

# Encouragement Encouragement

The Host Apostolate: What's in a title or name..?

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THE HOST APOSTOLATE  
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The name given to any Apostolate is always an important feature of any foundation, group or charity. Without it, it cannot be identified as doing the work that it was designed or formed for. Often the name is stumbled upon, suggestions abound, or it simply evolves out of practice. Once it is named, in some respects it takes on an identity, 'it is born' so to speak. But whichever way it comes into being it is essential to convey that nature of the work or 'call' that it carries out.

Formerly called Tabor Trust with its emphasis on evangelisation and to an extent formation, the title had to be altered as it was discovered that there was another organisation by the same name... it happens! Trying not to depart too strongly from the title we changed it to Tabor House Trust and registered it as such.

However as the Apostolate evolved and we (Michael and I) changed, hopefully by grace, – the aims developed and a more enlarged vision came into being. This was in no small part too, because the 'Call' 'as given' had developed. This call and broader vision somehow necessitated a new name which exemplified this change.

Having written the rule encouraged by our Spiritual Director, as it happens by a curious conflux of God's plan, on the Feast of the Transfiguration (6th August associated with Tabor) we were pondering what had happened and realising that a new name had to be found, the new name simply popped into my head. Instantly we both knew that it was right.

The evolution of the Apostolate with its strongly Eucharistic element, while part of our own deeper life became an intrinsic part of the Apostolate. We had been prompted by a series of directives from the Lord based on an unfinished work of St. Peter Julian Eymard- namely a house which would have a chapel

and where priests and lay people could adore the Blessed Sacrament. This would also house elderly priests who would find a safe haven at the end of their days, but who were still able to serve and contribute to the life of the house. Very especially they could add knowledge and experience which would encourage others to grow spiritually and they could act as Spiritual Directors or guides: A cause close to my heart. It was not in any sense to be a retirement home but a place where the small community could work and live together and serve the wider community in small or larger ways. The aims of the Apostolate of Evangelisation (and catechesis), Formation and Adoration could thus develop and grow. I was directed to look at the works of St. Peter Julian and by providence I had been given the complete works in the reorganisation of his foundation.

This new name seemed to encapsulate the essence of the Apostolate with its three fold aims.

The word 'host' has many connotations. At first-people could not somehow grasp the title. We were often referred to as The 'Holy Apostolate' or 'The Hope Apostolate' or even Happy Apostolate which always made me smile.

As the name seemed to be given *I have often reflected on the many meanings of the word 'host'*. The Host the actual Host that is consecrated on the Altar and becomes The Body and Blood of Jesus was clearly my first thought. That brittle, small host, bread, that is given to us to bring us closer to God. It is a source of life for us and enlightens us and helps us live with God's abundant grace. This Host is the living bread come down from Heaven as Jesus said. (John 6 Vs 53) It is brittle and can be broken as Jesus was on the Cross yet it is totally life giving and redeeming. Purity itself, it speaks of a merciful and compassionate Saviour who reduced Himself to our level to help us.



**"HOLD YOUR EYES ON GOD AND LEAVE THE DOING TO HIM. THAT IS ALL THE DOING YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT"**

ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

As St Thérèse said, ‘A God that can make Himself so small can only be mercy and love.’ The Host is also shared and divided. Every fragment is integral and many hosts form one Body. We are called to be part of that Body the Church of Jesus Christ. Every one of us is an essential integral part.

But there is another way of looking at the word ‘host’. ‘To host’ something is to present it – to hold it so that others can see. We talk of hosting a party, a conference, being a location for something or even being a host... to an event in one’s own home, a welcomer and carer. Jesus was a most gracious Host He welcomed all into His presence. He did not reject anyone who came to Him with good intention. He prepared the Last Supper and it was He who instigated the upper room for that event and provided the hosting, washing the Apostles’ feet. A Host indeed, He put the welfare of his guests first and central to his activities.

The members of The Host Apostolate are called to do no less than this within their own circumstance and sphere of work. Jesus is the perfect Host and we are called to resemble Him and become little Hosts.

Mary too was the host to the Infant Jesus and then with St. Joseph gave him a safe and loving haven as he grew from child to man. First, in her womb, she carried Him tenderly, and in way, taking Him to others from the start in her visit to Elizabeth. She revealed Him to Simeon and Anna and of course to her own parents.

What is a perfect *Host*..? Of course, only Jesus is the Perfect Host as such. We can never match His Hospitality. However, as we dwell in Him and He in us we can try to resemble Him with His power acting within us and through us.

We can be open, hospitable, kind compassionate, faithful and always think of the needs of others. A difficult way to be but with His help we can try. We may find ourselves unworthy or too afraid, broken or weighed down by life’s issues or problems.

But The Host will complete us by His indwelling if we let Him. He only requires us to try our best. If He indwells in us others will recognise Him in us. Like the Host, held up at Mass, we become visible. We will become true witnesses.

... If we conjoin with Him in His suffering we will also join Him in His Victory We may not always be successful in what we try to do but we can try and be as faithful as possible to his teaching. ... a call to the Apostolate? Halina Holman. ©



### Pope Francis

*“The Eucharist heals people of their wounds, emptiness and sadness, and gives them the strength to share Christ’s loving mercy with others. The joy of the Lord can change lives. This is the strength of the Eucharist, which transforms us into bringers of God, bringers of joy, not negativity...”*

*(Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica with a small congregation of about 50 people, the majority of whom wore masks and maintained social distance).*

*June 14 2020, Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ*

### Hosting Prayer

You are My Host too little to see Hidden Divinity, Perfect Humanity You are my Saviour this I believe. You are my food, bread for the hungry, and wine for the thirsty always present, never forsaking never forgetting never unloving, never regretting that you came for me to save my lostness and my frailty. One crumb would suffice for eternity But you come in entirety Oh Daily Bread, love of all humanity Help me believe and serve unreservedly. HH

### Food for thought...

“I complained to Jesus that I couldn’t even hear Holy Mass and Jesus said: My daughter, aren’t I the Sacrifice? When I am sacrificed, the soul that lives with Me in My Will is sacrificed together with Me, not only in one Mass, but in all Masses, from the first to the last. Since it lives in my Will the soul is consecrated in all the Hosts. Never leave My Will and I will take you wherever you want.”

*Servant of God. Luisa Piccarretta 27/03/ 1918.*

### Feasts Days in July

- 1<sup>st</sup> St. Oliver Plunkett
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Thomas, Apostle
- 4<sup>th</sup> St. Elizabeth of Portugal
- 5<sup>th</sup> Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time
- 6<sup>th</sup> St. Maria Goretti
- 11<sup>th</sup> St. Benedict, Patron of Europe
- 12<sup>th</sup> Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary time
- 15<sup>th</sup> St. Bonaventure, Bishop
- 16<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary time
- 21<sup>st</sup> St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest
- 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Mary Magdalene
- 24<sup>th</sup> St. Charbel Makhlouf
- 25<sup>th</sup> St. James, Apostle
- 26<sup>th</sup> Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary time
- 29<sup>th</sup> St. Martha
- 30<sup>th</sup> St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop
- 31<sup>st</sup> St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

