



# Newsletter

*"Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation"*

-CCC § 1816

**Vol. 1, Issue 1, October 2006**

## *Miles Jesu*

Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged when it seems that so little is being done by so few about the evangelization of our secular society. On the other hand, there are countless individuals and groups quietly working without fanfare or worldly recognition who are daily on the front lines for Christ; men and women who have a burning desire to win souls.

One such little known group, Miles Jesu (Latin for "Soldier of Jesus"), has been laboring in the vineyard for over 40 years. Miles Jesu is an International Catholic Institute for the laity, loyal to the Magisterium of the Church and with ecclesiastical approval in 29 foundations in 15 countries spanning 4 continents. Miles Jesu also has 7 bishop members in America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The purpose of Miles Jesu is "to instill Catholic ideals and goals in the world to further the Kingdom of Christ, making Him the Center of all human life". The Holy Father himself is consistently promoting such forms of consecrated life as something especially inspired by the Holy Spirit for the needs of our times. Miles Jesu works to promote unity and harmony in the Church by spreading the teachings of the Vicar of Christ.

Miles Jesu is a faith family whose membership includes men and women; laity and priests; celibate, married, widowed and single people, all united together as a large family under one General Director. Miles Jesu adapts itself to the vocation each one has received from Jesus and helps each one to be faithful to that vocation. Although there are priest and bishop members of Miles Jesu, the lay members comprise the vast majority of overall membership (more than 90%). Miles Jesu, then, is not a Third Order, that is, a lay addition to an existing religious congregation. Nor is Miles Jesu a religious congregation.

Vinculum members are the married or single members without the commitment of celibacy. Vinculum, Latin for "bond," describes the unity in purpose, in spirit, in charity, in prayer, and in action that all the members of Miles Jesu have in Christianizing the secular world. The stronger the bond, the more effective Miles Jesu becomes, spiritually and apostolically, as an instrument at the total service of the Church.

A domus member is any consecrated celibate member. Most of our celibate (or domus) members live in common in separate houses for men and women. As we begin the Third

Millennium there are some 30 Domus communities spread over 13 countries on four continents.

Because we all belong equally to the same faith family, there are no first-class or second-class members of Miles Jesu. The vinculum members respond directly to the General Government as do the domus members.

What all the members of Miles Jesu have in common is:

1. An unwavering loyalty to the Holy Father and the Magisterium of the Church in faith and morals. Miles Jesu is neither "conservative" nor "liberal." We are simply Catholic,
2. A thirst for holiness in a spirit of availability, each one according to his or her own state of life;
3. A strong devotion and reverence for Our Eucharistic Lord;
4. A tender and loving devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
5. A clear understanding and practice of true lay spirituality and apostolate in temporal affairs and ordering them to the plan of God" (LG, 31).

Although the primary apostolate is that each member has to live out his Catholic ideals in his personal, family, professional, and social life, there are various special and important apostolates that are carried out by Miles Jesu members as a unified force. These apostolates include: printing and distributing Catholic "tracts" and other Catholic literature, feeding and clothing the poor and homeless, establishing Boys' Towns and Girls' Towns, establishing Boys' Schools and Girls' Schools, promoting the Unity of all Christians, Promoting the Cause of Queen Isabel, promoting respect for life, promoting devotion and reverence to the Blessed Sacrament, promoting culture and true history, promoting a Catholic ecology movement, promoting a Catholic Professionals' Society, and promoting vocations to Miles Jesu, to name a few.

Each person is a living responsible member and commits himself or herself according to his own capacity. As our Constitutions say, *"Any human institution can only be built on unconditional and perpetual dedication. Those members who have it are the backbone of it and the ones who get the most benefits."*

The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, called Miles Jesu 'soldiers'... the front-line soldiers who are essential in bringing the Catholic faith and Christ to the world. Miles Jesu brings Christ to the poor by meeting both their bodily and spiritual needs. Some of the apostolic activities Miles Jesu is involved with are:

- Formation for Catholic Families (Vinculum)
- Activities for Youth and Retreats
- Summer Camp for Girls
- Summer Camp for Boys
- Epiphany Medical Missions
- Men's Retreats
- Discernment Retreats for Young Women
- Path to Rome Conferences
- Miles Jesu International Monthly Magazine
- Catholic Literature
- Catholic Evangelization (Miles Jesu Golden Tracts)
- Soup Kitchens
- Boys' Towns and Girls' Towns
- Little Angels Program (Miles Jesu members in India

feed, clothe and educate the poor slum children of Mumbai)

- Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament

For more membership or vocation information about Miles Jesu go to: <http://www.milesjesu.com/>

## ***I thought and thought and came up with the following idea for evangelization.***



*The Thinker by Rodan*

## ***“Evangelization tip of the Month.”***

One of our members from Rhode Island sent the following suggestion:

I am an 84-year-old woman living in Rhode Island. Although I want to share the message of Jesus find it very difficult do so as I am home-bound and have to use a wheelchair to get around. This idea has worked out quite well.

I opened a post office box, and placed the following advertisement in the local newspaper in the Personals column. “Would you like to know the truth about Catholicism? If so, send a self addressed stamped envelope to PO Box ---- and you will receive information by return mail.”

My husband collects the responses from the Post Office every Saturday morning. I then send them the pamphlet “*Coming Home to the Catholic Church*” from the Society’s website. Then I continue to send information twice per month for 3 months (I pay the postage). Along with the last pamphlet, which explains the RCIA program, I send the contact number for my pastor and invite them to call him.

This is inexpensive and allows me total privacy. Only my parish priest knows that I am the one doing this. On occasion, I receive questions and send additional pamphlets, and once in

a while I get a nasty letter. I pray for all the people who write to me, especially the ones who are rude.

-Mary from Rhode Island

Thank you, Mary, for sharing your efforts with us. You prove that where there is a will there is a way. Keep up the good work.

We welcome ideas and suggestions from the membership at large. If you have a success story or an evangelization idea that you would like to share with our membership, please E-mail us at [pjpiisoe@earthlink.net](mailto:pjpiisoe@earthlink.net). We can all profit from your ideas and experiences.

## ***St. Augustine on the effects of (T.V. and Movie) Violence***

“Spectators naturally assume that if it is all right for them to see (violence or obscenity) represented on the stage, then it is also all right for them to act that way in their private lives.”

-St. Augustine, *City of God*, Book II, 27.

Writing of the effect on viewers of the bloody Sports in the Amphitheaters and Circuses.

## ***Honest Abe***

One day a group of people visited Abraham Lincoln. The topic of discussion was something that had been causing them difficulty. Suppositions rather than facts were the basis of their arguments. After he had been listening for a while, Lincoln posed a question: “How many legs would a dog have if you called its tail a leg?” “Five,” was the answer. “No,” Lincoln replied. “It wouldn’t. It would only have four. If you call a tail a leg, it doesn’t make it one.”

Many evangelists will certainly relate to the answer given by President Lincoln.

One day I noticed a woman walking back and forth in front of me Catholic store. After a few minutes she burst in and said, “You’re in the whore of Babylon, and if you don’t come out of the Catholic Church you are going to rot in hell-fire.”

Naturally, I was taken aback by her outburst. After I got over the initial shock, I had to control myself to keep from laughing. I then asked, “What is it about Catholicism that you find so bothersome?” She replied, “Look around you, you worship statues and that’s idolatry.”

“Well,” I said, “It would be idolatry if Catholics actually worshipped statues. There are over one billion Catholics in the world, do you think we are all stupid enough to worship plaster, plastic, or wood?” As she did not answer, I went on, “The Catholic Church forbids the worship of anything or anyone other than the Trinitarian God. Fortunately, she seemed to calm down a bit and I said, “There are many people, such as yourself, who are critical of Catholicism who do not take the time to fully understand what the Catholic Church teaches and equally important, the foundations for those beliefs. Every teaching of the Catholic Church comes from God, you just haven’t done enough homework.”

"But," She said, "You worship Mary." "No we don't," I replied"

She said, "You believe that you are killing Jesus again during your Mass." "No we don't," I replied"

She said, "You believe that you must work your way into heaven." "No we don't," I replied"

After a couple more of these "You believe..." "No we don't" go-rounds, I said, would you like to know what the Catholic Church really teaches or would you rather just go around attacking and blaming Catholics for what you think we believe? Don't you have a moral responsibility to search for truth? Doesn't Scripture tell us to, "'Test everything and hold fast to what is good."

The conversation abruptly ended on that note as she strode out of the store.

Calling Catholics idolaters doesn't make it true.

