

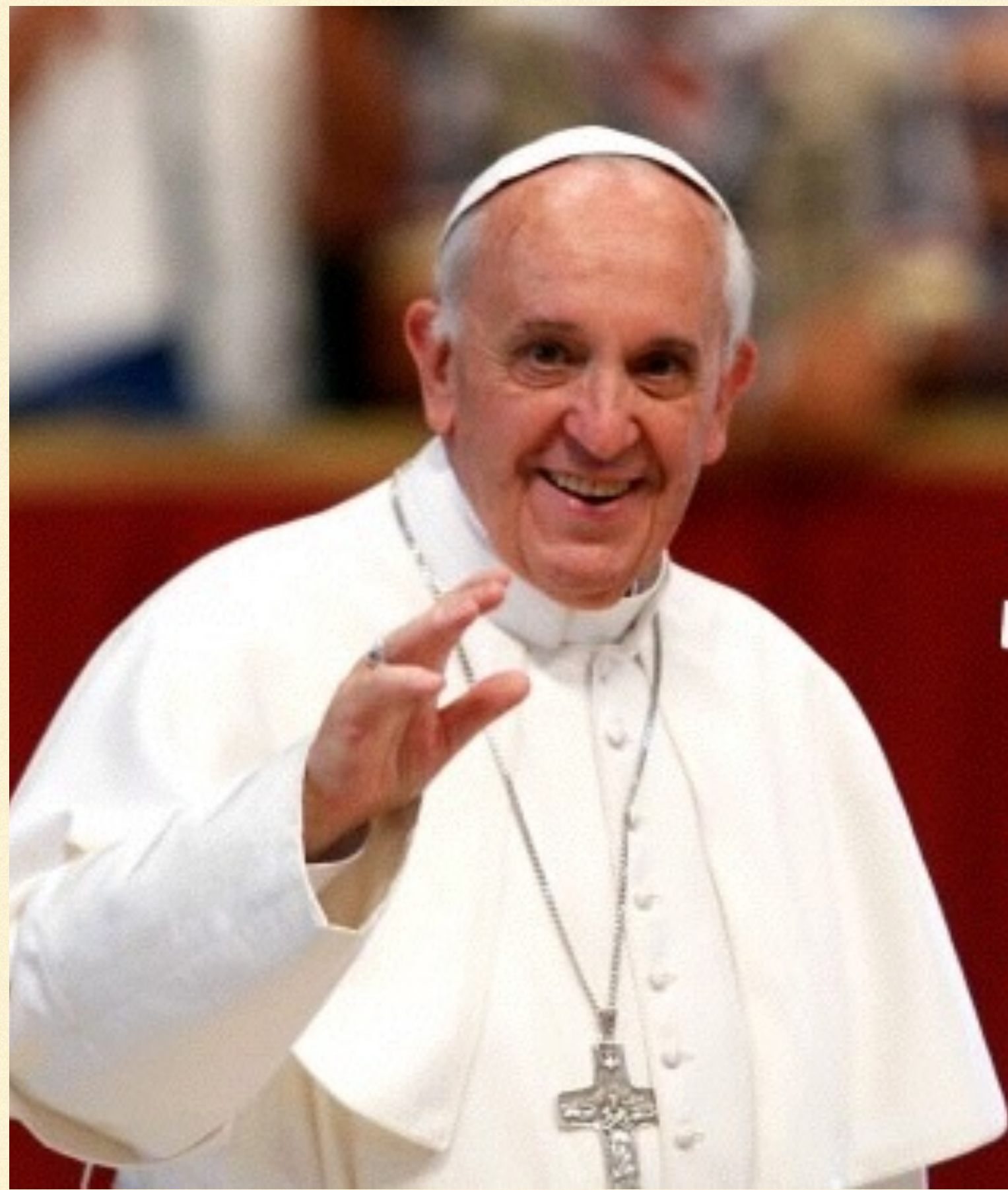


# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

## Chapter 5: SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZERS

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**“To evangelize is  
to make the  
kingdom of God  
present in our  
world, Jesus  
wants  
evangelizers who  
proclaim the good  
news not only  
with words, but  
above all by a life  
transfigured by  
God’s presence.”  
(Evangelii Gaudium)**



