

The Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" Introduction to the Bulletin's Articles

"Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis, to the bishops, clergy, consecrated persons and the lay faithful..." So begins the Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. We, consecrated persons, we are included there among the addressees of the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG) "on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world!"

We are there, but there is no chapter or even a paragraph that speaks about the specific service that would be ours in the Church's "new chapter of evangelization" (EG 1).

Call to Conversion

So it is clear: we are not called upon to be besides or — even less — above the baptized: we will be "with" them. We are summoned to embark with all the baptized on a path of "pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are" (EG 25).

It is up to us to let ourselves be challenged! And that is the goal of this bulletin entrusted to the CRC Theological Commission.

You will discover here a strong call to conversion relayed by Timothy Scott, CSB, summoning us to a renewed relationship with others and with the world. With Lorraine Caza, CND, you will see how *The Joy of the Gospel* can provide valuable tools for building and rebuilding our communities. In the same perspective, Carmelle Bisson, AMJ, shows us how to translate in our communities "the personal accompaniment in processes of growth" that Pope Francis asks of us: That is the challenge of a culture of ongoing, lifelong learning.

But *The Joy of the Gospel* also brings us a renewal of the mission. Here, Margaret Patricia Brady, OSB, brings us back to the heart of our mission: to become the revealers and mediators of Christ. Which path should be taken for this essential thing? Gaétane Guillemette, NDPS, answers: "the encounter," and invites us to "let ourselves be moved in our conception of Evangelization."

And our own charisms? It's time to "revisit and revitalize them" says Lorraine d'Entremont, SC; in doing so, we will bring along all the baptized into a renewed welcome of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Invitation to Get Under Way

There isn't the slightest doubt: religious life has a valuable contribution to make to the "the Church's missionary transformation." An example of this is given in the final article in this bulletin on monastic life. But it is all of our communities that are called upon to "go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ" (EG 49). We are all called upon to become what we are: "missionary disciples." Are you ready to get back on the road?

Antoine Emmanuel, FMJ