Many times people are much too comfortable in their self-righteousness and refuse to consider the fact that they might be wrong. It is easier to condemn others than consider that they might be in error.

## Prejudice

*"Is a great time saver you don't have to worry about facts."*

—St. Augustine (354-430)

Not long ago I had a short dialogue with a 9-year minister from Calvary Chapel. This individual lectures on Roman Catholicism. Upon review of his lecture I sent him the following post: "You not only misrepresented Catholic belief, but twisted and misrepresented history to support your conclusions. In your disagreement section you misrepresented the Catholic Church's teaching on justification, the seven sacraments, faith alone, purgatory, intercessory prayer, Mary, and much more. I was especially disturbed by your presentation on the Bible. You not only misrepresent the Catholic view of the Bible, but also misrepresented the history of the Bible. You parroted Chuck Smith when he stated that the Catholic Church added the "Apocrypha" at the Council of Trent. Nothing could be further from the truth. In addition, you obviously have no understanding of Tradition as it impacted doctrine, and your chronological list of Church inventions is simply ridiculous.

His reply, "Nice assertions Victor. Try backing up the things you say below with some actual examples and facts. You obviously have never taken a critical look at the teachings and/or history of the Catholic Church. Looking forward to standing before the Lord, having been justified by His faith through His grace alone."

I replied, "Your defensive response was as expected. I was rather hoping for one characterized by a certain humility. Rather than saying, "nice assertions, I would have preferred, "It is very important to me that I teach nothing but the truth, please show me where I have erred." Unfortunately, your pride got in the way. I have yet to meet a Calvary Chapel minister who was willing to do what you ask me to do and that is taking a critical, honest, look at your teachings, based upon the evidence. You would rather set up a Catholic strawman and then beat him to death.

What makes you think I have not taken a critical look at Catholicism? Long ago, I thoroughly examined Catholic beliefs and as God is my witness, I have never found any contradiction between what the Catholic Church teaches today and what Jesus and His Apostles taught so many years ago.

You asked for "some examples and facts." It would take quite some time to deal with each and every error, as there are so many, so I will focus on just two of the more minor ones for the time being." I then went on to prove that his "scholarship" was entirely in error.

He never replied, nor did he remove the offending material from his website. It takes intellectual integrity to examine one's most cherished beliefs, to admit it when you have sinned against another, and to endeavor to make restitution. This man did none of these.

We Catholics must stand our ground and defend Mother Church whenever and wherever she is attacked either deliberately or in ignorance.

## Pope Joan, Myth or Reality?

Anti-Catholic polemicists make much of an alleged female Pope, who disguised as a man was ordained, became a Cardinal and eventually Pope. Going by various names, Joan, Agnes, Gilberta or Jutta, or sometimes unnamed, this personage is described in legends contained in the *Universal Chronicle of Metz*, attributed to the Dominican John of Metz between 1240 and 1250 and repeated by the Dominican Martin of Trooppau, who died in 1297. At the time of the Protestant reformation it added much fuel to the anti-papal fires burning around Europe. However, it was a French Protestant Historian, David Blondel (1590-1655) who proved its mythical nature, in studies published in Holland in 1647 and 1657. Ignatius von Dollinger (1799-1890) gave the *coup de grace* to whatever remained in the legend in 1863 when he showed it to have been an adaptation of a Roman folk tale. The non-Catholic author of *The Oxford Dictionary of Popes* comments (p. 329) "It scarcely needs painstaking refutation today."

## 26 Catholic missionaries killed in 2005 - Requiem en pacem

Twenty-six Catholic priests, religious, and lay catechists were killed while serving the Church in the year 2005, according to year-end statistics furnished by the Congregation for Evangelization.

Each year the Fides news agency, an arm of the Vatican Congregation, publishes a list of the year's "martyrs for the faith." In 2004, there were 16 people on the list; for 2005 the list is nearly twice as long. In previous years Fides had listed 30 slain evangelists in 2000, 33 in 2001, 25 in 2002, and 29 in 2003.

In this year's list Fides includes 1 bishop, 20 priests, 2 nuns, 2 monks, and 1 lay catechist.

The annual list compiled by Fides includes only Church personnel, and thus does not necessarily account for all lay Catholics who die for the faith. The list includes missionaries who knowingly accepted the risks of serving in areas where

violence can occur, even if their deaths might be attributed to accidents or ordinary crimes such as robbery.

