

## Diocese of Rockville Centre New Evangelization

*"... the Church needs genuine witnesses for the new evangelization: men and women whose lives have been transformed by meeting with Jesus, men and women who are capable of communicating this experience to others. The Church needs saints. All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity."*

*Pope John Paul II  
August 2004*

Volume III, Issue II

Theme: FREEDOM

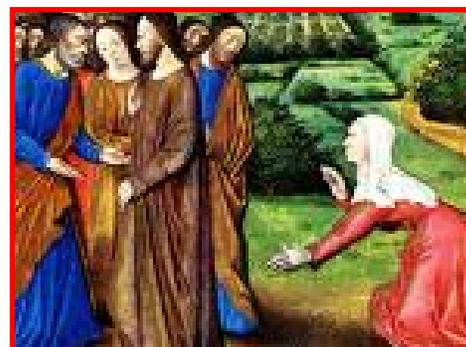
July 2008

### ENCOUNTER: With The Lord Jesus

"And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, 'Have pity on me, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, 'Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But the woman came and did him homage, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He said in reply, 'It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.' she said, 'Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.' Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O, woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed from that hour." Matthew 15:22-28

#### For your reflection:

- I. This woman encounters Christ at a desperate point in her life — her daughter is possessed by a demon and she wants to free her. Freedom comes in many forms — what would we ask Christ to free us from in our own life?
- II. The woman was persistent in her request; yet she was not too proud to recognize her humble station in life. How can we show true humility when we pray?
- III. Christ's meeting with this woman was truly a climatic point in her life — how do you imagine that she lived her life after meeting Jesus? How have our lives changed since encountering Christ?



### CONVERSION: To The Way Of The Lord

"I walk in freedom in an open space because I cherish your precepts. I will speak openly of your decrees without fear even before kings. I delight in your commands, which I dearly love. I lift up my hands to your commands; I study your laws, which I love." Psalm 119:45-48

#### For your reflection:

- I. If we truly try to live our lives by God's law we can have the freedom of knowing that whatever happens to us, God is in control. We can speak and act openly because the Holy Spirit will guide us in all that we do. Do we have this trust?
- II. The psalmist makes it a point to study God's laws and commands. The more we understand God's law, the more our hearts will be converted to His ways. How much time do we devote to reading God's word and trying to incorporate it into our lives?



*"So if the Son sets you free,  
you will be free indeed."*

John 8:36

## EUCCHARIST: "I Am Not Worthy To Receive You"

"This was according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory." Ephesians 3:11-13

### For your reflection:

- I. Because of Christ, we have the freedom to approach God without fear. He is the high priest who understands all of our weaknesses. How does knowing this help when we receive Holy Communion? What can we say to our God?
- II. Paul tells us we need faith in Christ to come close to God. How does our faith come into play when we receive Christ in the Eucharist?

## HOLINESS: "So Be Perfect As Your Heavenly Father Is Perfect"

"Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king as supreme or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the approval of those who do good. For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people. Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God. Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king." 1 Peter 2:13-17

### For your reflection:

- I. To be truly free means to be able to choose what is good over what is evil. Peter warns us that our actions will have an impact on others. If we live well and honestly, no one can condemn us in Christ. Do we always try to give a good example to those around us?
- II. We are to 'be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake.' What does this tell us when it comes to following those laws we may not agree with? Are we good citizens?
- III. How can 'being slaves of God' really make us free?

## MISSION: "You Are Witnesses Of These Things"

"(Jesus) was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.' Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.'" Luke 4:17-21

### For your reflection:

- I. Jesus declared himself the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures. Do we take seriously our mission to spread this Good News to others?
- II. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." How does the Holy Spirit empower us to be the light of Christ in the world?
- III. Christ, throughout his time on earth, always had empathy for the poor and suffering in the world. What practical ways can we help alleviate the suffering of others?



New Evangelization Guide  
is published monthly  
and is available on:  
[www.drvc.org/newevangelization.html](http://www.drvc.org/newevangelization.html)

Diocese of Rockville Centre  
P.O. Box 9023  
Rockville Centre, NY 11571  
(516) 678-5800