

Light of the World News

Light of the World Evangelization Process

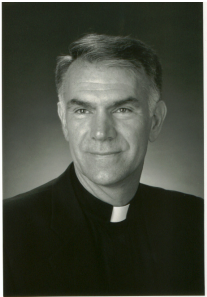


Spring, 2009

Vision Statement

Our vision is that the Light of the World Evangelization Process will help all people to have a living encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. This will be lived out in an evangelizing parish using the Light of the World Process, beginning with a renewal of the Sacraments of Initiation and discipleship in Small Community. This process reaches out to all people, from the new faith seeker to the most faith-filled disciple, and helps them to become active servants of God. Those awakened in their faith become the inviters to others to come closer to Christ.

A Message from Monsignor Dan Hermes



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I love thinking about the early Church, those first generations of Christians – not only because they were the most incredible evangelizers in history (the entire Mediterranean basin by 65 A.D.!), but also because they turned all the supposed “setbacks” into new opportunities to live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

For example, James the Apostle, head of the community in Jerusalem, is killed – the first of the Apostles to die. As a result, the Apostles and Disciples fan out to cities all around the Mediterranean, and the Gospel is spread. And in 70 A.D., when Rome completely wipes out Jerusalem and the Nation, Christianity survives because so many Christians had already left Jerusalem and were in other countries.

In much the same way, we are called to see and to use modern day “setbacks” as opportunities to bring Jesus Christ and His saving truths to our world today. For example, we are in a serious, major Recession right now; people are out of work, or in a job but worried; everyone is cutting back. What would Jesus say to this? What would be His Good News that we can bring to this situation?

I know your answers to that question are clearer and better than mine, and I think the more we put those two realities together (the Recession and Jesus Christ), the better our answers will become, but certainly we can live and proclaim that:

1. Our hope lies in Jesus Christ, not in the changing circumstances of our world;
2. That our God is Emmanuel, the God who will never leave us, who is with us in good times and bad;
3. That all earthly treasures are passing; only God abides; and
4. That all the really precious things are still here – family & loved ones, our lives, our faith; the simple gifts that our Father gives us, and His Son, Jesus Christ!

You get the idea....what is the Holy Spirit saying in your heart about seeing Jesus in our current economic mess, and drawing even closer to Him throughout it? There is no “season”, no human event, of which our God is not a part. There is no time in our life, or our Nation’s life, where I can truthfully say, “I can’t get close to God right now”, or “Jesus doesn’t have anything to say about or do with this.” EVERY time in human history is an opportunity for Jesus Christ. Let us be His instruments in bringing His presence, His wisdom, and His hope to this time we are living in right now!

Sincerely, in our Lord Emmanuel,
Msgr. Dan Hermes



Director's Report – Mike & Lori Pacer

Dear Light of the World Family,

This certainly is an exciting time for LOTWEM – new parishes, new dioceses and a new country! During this “year” (the LOTWEM year runs from July 1 to June 30), the LOTW Process will be introduced into a minimum of nine new parishes, and maybe as many as 12. Praise God! Joining the LOTWEM family are three (and maybe several more) Australian parishes in the Diocese of Broken Bay, New South Wales, five parishes in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, and a new parish in the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois.

This awesome movement of LOTWEM is the result of many factors. First and foremost is *your* prayer. The prayer and supplications of the entire LOTWEM family is the life-blood of this ministry. The actions by the Staff, Board and volunteers would bear little fruit if not supported by your daily offering of your life to God for His work. Thank you, God bless you, and *please* keep it up!!!

Another factor in this movement is the generous gift of time and talent by so many people. LOTWEM owes its presence in Australia to Fr. Rex Curry, Bishop David Walker, Ann Maree Whenman, Sue Berg, Kathy Gray and so many others in Australia who worked (and continue to work) tirelessly towards

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Director's Report – Continued...

the implementation of LOTW in the Diocese of Broken Bay; to Dr. Robert Walker, Martha Drennan, and the parishioners of Incarnation Parish, Collierville, TN, who first hosted Father, Sue and Kathy; and to Mary George, Linda & Dennis McDonald, our first Australian Evangelizers.

LOTWEM owes its presence in the Archdiocese of Kansas City to the vision and hard work of Matt Carr and all those who have and will help him, and to Dick Lieb (St. Peter Parish, Lincoln, NE) who presented at the Information Day.

The beginning of LOTW at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Aurora, IL, is the result of the vision and hard work of Fr. Engbarth, his staff and parishioners, as well as Mary George, Dr. Mark and Joanne Bernhard, Luis Patino, Abel and Magdalena Rojas, Hector Vitela, Socorro Salazar and all of the team (Spanish and English) from St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL, who will be presenting the leadership retreat.

The last factor in this movement is the largest – all of the volunteers of LOTWEM, everywhere. The efforts of the LOTWEM Board of Directors and Core Team, as well as every evangelizing effort of every member of our “family” build up, inspire and facilitate every future movement of LOTWEM. To ALL OF YOU we say, “Thank you! You are awesome!”



Evangelization & the End of Mass

The Vatican has prepared three alternative endings for the priest's words of dismissal at Mass. After a two-year study, Pope Benedict XVI personally chose the following three options from suggestions presented to him:

1. "*Ite ad Evangelium Domini annuntiandum*"
(Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord).
2. "*Ite in pace, glorificando vita vestra Dominum*"
(Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life).
3. "*Ite in pace*" (Go in peace).