How I long  
to find the right words  
to stir up enthusiasm for  
a new chapter of evangelization  
full of fervour,  
joy,  
generosity,  
courage,  
boundless love  
and attraction!  
Yet I realize  
that no words of encouragement  
will be enough  
unless the fire of the Holy Spirit  
burns in our hearts. (EG 261)




- Two Sections*
- I. *REASONS FOR A  
RENEWED MISSIONARY  
IMPULSE*
  - II. *MARY, MOTHER OF  
EVANGELIZATION*



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# I. REASONS FOR A RENEWED MISSIONARY IMPULSE

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Pray as though everything  
depended on God. Work as though  
everything depended on you.

Saint Augustine

Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who **pray** and **work**.

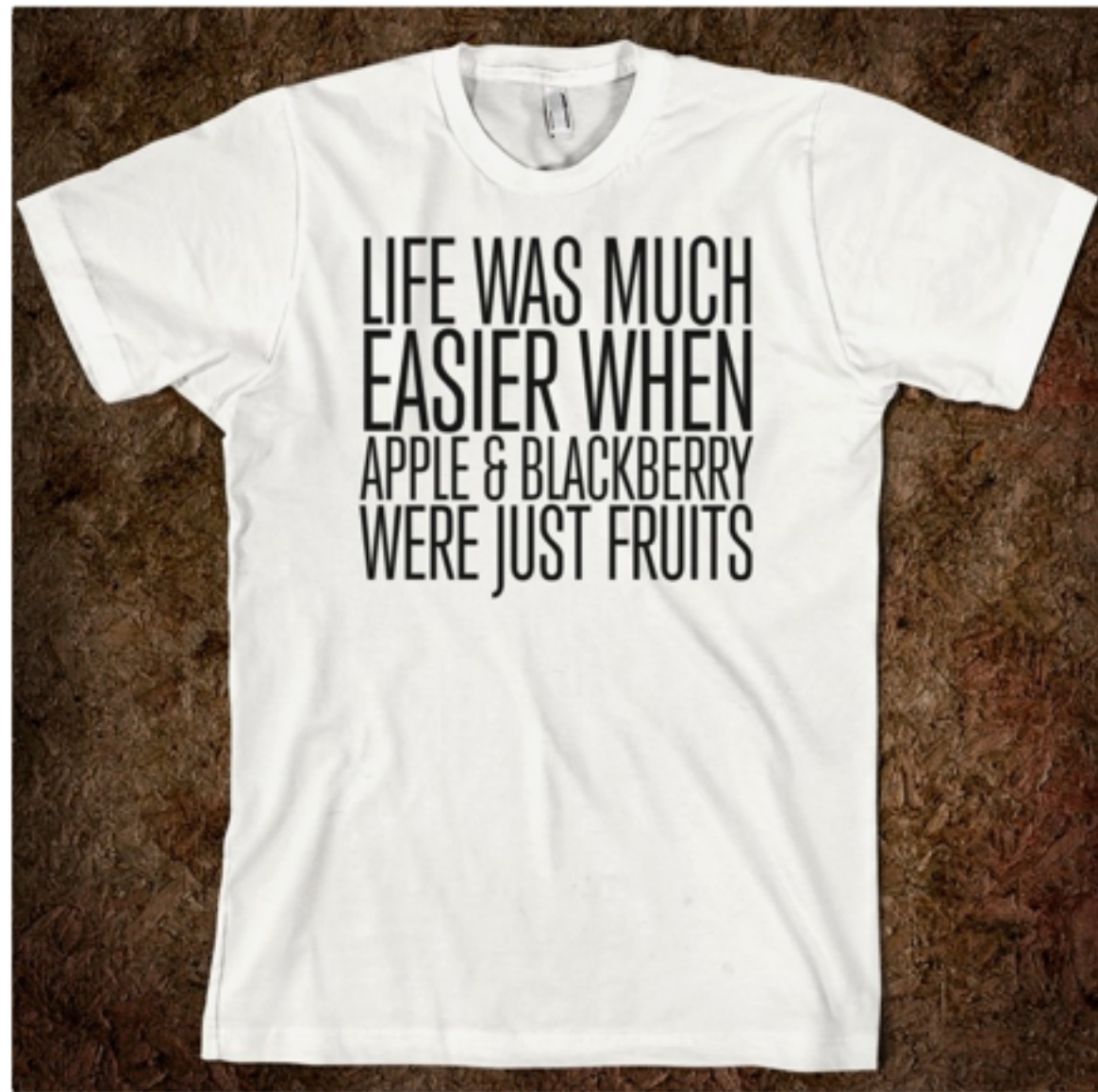
Mystical notions without a solid social and missionary outreach are of no help to evangelization, nor are dissertations or social or pastoral practices which lack a spirituality which can change hearts. .... (EG 262)



