

Discovering New Frontiers

Introduction

In 1975, Pope Paul VI wrote: “Religious, thanks to their consecration, are eminently willing and free to leave everything and to go and proclaim the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. They are enterprising and their apostolate is often marked by an originality, by a genius that demands admiration. They are generous: often they are found at the outposts of the mission...” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, n° 69)

The call is clear: persons of consecrated life are sent “to the ends of the earth,” to “the outposts of the mission.”

Is this call not as urgent today as it once was? Are we not sent to new frontiers? Because religious life is the work of God, we are never finished being surprised! Consecrated life is not a thing of the past rendered irrelevant!

The surprising choices of the successors of Peter continue to seriously challenge us, as demonstrated in the article written by Lorraine Caza, CND. In his article, Rick van Lier, OP, points out that we haven’t finished responding to the gospel challenge of Jesus who asked us to be *in the world without being of the world*.

Are not the “outposts of the mission” the “existential peripheries” where Pope Francis is constantly sending us? Timothy Scott, CSB, takes a careful look at the words and actions of the Pope in his efforts to identify these peripheries, old and new, places we can no longer go alone. Gaétane Guillemette, NDPS, has us reflect on the alliance we can build together with the laity to start anew or to renew the mission.

And what do we do once we get to these “peripheries?” Lorraine d’Entremont, SC, poses questions of our experience, culture and traditions so as to discern what newness we can offer today’s world. There is certainly no lack of “frontiers” where we can sow the life of the Gospel. Pat Brady, OSB, presents us with a striking example by calling us to walk with the First Nations. Carmelle Bisson, AMJ, invites us to a reflection on the “ultimate frontier”, befriending death. She shares two moving testimonials of life and hope.

We conclude our Bulletin by turning to the future so as to identify the new frontiers we are called to deal with: the huge ethical issues of our times, the environment, the human being seen through the eyes of the Beatitudes.

The CRC Theological Commission wishes you good reading and safe travels to the frontiers where the Lord sends us and waits for us.

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