at Soboba.

Updates from Pennsylvania

The MSC Pennsylvania Community hosted their 24th Annual Golf Benefit on September 11. Thank you to all our friends for making this event possible, despite the bad weather. Proceeds from the event are helping educate and care for our MSC priests and brothers.

Updates from Illinois

In August, Fr. Benedict Ko, MSC, began a new ministry with the Korean Community of St. Paul Chong Hasang Catholic Mission in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Fr. Ben is a Missionary of the Sacred Heart from Korea and is currently living with the MSC Community in Chicago, IL. In addition to ministry, Fr. Ben is working on his thesis for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Catholic Theological Union.

After returning from Colombia, where he lived with the MSC Community in Bogota and studied Spanish, Br. Frank Natale, MSC, began his second year of Theology at Catholic Theological Union.

MSC Spirituality



The illustration above is one of the cultural interpretations of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart found in the booklet 150 Years of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - Called by God

The young woman from Nazareth is called by God: Mary listens with her heart, dialogues, believes, because nothing is impossible to God. Then she answers God's call.

Mary, Our Lady of "Yes" to the Spirit,
may God still speak through us in our days.
Give us your heart to love tenderly,
give us your hands to share with generosity,
give us your eyes to see broadly,
give us your voice to sing our joys.

Pierre Pythoud, msc

Questions for Reflection:

1. How can I say "yes" to the Spirit in my life today?
2. Am I ready to listen to what God is calling me to do? How can I open my heart to hear His voice?

MSC Spirituality Books



The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart offer several books and booklets to support you in your journey towards healthy relationships with God, others and yourself. Order online or call us at (630) 892-2371.

Catholic Social Teaching: A Healthy Economy is A Just Economy

There are many ways to measure the health of our economy, such as stock prices, the Gross National Product, etc., but we must remember that these are only partial measurements. A truly healthy economy is a just economy, one which serves the people (and not the other way around) and enhances our life together as a community. The moral test of a society and its economy is how the weakest and most vulnerable members are faring.

The Church teaches us that working for economic justice isn't optional; it is part of who we are and what we believe. But how do we do it? Healthy choices begin at home. Setting healthy priorities help us avoid the pitfalls of unrestrained consumerism, materialism, and the "buy now-pay later" attitude. We must also teach our children

healthy attitudes and priorities. Encouraging good personal choices can help prevent destructive cycles and situations which result in additional economic pressure.

Not graduating from high school, teenage pregnancy, and high divorce rates are all factors which affect the economy, and they are frequently inter-related. For instance, high school dropouts earn less income and are more likely to become parents as teenagers, and children of unmarried teenage mothers without a high school diploma are 9 times more likely to grow up in poverty. Our efforts to raise graduation rates, promote healthy marriages, reduce teenage pregnancy, and end discrimination in the workplace can all be part of our work for economic justice.

The Year of the Priest

Pope Benedict has invited the whole Church to make this a year dedicated to remembering the ministry of priests in the life of the Church. It is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the priesthood. "The Year of the Priest" intends to give recognition to a distinctive and important ministry within the Church.

Of course, the fundamental priesthood in the Church is the priesthood of Christ which all of us who are baptized share. As the Second Vatican Council pointed out: "The baptized, by regeneration (Baptism) and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated into a spiritual house and a holy priesthood." (Lumen Gentium 10) Every priest has access to God: this is the essential note of a priest. In the Old Testament only the priests were able to enter the holiest part of the temple and to offer sacrifices. Through our union with Christ in the sacrament of Baptism, the obstacle between God and us brought about by sin is taken away. Through Baptism we all are essentially united with Christ in his priesthood.

In the celebration of the Eucharist we see clearly how the priesthood of the baptized and the ministerial priesthood come together and relate to each other. The whole community participates in the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by the ministerial priest, by their participation in prayer, singing, and their own proper ministries. Renewed and fed they go out from the Eucharist prepared to continue fulfilling their own spiritual priesthood in the world Christ has called them to make holy.

Read Fr. David Foxen's full article, *A Kingdom of Priests*, at www.faith.misacor-usa.org.

Tips for Spiritual and Emotional Growth

Gathered together by Fr. Peter Campbell, MSC

- Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.
- We don't see things the way they are; we see things the way we are.
- God can handle your doubts, anger, fear, grief, confusion and questions.
- Sin is anything that diminishes our capacity to give love or receive love.

Fr. Campbell is the cofounder of Life's Healing Journey (LHJ) retreat program. Below are some points for reflection from LHJ materials, a taste of what you can expect to explore on a retreat.