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# THINGS ARE HARDER TODAY???

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Let us not say, then, that things are harder today; they are simply different. But let us learn also from the saints who have gone before us, who confronted the difficulties of their own day. So I propose that we pause to rediscover some of the reasons which can help us to imitate them today (EG 263)

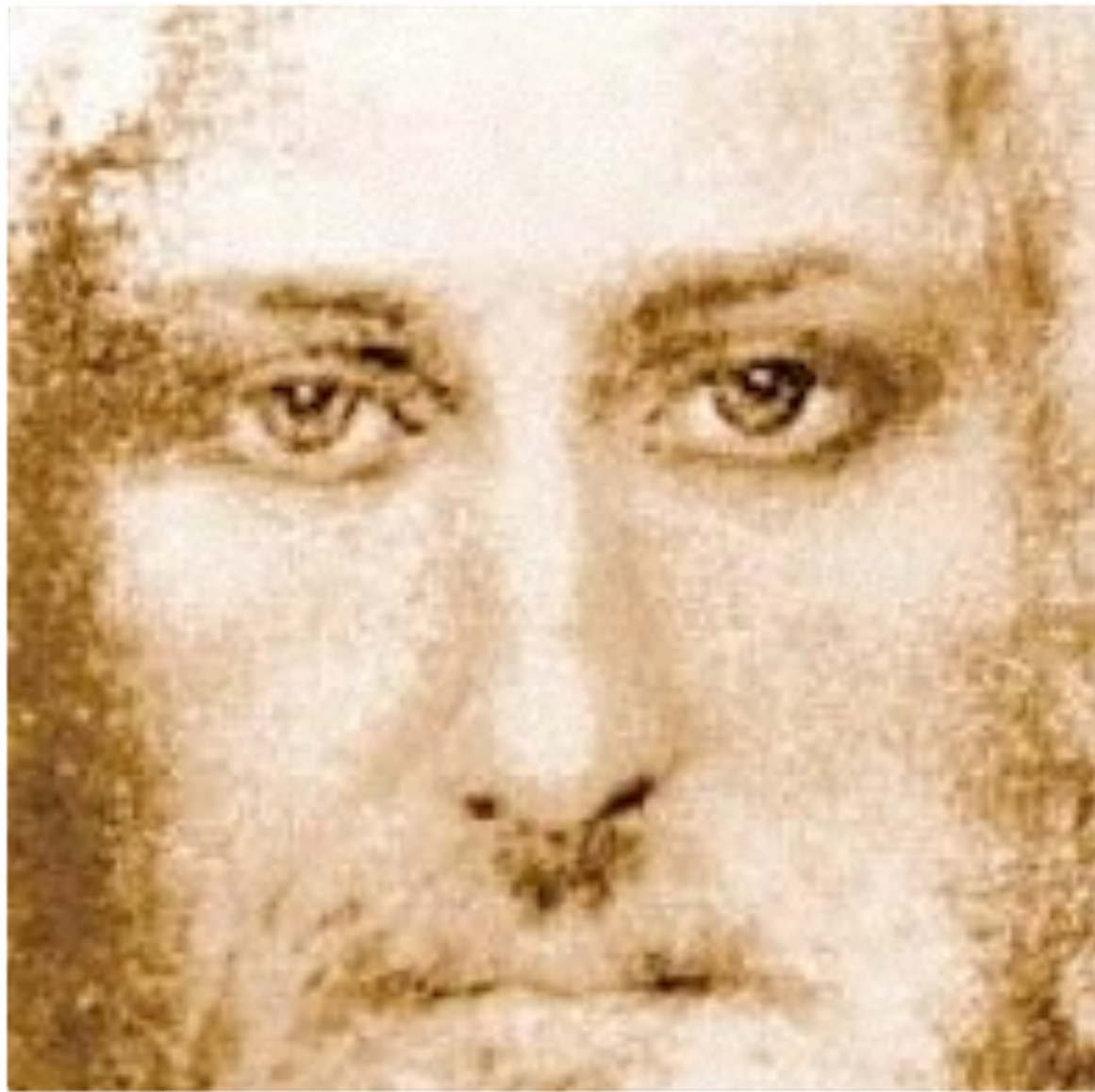
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# PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE SAVING LOVE OF JESUS

