

**Bulletin # 102656**

**Our Lady of Fatima  
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**Attn: Carol Smith**

**MESSAGES:**

# Fatima Mirror

A weekly publication for the education and edification of parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Fatima Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. is the diocesan bishop. Father J.D. Zatalava, M.Div. is the pastor. Parishioners worship in the church building named after Saint Leo the Great, 2000 12th Ave. 16601. 814-942-0371.



## CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH DOCTRINAL NOTE ON SOME ASPECTS OF EVANGELIZATION

### V. Conclusion

The Church's commitment to evangelization can never be lacking, since according to his own promise, the presence of the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit will never be absent from her: "I am with you always, even until the end of the world" (Mt 28:20). The relativism and [false] irenicism prevalent today in the area of religion are not valid reasons for failing to respond to the difficult, but awe-inspiring commitment which belongs to the nature of the Church herself and is indeed the Church's "primary task". "Caritas Christi urget nos – the love of Christ impels us" (2 Cor 5:14): the lives of innumerable Catholics bear witness to this truth. Throughout the entire history of the Church, people motivated by the love of Jesus have undertaken initiatives and works of every kind in order to proclaim the Gospel to the entire world and in all sectors of society, as a perennial reminder and invitation to every Christian generation to fulfill with generosity the mandate of Christ. Therefore, as Pope Benedict XVI recalls, "the proclamation of and witness to the Gospel are the first service that Christians can render to every person and to the entire human race, called as they are to communicate to all God's love, which was fully manifested in Jesus Christ, the one Redeemer of the world". The love which comes from God unites us to him and "makes us a 'we' which transcends divisions and makes us one.

**SAVE OUR PARISH**

**Your fellow parishioners invite you to:  
MAKE THE WEEKLY PARISH EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR EACH SUNDAY AT 9:50 AM**

**CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH  
DOCTRINAL NOTE ON SOME ASPECTS OF EVANGELIZATION**

There is today a growing confusion which leads many to leave the missionary command of the Lord unheard and ineffective (cf. Mt 28:19). Today, with ever-increasing frequency, questions are being raised about the legitimacy of presenting to others – so that they might in turn accept it – that which is held to be true for oneself. Often this is seen as an infringement of other people's freedom. Such a vision of human freedom, separated from its integral reference to truth, is one of the expressions “of that relativism which, recognizing nothing as definitive, leaves as the ultimate criterion only the self with its desires and under the semblance of freedom, becomes a prison for each one”. In the various forms of agnosticism and relativism present in contemporary thought, “a legitimate plurality of positions has yielded to an undifferentiated pluralism, based upon the assumption that all positions are equally valid, which is one of today's most widespread symptoms of the lack of confidence in truth.

In this connection, when it comes to the search for truth, whoever trusts only in his own individual efforts and does not recognize the need for help from others, is deceiving himself. The need to trust in the knowledge handed on by one's culture or acquired by others, enriches a person with truths that could not have been attained on one's own. Spiritual individualism isolates a person, hindering him from opening in trust to others and jeopardizes the right to manifest one's own convictions and opinions in society.

It is indeed the Holy Spirit who, after having been operative in the incarnation of Jesus Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, animates the maternal action of the Church in the evangelization of cultures. Although the Gospel is independent from any culture, it is capable of infusing all cultures, while never allowing itself to be subservient to them.

This is why Saint Paul does not hesitate to describe conversion to the Christian faith as liberation “from the power of darkness” and entrance into “the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of our sins” (Col 1:13-14). Therefore, fully belonging to Christ, who is the Truth, and entering the Church do not lessen human freedom, but rather exalt it and direct it towards its fulfillment. It is an inestimable benefit to live within the universal embrace of the friends of God which flows from communion in the life-giving flesh of his Son, to receive from him the certainty of forgiveness of sins.

The primary motive of evangelization is the love of Christ for the eternal salvation of all. The sole desire of authentic evangelizers is to bestow freely what they themselves have freely received: “From the very origins of the Church, the disciples of Christ strove to convert men to faith in Christ the

Lord by the power of the word of God". The mission of the Apostles and its continuation in the mission of the early Church remain the foundational model of evangelization for all time.

Since the day of Pentecost, one who fully accepts the faith is incorporated into the community of believers: "those who received his word [Peter's] were baptized and that day about three thousand people were added to them" (Acts 2:41). Since the beginning, the Gospel, in the power of the Spirit, is proclaimed to all people so that they might believe and become Disciples of Christ and members of his Church. In the writings of the Fathers of the Church, there are constant exhortations to fulfill the mission entrusted by Christ to his disciples.

**The Christian spirit has always been animated by a passion to lead all humanity to Christ in the Church. The incorporation of new members into the Church is not the expansion of a power-group, but rather entrance into the network of friendship with Christ which connects heaven and earth, different continents and ages. It is entrance into the gift of communion with Christ, which is "new life" enlivened by charity and the commitment to justice. The Church is the instrument, "the seed and the beginning" of the Kingdom of God; she is not a political utopia. She is already the presence of God in history and she carries in herself the true future, she is a necessary presence, because only God can bring authentic peace and justice to the world. The Kingdom of God is not – as some maintain today – a generic reality above all religious experiences and traditions, to which they tend as a universal and indistinct communion of all those who seek God, but it is a person with a name and a face: Jesus of Nazareth, the image of the unseen God. Therefore, every free movement of the human heart towards God and towards his kingdom cannot but by its very nature lead to Christ and be oriented towards entrance into his Church. The Church, therefore, is the bearer of the presence of God and thus the instrument of the true humanization of man and the world. The growth of the Church in history, which results from missionary activity, is at the service of the presence of God through his Kingdom: one cannot in fact "detach the Kingdom from the Church".**

However, the Church's "missionary proclamation is endangered today by relativistic theories which seek to justify religious pluralism, not only de facto but also de iure (or in principle)". For a long time, the reason for evangelization has not been clear to many among the Catholic faithful.

*Excerpts Taken from: L'Osservatore Romano Weekly Edition in English (L'Osservatore Romano is the newspaper of the Holy See.)*

### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR January 7 - 13, 2008**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>01/07</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	<b>John Highdich, Linda &amp; Minor Shapiro</b>	<i>Raymond of Peñafot, priest</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>01/08</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	<b>Margaret Griffin, Shannon Jones</b>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>01/09</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	<b>Frank Casamento, Shannon Jones</b>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>01/10</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	<b>Raymond F. McCall, Family</b>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>01/11</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	<b>Walter Bieniek, Bob &amp; Maryann Zakrzwski</b>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>01/12</b>	<b>04:30 PM</b>	<b>Mary F. McCloskey, M/M Bear McCloskey</b>	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>01/13</b>	<b>09:00 AM</b>	<b>Mary Wozniak, M/M Louis Miller</b>	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>01/13</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Genevieve Vaccaro, Ronnie G. Mary Z.</b>	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>