- The image we have of God shapes how we feel and think about God, others and about ourselves.
- God has wonderfully made us; he has placed within us the power to restore our internal peace after a serious loss or hurt. We call this grieving.
- When we don't move through our anger, it becomes resentment. Attachment to resentments is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die.
- You can't change your history but you can change how your history affects you.
- No one over-reacts; they are reacting to more than they are conscious of.

A Healthy Economy, continued...

On the societal level, economic decisions must be shaped by moral principles and ethical norms, bearing in mind that the economy is to serve the people and that work is meant to serve the worker. As we know all too well, when economic decisions put profits ahead of people, the results are inadequate wages, reduced benefits, fewer jobs, less job security and an unhealthy economy.

Questions for Reflection

1. What members of our society are not served by our economy? What can we do on an individual and societal level to correct this situation?
2. How can we assess our own work ethic, productivity, consumption, and lifestyles in light of the needs of a hungry world?



*Left:
Two construction workers at work*

Photo by Paul Keheler

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Volunteering With Those Who Suffer From Chemical Dependency

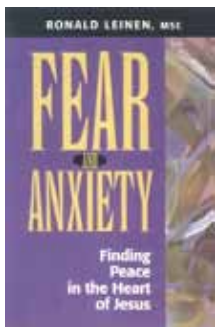
By Fr. Jean Marie Ndour, MSC

In order to complete my Master's Degree in Pastoral Counseling, I am doing an internship at Haymarket Center in Chicago, IL, which is for people who have a chemical dependency (addiction). Chemical dependency is a chronic and progressive disease which has infiltrated every level of society, and it is affecting all societies, even in Africa. Addiction leads to violence, job loss, accident, death, absence from work, immoral behavior, etc because the person is powerless. It takes control of a person, causing him/her do and think things that are inconsistent with his/her personal values and leading him/her to become progressively more compulsive and obsessive.

I think that the pastoral care behind Haymarket Center is also very much related to the therapy of 12 steps for alcohol recovery. The therapy of the 12 steps is about helping the client to find their voice, to break that overshadowing silence that leads to social isolation, anxiety, and despair. It is about learning love and compassion for ourselves and people affected by the addiction. During this time the patient begins to realize that the path of recovery starts by changing what can be changed, rather than what cannot be changed. It is the time to admit our powerlessness and believe that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity.

A sure sign of addiction is the sudden need to deceive ourselves and others - to lie, deny, and cover up. It is anything we feel tempted to lie about, anything we are not willing to give up without help. I hope to learn a lot from this center and bring my expertise back to Africa (wherever my superior sends me) to offer help and counseling to marginalized people of our society, in keeping with our Charism and the Spirituality of the Heart.

Fr. Jean Marie is a member of the MSC African Union currently studying in Chicago, IL



Is fear or anxiety affecting your life? Check out Fr. Ronald Leinen, MSC's book *Fear and Anxiety: Finding Peace in the Heart of Jesus*. A 55 page paperback, this book covers the

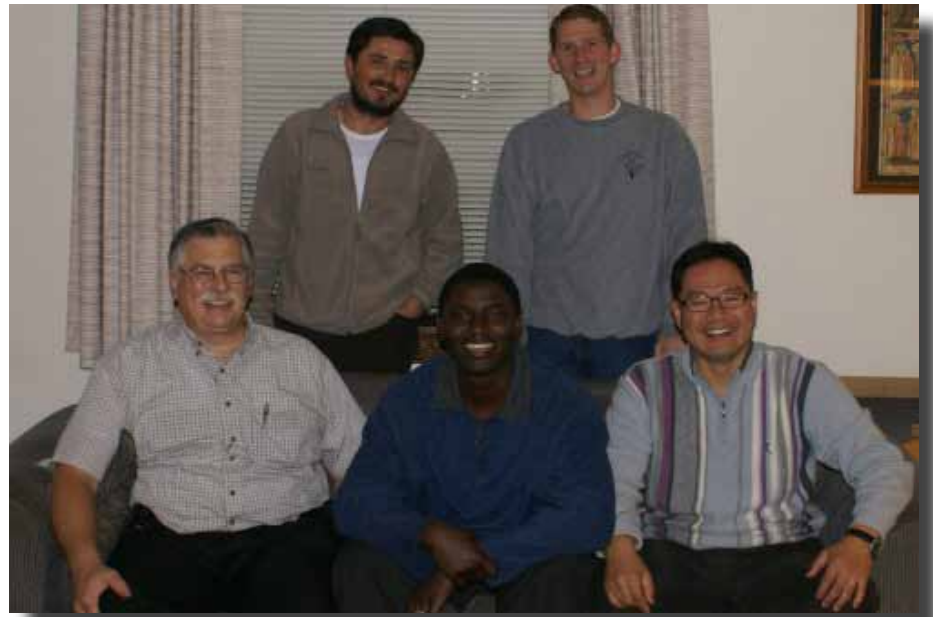
roots of fear, Twelve Step spirituality, obsession about our duties, doubts about sins, the healing of pride, true freedom and much more. Each chapter concludes with a reflection and prayer.

