



## THE CHURCH IN OUR DAY

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With sadness we notice that some today, using the noble word “charism” or employing theology almost as therapy, ridicule the Church and, under the guise of being contemporary, seem hostile to everything except their own views. What begins as necessary and solid criticism seems readily to degenerate into a destructive attitude toward life unworthy of reason and inconsistent with faith. Too often [and here each of us must examine their own conscience] the life of prayer and the pursuit of spiritual excellence have become the last and the least of considerations. A new

Pelagianism seeks salvation in the correction of structures rather than in conversion to God; a new Gnosticism places all its hope in the apt phrase or the esoteric formula rather than in Jesus Christ crucified and risen. We must not forget that what we are seeking to reform is not a mortal institution but the Church of the Living God. [p 12]

*[Excerpts from the document The Church in our Day, published by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, January 21, 1968, appear on a regular basis.]*



**ACTION**—this is what we are called to do, is it not? It is not enough to know the Gospel Message. Rather, we are to carry out (ACTION) the Gospel Message.

The Call to Action National Conference is one way we can become more knowledgeable of issues and catch the spirit with lay people, religious and clergy:

- committed to Vatican II and the U.S.

## CALL TO ACTION

Bishops’ 1976 Call to Action in Detroit

- committed to rebuilding the Church for the next generation

This year’s conference is November 4-6 at the Midwest Airline Center in Milwaukee. The theme for the conference is **“Religion, Money and Politics: What’s God Got to Do with It?”** The conference will urge participants to examine carefully how they

apply religious language and value to their debate on public policy matters.

You can find out more about the conference and/or Call to Action (CTA) at: [www.cta-uas.org](http://www.cta-uas.org) or call: 1-773-404-0004

-Sister Mary Barbieur

## EXCERPTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

### *Summary of August Minutes.*

Board and committee meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month respectively. Open board positions will be left open as qualifications are clarified. The search for a secretary will continue; an interim secretary is in place until one is found.

Beacon of Hope (BOH) will support any student who has completed eighth grade or is in high school and wants to participate in the St. Joseph's Food Program and Community Clothes Closet.

Communications with parents will begin earlier next year.

A recommendation was made to plan the next BOH picnic for the first Saturday after Labor Day 2006. Keep your calendar open and collect those baskets!

Two representatives were sent to Indiana for the Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) National Convention. VOTF's goals include: Support those who have been abused; support priests of integrity; Shape structural change within the church. There were several inspirational speakers at the VOTF convention and copies of speeches are available on CD. BOH will send two representatives annually to maintain contact. VOTF's motto

is: KEEP THE FAITH,  
CHANGE THE CHURCH.

All communication is presented to Directors for approval. The communications committee will draft a letter of solicitation for funding and other needed items.

The BOH website has had significant changes. Check it out at [www.bohlightofchrist.org](http://www.bohlightofchrist.org). Goals for the website include links to noteworthy websites such as VOTF; the ability to register as a BOH member or to receive this newsletter. BOH is keeping the communication lines open.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Now that Beacon of Hope – Light of Christ is officially a tax exempt, 501(c)3 organization, complete with our Letter of Determination from the Internal Revenue Service, we have begun to function like a true non-profit organization should. We have officers in place, appointed by the organizing Board of Directors. We also have six directors on our current Board of Directors.

However, our organization's by-laws call for nine members on the Board of Directors. This means that we are presently three Board members short. Would

you like to become a member of the Board?

Our meetings are energizing and our members are committed to making BOH-LOC a meaningful organization for all of its members. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month. If you are interested in joining the Board, call me (993-0855, evenings) to discuss what the Board is doing now and where our next meeting will be. I can also provide you with names and numbers of other officers and Board members if you'd like to talk to them.

Even if you aren't interested right now in being on the Board, you are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what it's all about. We'd love to have you, and maybe you'd be moved to join.

- Gregory Stock,  
President

*"Our meetings are energizing and our members are committed to making BOH-LOC a meaningful organization for all its members."*

## WHO GOES TO HEAVEN.... Is Heaven Just for Catholics?

For Catholics growing up before Vatican II, memories can conjure up a time when there was a great divide between the various Christian denominations constituting Christ's Church. Many times, it was members of the Catholic denomination that were subject to ridicule, abuse, and discrimination. And unfortunately, we Catholics brought much of it upon ourselves.

Self-righteousness, arrogance and false beliefs led many vocal Catholic laity and clergy to proclaim that God had set aside special privileges for Catholics, one of which was sole entry into Heaven. We claimed then that we were THE Church, not just a significant part of the CHURCH. Today, some are returning to that claim.

Malarkey!

Over the last fifty years, much has been done in the Catholic Church, especially within the post-Vatican II time frame and in America, to dispel such false convictions and to work towards

unification of the varying Christian churches into one, holy, catholic and apostolic CHURCH.

In scripture, we hear Christ Himself proclaim that where two or more are gathered in His name, He will also be. We also come to hear in the Word, and understand, that it is Christ who is the gateway to Heaven and the Father.

We also read and understand that it is through faith, instilled by the Holy Spirit, that we are saved. And finally, we come to understand the relationship of faith to good works, through Christ's commandment to love and His commission to teach.

Nowhere in scripture does it say that only Catholics will go to heaven.

One of the most compelling readings outside of scriptures, is the book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, by Pope John Paul II. Published in 1994, at a time when John Paul had his full faculties, the book is a challenging read, but

fruitful.