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The primary reason for evangelising is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? E.G. 264

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# THE GOSPEL

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The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit .....

E.G. 264

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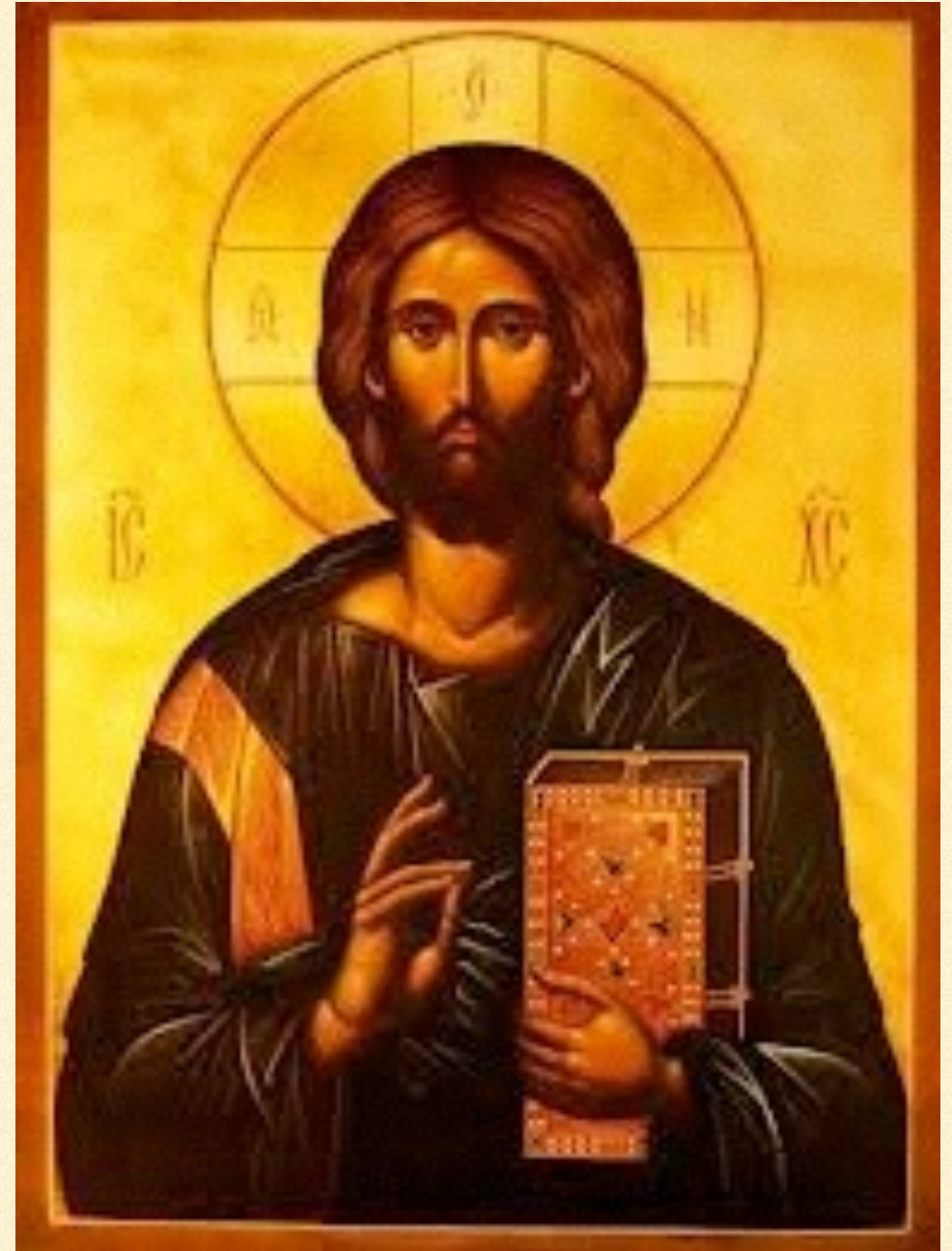


