

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL



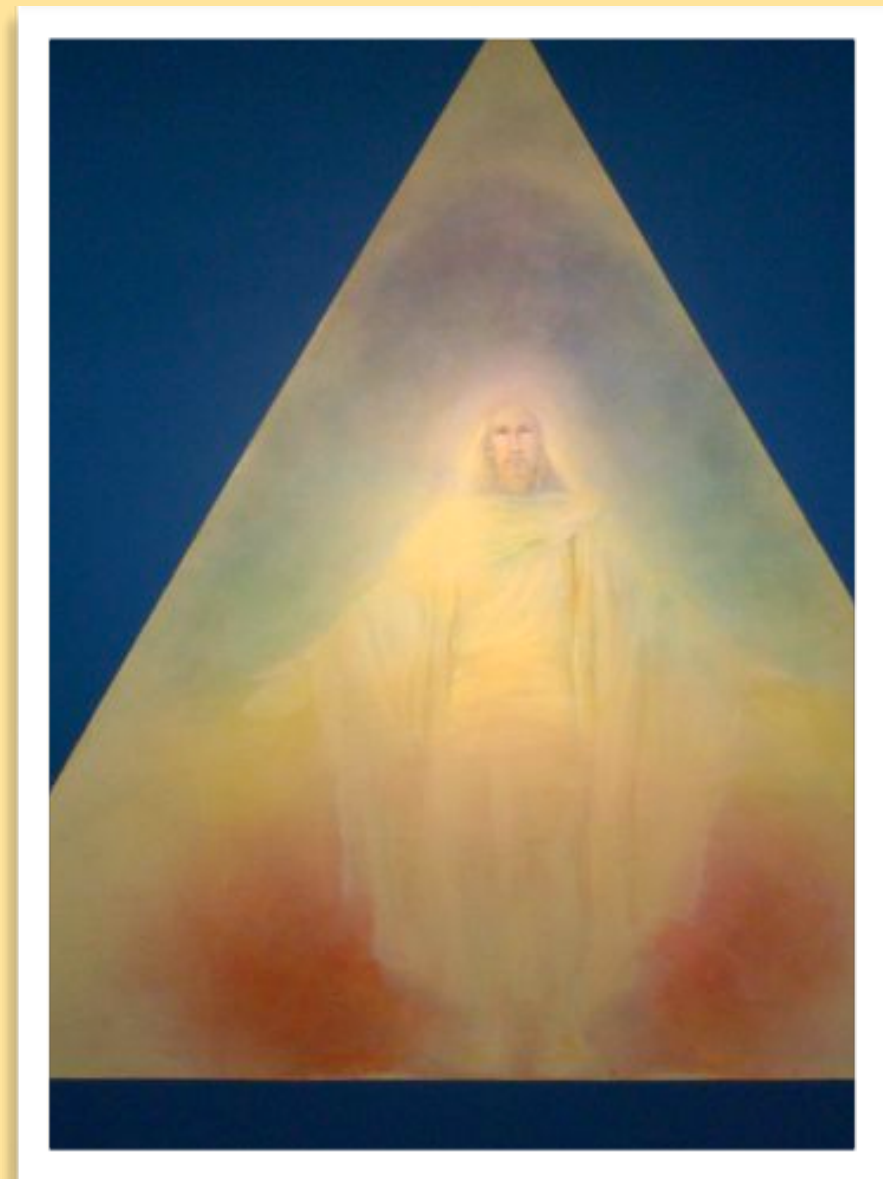
Pope Francis

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INVITATION

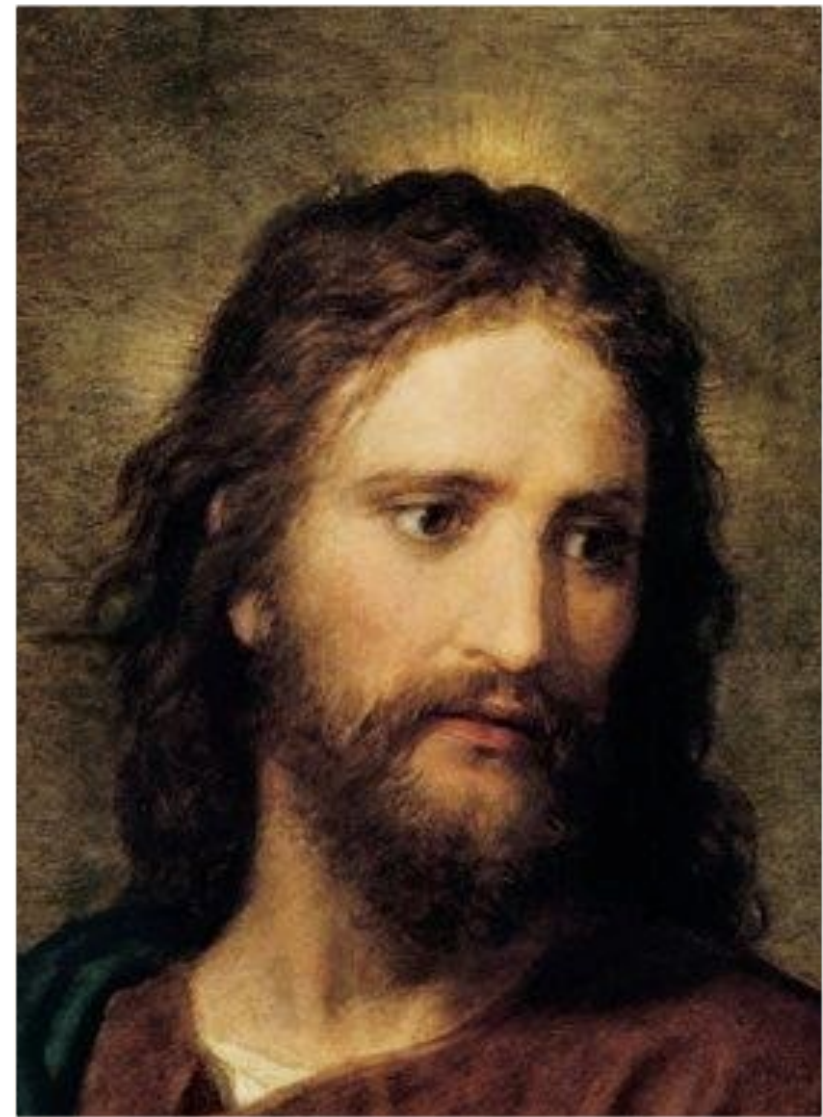
**THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL
fills the hearts and lives of all
who encounter Jesus. (1)**

