

Women's Call to Mission



In the world and church today, women are speaking with a new voice and a new urgency, responsible for being the church in the world. The universal call to holiness received in baptism is shared. Mindful of the Holy Father's call in his Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, the evangelizing mission is taken up with fresh

enthusiasm. Baptized persons must be filled with the ardour of the apostles after Pentecost, continuing the mission of evangelization with the enthusiasm of the very first Christians. After Peter made his Pentecost speech in Jerusalem, he asked, "What must we do?" Something new need not be invented. The plan is found in scripture. The message of Jesus needs to reach people, shape communities and bring the values of the gospel to everyone.

It is through being fed with the Word of God that baptized persons become evangelizers of the Word. To do this, baptized persons open themselves to the action of the Spirit, through whom sacred scripture was written, and learn from the example of the apostles who were His witnesses. They become a living gospel through modeling their lives on Jesus, living the gospel day after day in their workplaces, family lives and in all relationships; nourished on the journey by the Eucharist.

The last thing Jesus asked of His followers before He ascended to the Father was that His presence be preached to all people. Evangelization calls all followers to simple goodness much more than aggressive convincing, radiating the compassion, generosity, and love of Jesus by their lives and actions. A human face is given to divine love when Jesus is ministered to in the person of our neighbour. To do this, complacency must be put aside, a fiery energy taken

on, and a will must be present to go to meet Him wherever people are in need of His presence. He can be sought in the faces of the poor, sick, homeless, victims and refugees. Every baptized person has this call to let others know that God loves them.

It must start in parish communities. Already, League councils are examples of small Christian communities within the parishes. Councils can be a means to bring women together so that they can help each other connect everyday life with faith. The experience of Jesus becomes more real when faith is shared with others. Members help each other on the journey of faith by comparing and connecting everyday life experiences to those of the Lord. When this is done, members become more aware of the presence of God in their lives and grow in faith. Sharing faith stories in small groups, members can support each other's faith and the faith of the larger community.

Women can be powerful nurturers of the faith within themselves and in others, just as Mary nurtured Jesus in her womb. Women have the wonderful qualities of openness, softness, courage, intuition and perseverance. Others can be led to Jesus by the power of patience, gentleness, compassion, goodness and most especially love. Prompted by the fire of the Holy Spirit, women begin the task of proclaiming Jesus in the third millennium, accompanied by the Blessed Virgin Mary, the church's mother and model, as their guide. Just as women were the first to come to faith in the Risen Lord, so too, today, women can be leaders in bringing the message of God's love and making His face shine for our brothers and sisters everywhere.

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Blessed Trinity Parish Council, Toronto, Ontario

Members of Blessed Trinity Parish Council, Toronto, enjoyed a friendship day where all members attending the council meeting wore vintage hats and celebrated the council's history.