In an interview with the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Cardinal Francis Arinze, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said the idea for alternative words at the end of Mass was raised at the 2005 Synod of Bishops

on the Eucharist. Many bishops wanted the final words to reflect a more explicit connection between Mass and the Church's mission of evangelization in the world. Cardinal Arinze said the concern was that, for many Catholics, the present words of dismissal sounded like, "The Mass is ended, go and rest." The three alternatives were published in October in the latest edition of the Roman Missal, along with "Ite, missa est," which has not been abolished.

The first two of these options capture explicitly the “soul” of LOTWEM. We are called not merely to receive, but to give. We come to the Sacraments to be filled by the Holy Spirit; then we go and live the missionary mandate of Christ. We are called daily to go forth and announce the Good News, both through our lives and with our words. Regardless of the particular words spoken by the priest, the message is the same.....**Go! Announce! Glorify!**

[Sources: Zenit.org (10-14-08) and *The Catholic Weekly* (10-26-08)]



LOTW Retreat in Pittwater Parish, Diocese of Broken Bay

By Sue Berg, Retreat Coordinator,
Pittwater Parish, NSW Australia

In April 2007, Fr. Rex Curry, Kathy Gray and I visited the U.S. to attend and learn about the LOTW Retreat. We were warmly welcomed by the LOTW family of Incarnation Parish, Collierville, TN. It was a wonderful experience with real potential for our Parish and indeed the entire Diocese of Broken Bay.

There has been much “behind the scenes” work since then with the result that Bishop David Walker has accepted and welcomed LOTW to the Diocese. A large number of Parishes have agreed to run the program. On the weekend of October 17-19th, close to 40 parishioners attended the LOTW Retreat at Pittwater Parish.

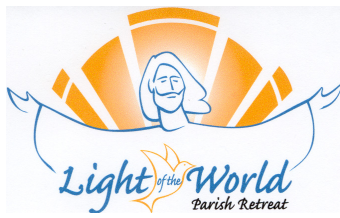
Mike Pacer, Linda & Dennis McDonald, and Mary George from the U.S., convened the retreat. Ann Maree Whenman, from the

Bishop's Office, was present to represent the Bishop.

The weekend was outstanding! Parishioners were truly touched by the Holy Spirit as they were given the opportunity to renew their Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, many people experienced a true “conversion of the heart”, making Jesus “the Lord of their Life.” A big thanks to Father Rex Curry for bringing the LOTW process to our Parish and the Diocese!

After this first retreat, Father Rex, Kathy Grey and I, then assisted the next Australian LOTW Retreat, held at The Entrance Parish on October 24-26th. Parishioners from The Entrance were joined by representatives from Terrigal, Kincumber and Toukley Parishes.

Supported by Bishop David Walker, LOTW is alive in Broken Bay and will be available in Pittwater Parish, The Entrance Parish, and Terrigal Parish during Lent 2009. Please pray for us!



The LOTWEM Website...

www.lotwem.org

Over the past several years, the LOTWEM website has undergone several major changes. It began as a private site to be used for information and material orders by those parishes that had already begun the LOTW Process. The website was then expanded to include a great deal of information about the process and was opened for general viewing. The third stage of the LOTWEM website (its current form) includes general information about the Process, regularly changing news items, reflections and prayer intentions. Materials may also be ordered through the website.

Given the growth of the LOTW family and the increasing number of “visits” to the site, it is now time to move the website forward to better feed all visitors. After eliciting feedback from members of our LOTW family, the following areas have been identified for expansion/improvement:

[Testimonies/Witnesses](#)

The personal encounter with the Risen Lord is best represented to others in the form of a personal story of encounter/conversion. So many people have voiced a desire to read more such stories for their own personal edification and to share with others the power of the LOTW Process. It would be awesome to receive short personal stories and post them on the website. Wouldn't it be nice to post a new one every month...or even every week?!

[Small Faith Community \(SFC\) Corner](#)

For the past several years, we have received many requests to have this feature on the website. The goal would be to feature stories and pictures submitted by SFCs across the U.S. (& Australia). It would be great to read stories of community life, outreach, service to others, etc. – successes and “challenges.” We would also like to post “reviews” of SFC materials, especially endorsements of materials that worked well and how those materials were successfully facilitated in the community.

[Prayer Requests](#)

We currently post prayer requests on the website, but intend to expand this feature and update these more frequently. We cannot handle every prayer intention of every member of the LOTWEM family. However, significant illnesses of Priests, Coordinators, Retreat Team members and their families, etc. are appropriate.

[Catholic Links](#)

It is not LOTWEM's particular charism to promote every good Catholic site on the web. It might, however, be useful to provide a limited number of links. These might include links to individual LOTW parishes. They might also include others such as the USCCB, Vatican, Zenit (Vatican news agency), etc.

In order to improve the website through the inclusion of these stories, prayers, etc., **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**



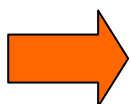
First, we need a few volunteers to receive, review and edit these materials.



Second, we could use some help with “posting” (someone who is comfortable with learning fairly simple self-directed web design).



Third, we need all of you to start submitting materials!



Please submit witness/testimony stories to Suzie McGinn at jmcginn@mc.net.

In order to submit other items, or to inquire about volunteering to help with these efforts, please contact Mike Pacer at mpacer@lotwem.org.

Please prayerfully consider helping us in these endeavors! Thank You!