

# ENCOURAGEMENT

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The Host Apostolate  
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**Love** has no boundaries neither has **Mercy**

Ever since I can remember I have always wanted to be a missionary. I did not know how this would happen and tried to respond to that call all the way through my life. Yet while being involved in supporting projects abroad I simply could never get myself there. And believe me, I tried and yet something stopped me. I nearly went to Nigeria but my husband and my Father's illness prohibited this. Before I had family to consider, sometimes the project changed its face. Other times I was called to do something in this country (A Helpline for Children in the 80's) Each time I surrendered and continued to hope and pray. But the Lord is faithful and knows our deepest desires. If He calls the time is His and the means and methods, His.

When setting up the Host Apostolate with Michael my husband, I had no idea that I would have to carry it solo or the direction it would take. Its three fold aims of 'Evangelisation Adoration and Formation' were clear, although we could not foresee the path that the Lord had planned for the Apostolate and for ourselves. There have been many twist and turns and ups and downs. We took our evangelising to the market place, called Tabor, a fruitful way of getting to unchurched people by means of 'car boot' sales. We had open house for people to call, we started to make our own materials, rosaries, pictures etc., and helped those who were unemployed to donate their work and help them

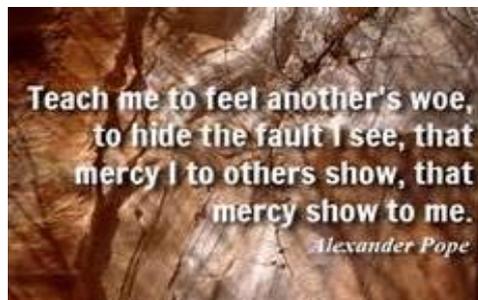
But then there was another change. Michael became ill and we had to change the way we worked. We moved home many times for various reasons but all the time the Lord whispered in my ears to keep going and be responsive to that call

*The Lord is faithful* and if he wants a work to continue he provides the means. Within weeks of Michael dying I found myself in Poland with a with a pilgrimage organised by Noreen Bavister and Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz to St Faustyna's Shrine of Divine Mercy in Kraków, and to the home bases of Bl Bronislaw Markiewicz, something which I had hoped to go to with Michael but when ill he would not let me cancel. I found myself being asked at short notice, on the spot indeed, to speak which was not in the plan, preferring to hide away at this point.

And slowly but surely the direction was given and changes began to happen in a way not anticipated. Retreat work followed and writing which had started but only just seem to follow quickly. Together with this came the realisation of the extraordinary Mercy of God to each of us in situations which could for many be considered impossible and not merciful. The heart of God so abundant in his self-giving and overflowing from that Sacred Heart had to be expressed in mercy to other. Having to express this to many people in retreats deepened further my awareness for this extraordinary kindness to me.

Then came 'Encouragement' which now reaches many parts of the world and is consistent with that call to evangelise. This made me smile as it was going further than Britain to my amazement.

*But the Lord is faithful.* Yet something still bade me go forward in pray for that missionary activity. Aware of the wonderful works of mercy that we are all called to live out in different ways both spiritual and temporal, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting the sick. I also carried within my heart the spiritual one of spreading the faith. Slowly another thing began to happen... I was contacted by various groups for help with means of evangelisation.



*Trust the past to God's Mercy, The present to His Love and the future to God's Providence. St Augustine.*

Each project required only a 'yes' that we would try to help. Each was different in character and the means by which the Apostolate could assist.

First came the call from Fr. Ejaz from Pakistan, visiting to make an appeal and raise funds for an orphanage for 'his' 41 children' which he was building at very great risk to his own life which continues. Every day is still a challenge in a country where being a Christian is extremely difficult and dangerous, could the Apostolate help? We try. Our resources are limited but the Lord provided through the generosity of others. The request from Kerala, India, from the Daughters of Mary who run a hospital but also have a family Apostolate and needed materials, medals rosaries cards picture came next. Ah, we could help here had we not developed this side of the Apostolate... but we did not have enough so we opened it up to the generosity of others and again the articles came in from local parishes in abundance. Now we needed postage to be able to send these. We asked for 10p from each person in the parish which meant three parcels, one a week could be sent. Other donations too came. But we need much more; the Lord I am certain will provide as the Sisters do wonderful



work.

Finally a letter from a Priest touched my heart again. He asked help for his catechumenate activities. And to help feed his very poor especially the elderly. He too works with very poor children providing basic instruction and spiritual formation to children whose gratitude is expressed with joyful faces. He too can use those materials. This contact is still growing. But how mercy grows and the Lord Jesus allows many to help These three projects are now vital to the work of the Apostolate and somehow completes it aims. The outreach is both Spiritual and temporal and truly in accord with the aims the Apostolate.

Interestingly, to achieve His aims, the Lord has also 'grounded me' through illness, enabling me to think of different ways of both serving and helping with time for prayer and reflection. None of us can waste a single moment of our time on this earth!!!

For me it is an answer to a prayer. No I have not left the country (Yet?) and maybe never will. But water, mountain, hill and miles do not separate hearts and the merciful God unites His Children and *is Faithful* .

Maybe the Lord is calling you to evangelise in a special way. Maybe he is setting you on an unknown path, be brave for he always fulfils his promises, *so do not be afraid*.



(Fr. Maria and one of his catechism/ instruction Classes.)

Please help with these amazing projects in which we play such a little part. Pray for all working in difficult situations of which there are many. Any, even, very small donation would also be so helpful. H.H. (Donations can be made through our website)

#### **POPE FRANCIS 1 SPEAKS OF TRUE MERCY.**

**ON THE FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE, POPE FRANCIS SAID THAT ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IS DONE BY REACHING OUT TO OUR "WOUNDED BROTHERS" IN WORKS OF MERCY – TOUCHING JESUS' OWN WOUNDS. "WE FIND JESUS' WOUNDS IN CARRYING OUT WORKS OF MERCY, GIVING TO THE BODY – THE BODY – AND ALSO TO THE SOUL, BUT THE BODY, I STRESS, OF YOUR WOUNDED BROTHER," "BECAUSE", POPE FRANCIS ADDED, "HE IS HUNGRY, BECAUSE HE IS THIRSTY, BECAUSE HE IS NAKED, BECAUSE HE IS HUMILIATED, BECAUSE HE IS A SLAVE, BECAUSE HE IS IN JAIL, BECAUSE HE IS IN HOSPITAL. THOSE ARE THE WOUNDS OF JESUS TODAY." THE "PATH TO OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS-GOD ARE HIS WOUNDS. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY. CASA MARTA ROME 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY**

#### **Feast Days In September:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> St Gregory the Great. 8<sup>th</sup> The Birthday of Our Lady. 13<sup>th</sup> St John Chrysostom. 14<sup>th</sup> The Triumph of the Cross. 15<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Sorrows. 20<sup>th</sup> The Martyrs of Korea. 23<sup>rd</sup> St Padre Pio, 24<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Walsingham. 27<sup>th</sup> St Vincent de Paul. 29<sup>th</sup> SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. 30<sup>th</sup> St Jerome**

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