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Sometimes we lose our enthusiasm for mission because we forget that the Gospel responds to our deepest needs, since we were created for what the Gospel offers us: **friendship** with Jesus and love of our brother and sisters.

If we succeed in expressing adequately and with beauty the essential content of the Gospel, surely this message will speak to the deepest yearnings of people's hearts.

E.G. 265







It is not the same thing to try to build the world with his gospel  
as to try to do so by our own lights.

We know well that with **Jesus** life becomes richer and that with him  
it is easier to find meaning in everything....

A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows  
that **Jesus** walks with him, speaks to him,  
breathes with him, works with him....

A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and  
in love, will convince nobody.     E.G. 266

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**“The glory of God  
is the**

**human person fully alive.”**

***St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons***





God also invites us to recognise that we are a people.....

To be evangelisers of souls we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people's lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. When we stand before Jesus crucified, we see the depth of his love which exalts and sustains us, but at the same time, unless we are blind, we begin to realise that Jesus' gaze, burning with love, expands to embrace all people. E.G. 268







Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the Lord's wounds at arm's length. Yet, Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness. E.G. 270



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Loving others is a spiritual force  
drawing us to union with God.

“Closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to  
God”,

and that love is, in the end, the *only* light which  
“can always illuminate a world grown dim and give  
us the courage needed to keep living and working”...

Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge  
the other, we grow in the light of faith and  
knowledge of

God. E.G. 272

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**We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even  
branded, by this mission of  
bringing light, blessing, enlivening,  
raising up, healing and freeing. E.G. 273**







If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realise that every person is worthy of our giving.

Not for their physical appearance, their abilities, their language, their way of thinking, or for any satisfaction that we might receive, but rather because they are God's handiwork, his creation.



God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory.

Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives.

Consequent, if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life. E.G. 274



# THE RESURRECTION



Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated the world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up.

It is an irresistible force....

Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history. Values always tend to reappear under new guises, and human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelise are instruments of that power. E.G. 276





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# FAITH MEANS

Believing in God

Believing that he truly loves us

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Believing that he is alive

Believing that he is mysteriously capable of intervening

Believing that he does not abandon us

Believing that he brings good out of evil by his power  
and his infinite creativity.

Believing that he marches triumphantly in history.

Believing the Gospel when it tells us that the kingdom  
of God is already present in this world and is growing  
here and there, and in different ways.