Going beyond the scope of even the varying Christian denominations that combine to become Christ's Church, John Paul states "Christ came into the world for all... He has redeemed them all and has His own ways of reaching each of them..."(p. 83).

In his wisdom, John Paul exhorts all Christians to accept their denominational differences, treasure their commonalities of faith through Christ and the Holy Spirit, and to engage fully in Christ's calling to love and teach (pp. 105-117).

"For everyone, life beyond death is connected with the affirmation: "I believe in the resurrection of the body," and then: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins and in life everlasting." (p. 185)". Thank you John Paul.

So what is the relevance today of the assertion by some that only Catholics, and only TRUE Catholics at that, will go to Heaven?

*(Continued on next page)*

**"Nowhere in Scripture does it say that only Catholics go to heaven."**

# WHO GOES TO HEAVEN....

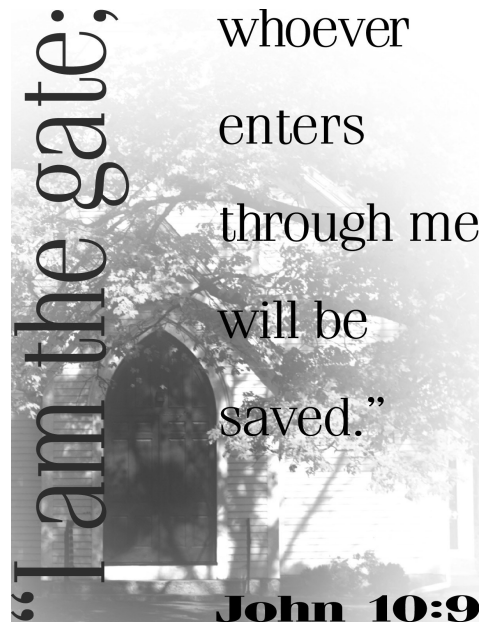
Many Christians, Catholics included, operate under the illusion of “favor”...the notion that belief begets privilege. John Paul again affirms that “Men turn to various religions to solve the mysteries of the human condition...”. What theologians and psychologists alike know is that men will, in times of duress, seek power and control especially if they perceive they have lost it.

Moving towards CHURCH unity brings fear of the loss of control by some Catholics. Concurrently, these Catholics are experiencing pains from the exposure of the sexual and financial abuses by some clergy, and the embarrassment of cover-up by church hierarchy. As a result, some in the Catholic Church seek to re-assert power and control, usually by edict. They assert standing (control) by reclaiming status (authority).

While this behavior is explainable, it is not condonable. To assert that only Catholics are able to enter heaven borders on heresy, and leads to abuse of authority. To claim that only

Catholics can go to heaven is an example of a “fear, control and edict” mentality inconsistent with Christ’s commandment to love and commission to teach.

- Tom Wiltzius



# FYI

**OFFICE SPACE GRANTED**

Beacon of Hope has been granted office space at the Goodwill Menasha Campus.

## SPREADING THE WORD OF CHRIST AND LEARNING VALUABLE LESSONS

This past July I was fortunate to be able to go on a mission trip to Chihuahua, Mexico. I went with a group from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado where one of my sisters is a member. I had been invited to go along last summer and wasn't able to go, but decided to make the trip this year with my three sisters and two nieces. This is the fifth year that this church has gone to Casa Hogar Orphanage in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Last year the group that went down brought donated woodworking tools and sewing machines and were able to set up a wood working shop and a sewing center to teach the young adults a trade so that when they reach the age of 18 and go out on their own they will have the skills to earn a living.

Unfortunately shortly after leaving last year all of the

woodworking machines and sewing machines had to be shut down because they were drawing too much power from the only generator that runs everything at the orphanage. We arrived just in time this year with enough money donated



from the church to buy a new generator and have it installed. So our hope is that now they will be able to use all the equipment once again.

We also taught Vacation Bible School and did miscellaneous maintenance and cleaning at the orphanage. At first I thought the fact that the children spoke no English and I speak very little Spanish was

going to be a problem, but I soon learned that language has no barrier when teaching the word of God. The children just thrived on learning about anything from the bible. We had one person in our group that spoke very good Spanish and would read from the Bible. We did skits, craft projects and snacks each day relating to a story from the bible. I saw the Holy Spirit move in every child there, from the age of 5 all the way up to 18. It was truly a very moving experience.

On the day that we had to say good bye we saw many tears and received so many hugs, and we just knew that we had made a difference in all of those children's lives if only for one short week. This experience has deepened my faith and truly made me appreciate all that I have.

- Sherry Swanson

**Life is short. Eternity isn't.**

**-God**

Prayer used before every session of the second Vatican Council and now used before every BOH Board of Director's meeting.

Response: ***Come to us, remain with us, And enlighten our hearts.***

*We stand before you, holy Spirit, Conscious of our sinfulness, But aware that we gather in your name.*

*Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own,*

*and to live it in our lives.*

*Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power. For you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.*

*You desire justice for all:*

*Enable us to uphold the rights of others; Do not allow us to be misled by ignorance Or corrupted by fear or favor.*

*Unit us to yourself in the bond of love And keep us faithful to all that*

*is true.*

*As we gather in your name, may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants*

*You love and reign with the Father and the son, One God, forever and ever.*

*Amen*

If you have any questions/concerns, no longer wish to receive this newsletter or wish to receive additional information not included in this newsletter, please contact us at Beacon of Hope, P.O. Box 2524 Appleton, WI 54912 or send an email to [BeaconOfHope@bohlightofchrist.org](mailto:BeaconOfHope@bohlightofchrist.org)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# OCTOBER