The Americas saw the greatest bloodshed among Catholic missionaries in 2005. (The Vatican treats North and South America as a single continent.) There were 8 priests, 2 nuns, and 2 monks killed in Latin America. Colombia, where 4 priests and 1 nun died violently, was the single bloodiest country. But Church personnel also died in Mexico, Brazil, and Jamaica.

Africa also saw considerable violence against Catholic evangelists, with 1 bishop, 6 priests, and 1 lay evangelist dying, in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, and Nigeria.

In Asia there were 3 priests killed in India, and 1 in Indonesia.

Nor was Europe spared: 1 priest was killed in Brussels, and 1 in Moscow. The Americas also furnished the greatest number of "martyrs for the faith" on the Fides list, with 10. Colombia and India each saw 5 natives killed.

We must never forget those that put their lives on the line daily in order to share the saving message of the Gospels. Please pray for them, especially those who live in countries where Christianity is outlawed

## *The Best Way to Evangelize*

One of the more common questions that we hear when giving lectures on the Faith or evangelization is "What is the best way to evangelize?" Many people seem to be looking for some gimmick or new idea, which will help them win souls for Christ.

The answer is fundamental. - Live the Catholic life! When you strive for holiness and spiritual perfection in your own life, it becomes apparent to others and they will be drawn to Christ through you. True Catholic Christians radiate a sense of peace and joy, which comes from the grace received in the proper reception of the sacraments.

The grace we receive from worthy reception of the sacraments is infinite. But the operation of that grace in our lives is limited by the degree to which we are in submission to God. He wants all of us, all of the time, not just part of us, some of the time. Proper reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist is the key to holiness. Before you go to confession, go before Jesus in the tabernacle and ask him to show you your soul. Then shut up and listen. If you are sincere, He will show you the darkest corners of your soul. He will reveal to you the sins that you have been afraid to admit because of fear or pride. Only then can we make a proper confession. We cannot hide from Jesus and must not try. Our self-preservation instinct can be a hindrance when we try to protect ourselves from the All-Knowing. It has been said that Padre Pio could smell the corruption in a person's soul. Imagine how your soul must look to God who loves with an endless love. Jesus can and will heal us and take away our shame.

When we receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist we receive infinite grace. But, again, we limit the operation of this grace if we are not in submission to Him.

Using artificial birth control or living in a second marriage without reconciling the first with a Church granted annulment are mortal sins. Any mortal sins prevent the operation of grace in our lives and make mockery of the sacraments. In such a state God's grace becomes ineffective.

When we strive to live a holy life, God will lead people to us. Then and then only will the Holy Spirit be able to evangelize through us.

## *On Preparation for Holy Communion*

If you expected a visit from a great personage, to whom objects in your house should be offensive, would you not remove them before his arrival? When, then, you wish to receive Jesus Christ, you should remove from your breast all earthly affections which you know to be displeasing to Him. He who wishes to communicate often must empty his heart of things of this earth. -St. Augustine

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At the general judgment the devils will be the accusers, and as St. Augustine says, will say to the judge: "Most just God, declare him to be ours, who was unwilling to be yours."

## *How Catholics Face Death*

A minister once asked Oliver Wendell Holmes his opinion as a physician on the effect of beliefs on the minds of those approaching death. He replied:

"So far as I have observed persons nearing the end of life, the Roman Catholics understand the business of dying better than Protestants. I have seen a good many Roman Catholics on their dying beds, and if always appeared to me that they accepted the inevitable with the composure which showed that their belief, whether or not the best to live by, was a better one to die by than most of the harder ones that have replaced it."

## *True Soldier of Jesus Christ*

In the year 264 AD in the city of Caesarea, Palestine, a soldier named Marinus, serving in the army of the Emperor Gallien, was at the point of receiving a much-coveted promotion when his enemies denounced him as a Christian. Asked by the emperor if this were true, he replied that it was, and then he was given three hours to decide which he would choose, apostasy and promotion, or fidelity to Christ and death. His bishop, Theotecue, led him to the church, administered to him the Sacrament of Confirmation, and offering him a sword and the book of the Gospels, said "Choose." Marinus without hesitation took the sacred book in his hands and went bravely to death and to eternal reward.

"The Mother of God is the ladder of Heaven.

God came down to earth by this ladder,  
that men might by Mary climb up to Him in heaven."

-St. Fulgentius