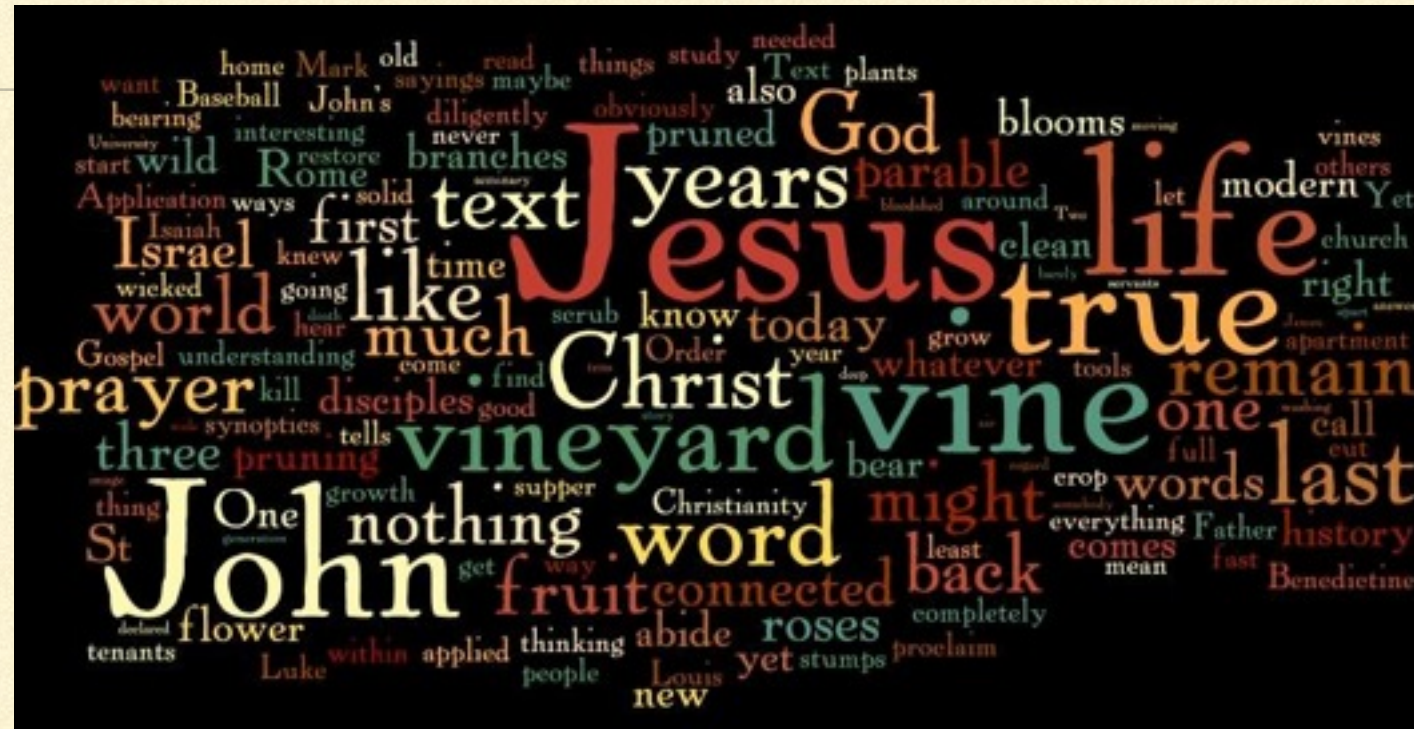
Believing that Christ's resurrection everywhere calls  
forth seeds of that new world...for the resurrection is  
already secretly woven into the fabric of history.

E.G.278

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# E.G. 279



All those who entrust themselves to God will bear good fruit (Jn. 15:5) This fruitfulness is often invisible, elusive and unquantifiable...We may be sure that none of our acts of love will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others. No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted.



# THE HOLY SPIRIT



There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever he wills. The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place. This is what it means to be mysteriously fruitful. E.G. 280



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# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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One form of prayer moves us particularly to take up the task of evangelisation and to seek the good of others: it is the prayer of intercession.....a prayer of gratitude to God for others.....When evangelisers rise from prayer, their hearts are more open; freed of self-absorption, they are desirous of doing good and sharing their lives with others.

E.G. 281/2

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# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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We can say that God's heart is touched by our intercession, yet in reality he is always there first. What our intercession achieves is that his power, his love and his faithfulness are shown ever more clearly in the midst of the people. E.G. 283

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## II. MARY, MOTHER OF EVANGELISATION

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Jesus left us his mother to be our mother....

The close connection between Mary, the Church and each member of the faithful, is based on the fact that each in his or her own way brings forth Christ....E.G. 285



# DEVOTION TO MARY

Francis paints a picture of Mary from  
the Gospels as one who

accompanies us  
understands pain  
is a friend on the journey  
draws near to us  
offers maternal comfort  
whispers in our ear

EG 286





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# MARY OPEN TO THE SPIRIT

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Mary is also a model of discipleship

- open to the Spirit
- combining love, tenderness and courage

This interplay of justice and tenderness, of contemplation and concern for others, is what makes the ecclesial community look to Mary as a model of evangelization

EG 288

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# CONCLUDING PRAYER

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Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit  
welcomed the Word of life  
in the depth of your humble faith:  
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One  
help us to say our own 'yes'  
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,  
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

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