

Leixlip and Confey
Parish Cells of Evangelization



NEWSLETTER



The Old Testament assures us that God is continually at work 'making all things new'.

How much more then did Jesus make all things new and bring a 'newness', which was experienced as new life as well as a challenge to the people of his own day.

In our time of unique opportunities and questions, Jesus continues to make all things new. Our first task as disciples is to be inspired by the newness he brings and to rely on his presence, wisdom and direction. This is then normally followed with an impulse to 'launch out into the deep' (Luke 5:4), and reveal love for the people we meet in seeking to tell them about Him whom we know as bringing us good news that enrich us.

I want to congratulate Dan Kelly for this newsletter. May it be the first of many in reminding us of the new things that Jesus is doing through the parish cell system of evangelization.

Fr. Michael Hurley



21st International Seminar Don PiGi's Address



No reason to hesitate

Dearest brothers and sisters,

23 years have past since the Lord inspired us towards the cells of evangelization. They have been years of hope and joy: we could not believe that our experience would become an experience shared by the whole Church.

On the 29th May 2009, we received a very important sign from the Lord: not only does the Church approve of this experience of ours, but it also makes it her own and presents it to the whole world. From now on, there is no reason to hesitate. This is similar to what we are told in the Acts of the Apostles, concerning the Church after the ascension of Jesus. It represents the triumph of humanity in Christ, because Jesus as a man, by His resurrection, carries all mankind along with Himself; this is the definitive and ultimate truth for those who believed in Him, yesterday, today and forever.

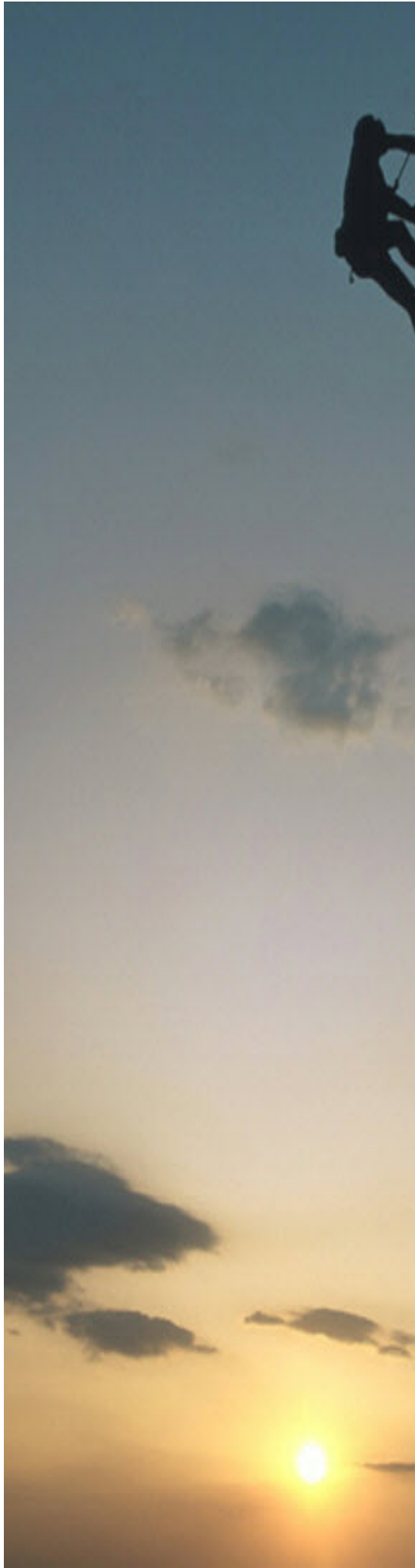
We were created by God's hands and our aim is the same as the glorious Christ's, ascended to the right hand of the Father. "*The Lord Jesus, after talking to them, was taken up to heaven and sat at the right hand of the Father*" In a few words, Mark the evangelist breaks the news of the ascension of the Lord into heaven. No description of the event; Mark, according to his own sober and essential style, encloses the event within only two expressions; "*was taken up to heaven*", and "*sat at the right hand of the Father*" The mission of the Son of God is accomplished, and his visible presence among humankind too: *Jesus goes back to the Father.*

The final part of the Gospel according to Mark, presents us with the apparitions of the Risen Lord, the Great Missionary Mandate and the Church's answer to the mission commandment.