**I invite all Christians,
everywhere, at this very
moment to a renewed personal
encounter with Jesus Christ, or
at least an openness to letting
him encounter them. (3)**



Encounter with Christ

- ❖ whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms (3)
- ❖ With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he [the Lord] makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and start anew. (3)





Be Free

It is for freedom that
Christ has set us free.
Galatians 5:1

Salvation

“Those who accept God’s offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness” (1)

Freedom from sin

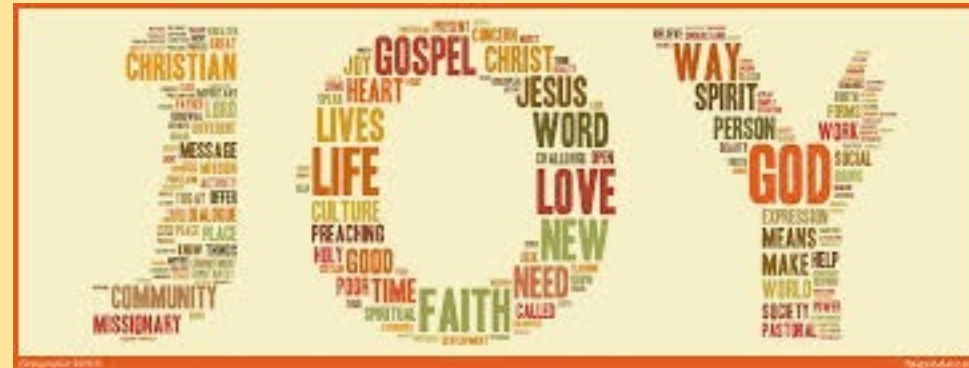
“God never tires
of forgiving us;

we are the ones
who tire of
seeking his
mercy.” (3)

Freedom -

...the unencumbered
opportunity to fully live as
the person Christ created
you to be.

Freedom from Sorrow



The Gospel.... constantly invites us to rejoice. (5)

There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter... Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved (6)

Freedom from Emptiness and Loneliness

“Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. **We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves** in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.” (8)

Mission

“Those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others

Consequently, an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!” (10)



This mission demands great **generosity** on our part, it would be wrong to see it as a heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work... (I2)

Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of **creativity** open up

The joy of evangelizing always arises from grateful remembrance. The believer is essentially “**one who remembers**”. (I3)

Key Dynamic in this Introduction

Encounter with Christ

Experience of salvation

Gratitude and mission

Three Settings for Evangelization

1. The faithful who regularly take part in community worship and gather on the Lord's day to be nourished by his word and by the bread of eternal life
2. The baptized whose lives do not reflect the demands of Baptism, who lack a meaningful relationship to the Church
3. Those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him.

Not Proselytizing, but Attraction

- ❖ Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they [Christians] should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. **It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but “by attraction.”** (14)

Sources for this Letter

- ❖ Synod for New Evangelization (October 2012)
- ❖ Advice of Individuals
- ❖ Personal concerns of Francis

Scope of the Letter

Nor do I believe that the papal magisterium should be expected to offer a definitive or complete word on every question which affects the Church and the world. It is not advisable for the Pope to take the place of local Bishops in the discernment of every issue which arises in their territory. In this sense, I am conscious of the need to promote a sound “decentralization”.

I hope to offer guidelines for a new phrase of evangelisation, marked by enthusiasm and fidelity. (16)



Issues addressed

Chapter 1

a) the reform of the Church in her missionary outreach;

Chapter 2

b) the temptations faced by pastoral workers;

Chapter 3

c) the Church, understood as the entire People of God which evangelizes;

d) the homily and its preparation;

Chapter 4

e) the inclusion of the poor in society;

f) peace and dialogue within society;

Chapter 5

g) the spiritual motivations for mission.