Cost: \$7. Order online at www.misacor-usa.org/books or call 630-892-2371

Lucky Calendar 2010

Order Forms for the 2010 Lucky Calendar are now available. If you have not received an order form and would like to, please call us at (630) 892-2371 and we will be happy to send them to you.

In order to conserve printed materials, we are now posting Lucky Calendar Winners on our website at www.misacor-usa.org. Winners are notified after the drawing. If you have questions, please call our office at (630) 892-2371.



Members of the MSC Community in Chicago, Illinois. From left to right: Fr. Andrew Torma, Fr. Jean Marie Ndour, Fr. Benedict Ko (front row) and Fr. Hugo Londoño and Br. Frank Natale (back row)

Novena Prayer Intentions

November:

That all believers in God, in all the different religions, may demonstrate that God is the bearer of peace, through the testimony of their lives and through fraternal dialogue.

December

That at Christmas the peoples of the earth may rejoice in the Word Incarnate which illumines every person and opens the way to the light of truth.

Following the Lord: A Healthy Foundation

By Fr. Andrew Torma, MSC

An essential question a person wants to answer while growing up is "What am I going to be?" The answer that a child immediately gives involves a type of work or career. This answer usually satisfies the person who asked the question. Yet, just choosing a career doesn't answer the question so that the child is orientated toward a healthy emotional and psychological life. The career is lived in the context of a calling in life, a vocation. If the person answers the question of vocation and then chooses the career then the person lives a more peaceful and healthy mental and emotional life.

In baptism, the parents express a hope that their child will accept their relationship with God as a fundamental condition in choosing a vocation. As a baptized individual one chooses to live according to the commandments of God which is summed up in the two great commandments, love God and your neighbor as yourself. The choice of my vocation is the context of my life by which I will fulfill these conditions of my covenant life with Jesus. We have four ways of life to choose from: Sacrament of Marriage which includes vows, Ordination which includes promises, Single life and Vowed Religious life. Some of these vocations can include each other, but one must choose through discernment of God's will. This discernment will help a person live a healthy emotional and psychological life.

When a person by-passes the process of discerning God's will she or he does not have the benefit of the grace of baptism to help in his or her life. The vocation is the personal choice fulfilling the discipleship of Jesus Christ. Jesus desires to journey with us through our life but we need to make ourselves available to him. Jesus put his life into the context of the mission he had from the Father.

True discernment helps to clarify the situation. When a person functions from a place of dysfunction, the

decision is influenced by the conditional response developed from a dysfunctional foundation. If marriage is the choice, the influence of society and the drive for personal need can lead a person to choices that could conform to unreal expectations. The joy of life is confused with pleasure or success. The choice of marriage could be proper but the particular person could be wrong. Or the choice of commitment to serving the church could be right but the manner of living the choice could be wrong. In the example of religious life, the person who wants to be a priest but can't live in community needs to clarify his vocational choice.



"Since we know from St. Paul 1 Corinthians 12 that we are all members of Christ's body, the body that is 'anointed/appointed' to work for the well-being of the poor and downtrodden, we can look at ourselves in relation to the other members of the body to see what kind of member we are and how we are to function. A baptized person called to be a

hand should make sure that it is attached to a wrist and not try to be attached to an ankle as a foot would be. Spiritual directors or counselors can help us know who we really are so that we make the right attachments for our authentic self, not those that might be desired by our inauthentic self or by our peers or relatives or the world at large. When we know who we really are, we can then choose the proper vocation, knowing in faith that God has picked that particular life for us, God has also guaranteed the graces necessary to live it.

In conclusion we can remember the words of St. Irenaeus: "The glory of God is the human person fully alive." And we are fully alive when we confidently take our place in Christ's body, whatever that place may be!" *Dr. Joseph Torma*

Fr. Andrew is the Vocation Director for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.



A New Heart for a New World

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