Today, like then, we can understand the mystery of the Christian way; when the Gospel comes to an end, a new page of the history of the Church, of our own history, begins; in Jerusalem, with the ascension of Jesus into heaven, His human vicissitude comes to an end; from Jerusalem starts a new way, not Jesus only, but His own along with the one of His body, the Church.

The Master had anticipated that in his long farewell speech, during the last supper with His dear ones; Jesus told them: "*My children, I shall not be with you very much longer. You will look for me, but you cannot go where I am going*" [John 13,33]; Jesus as a man was to leave the scene of this world in order to go back to where He had come from; to the fulness of God, where the sight of mankind cannot reach.





So, the time of the Church is the time of evangelization;

a strong missionary tension goes through the whole book of The Acts of the Apostles, in the awareness that Jesus is the only Saviour of the whole of mankind. A divine frenzy gets hold of all the Apostles and - as it happened to us too at the beginning - they start moving in all directions and take any chance to announce that Jesus means salvation for the whole person and for the whole of mankind; that Jesus has risen from death and has defeated it.

Therefore, the mission of evangelization is universal, and The Book of Acts shows how salvation starts running through the Roman Empire, from Jerusalem to Rome and gradually throughout the known world at that time. Our community has realized all this when the Lord, as to confirm the way undertaken, has given us the Pontifical acknowledgment.

With the starting of our experience, twenty three years ago, the time of Jesus' new presence opens up, through the work and action of the cells, within the Church: it is up to us, today, to be His limbs, acting in the same way as the Master's, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God; nowadays we have to be His witnesses and the announcers of the saving, liberating, enlightening and healing Gospel.

"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation" This is the commitment of an industrious love, of an active charity, open to all, without any discrimination; it is the vow of the holy Church, of whom we are the living limbs; of that same Church who is a mother and takes care of humanity, heals any wounds of the body and of the spirit; meets every need, welcomes, comforts, corrects and points to the secure way, the one in the footsteps of Christ the Redeemer, the only way of salvation, offering all this, today, through the cells.

"Then they went forth and preached everywhere...": through these words, Mark, the evangelist offers us a precious indication: the ascension of Christ is definitively a great event that offers our hearts the unlimited spaces of contemplation. This contemplation, if genuine, is not a way for us to escape from the commitments implied by our faith in Jesus; on the contrary, we too, as the Eleven, are invited - and we rejoice for that - to fix our gaze on the Lord, fully glorified, sitting by the Father. But somebody, to us as to them, says: "Why are you looking into the sky?"

Hence, the concreteness of the proposal of the Spirit: keep your feet on the ground, cooperate with your own cell and build up the kingdom of God here and now.

Sister, brother, today it is your turn, yours and of all of us; be faithful and industrious disciples, ever ready to announce the Gospel, the Good News:

- Good News since the unlimited aspirations of the human heart find an answer and a meaning in it;

- Good News because it liberates and drags a person away from idols and from those worldly powers degrading souls

- Good News because it pulls humanity away from the death catch, by offering them a hope that becomes a certainty beyond death;



- Good News regarding the costless love of Christ for "you": He gave up His life for you, He has risen to save you and to give you the task to break this Good News to all.

Now, more than ever before, the call of Jesus echoes: be a missionary and an evangelizer, testify, through your words and deeds, your belief that this same risen Jesus works through you.

The mandate assigned by Christ Jesus to the apostles is not limited to the first disciples, but it concerns each and everyone of us.

Thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to carry the announcement of the Lord to all corners of the earth and to incarnate the Gospel in every circumstance of our life. Let us call upon the gift of the Holy Spirit every day, in order to be "my witnesses to the ends of the earth".

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make a room in his home. The Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I have told you" (John 14, 24-26).

May this seminar, supported by the action of the Holy Spirit within us, help us to rediscover the joy of our call to evangelization, to give back hope to our world which, deprived of the gift of faith as it is, may realize that the living water, satisfying all expectation and hope, is available for it: it is Jesus, your personal Savior.

Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ

