



Thank you, Holy Father!

On the occasion of the jubilee year of its 50th anniversary, a delegation of the Community of the Beatitudes went to Rome and had the joy, on Monday April 17th 2023, of meeting the Holy Father in private audience.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

I am pleased to celebrate with you the fiftieth anniversary of your community. [...] Your charism, which was born from the impetus of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, is a gift for the Church and for the world. As we read in your Rule (cf. Art. 5), the **pentecostal experience and the eschatological dimension** have been central in from its origin, and with their impulse, it continues to expand and manifest itself through the **life of the Spirit, the communion of the states of life, and the apostolate**.

The eschatological dimension allows it to transpire, through praise, the beauty of the liturgy, hymns and fraternal life, that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst. The experience of Pentecost is the heart of your spiritual life. It is expressed in the constant search for union with God, which is made concrete in the daily celebration of the Eucharist, in the adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament, in the life of prayer according to Carmelite spirituality, and in the search for continuous prayer in accordance with the spirituality of the Oriental Churches. This life of prayer is the wellspring of your fraternal communion, which is inspired by the Trinitarian source and which enables each person to fulfill his or her specific vocation.

The apostolate you carry out is very vast and varied. The liturgy of your houses attracts many people and the retreats, personal or in a group, also enable your experience to be shared with others. Furthermore, the presence in some Shrines in France, Hungary, Italy and Ivory Coast and the service of priests in the parishes represent an important opportunity for witness.

You have supported various humanitarian projects in developing countries, such as the welcome of minors in difficulty, assistance for malnourished or disabled children, help for disadvantaged families and single mothers, and the distribution of meals and healthcare. In these contexts of poverty, you also manage a hospital, a clinic, an eye center and a dental practice.

Dear brothers and sisters, all this is a reason to give thanks to God. In particular, your commitment to the service of the most fragile and marginalized people in a society contaminated by the throwaway culture. It is good to know that in the majority of houses situated in the West, you have organized listening centers for those who find themselves in difficulty, and that this service is also extended to prisons. It is important that those who suffer and who feel they are alone may find places where they can be welcomed and listened to, and you are giving your contribution generously. Another aspect of your apostolate is that of the occasional missions, such as those you carry out in summer in places where people go on holiday: you offer moments of prayer, the Mass, worship, meetings for formation in evangelization, street shows, wakes and nocturnal evangelization. This commitment demonstrates your openness to the needs of the young and your willingness to bring the Word of God to every place and circumstance.

Also worthy of mention is the fact that you organize international gatherings, such as those held in Lourdes and Lisieux. These meetings are important occasions for spiritual renewal for all participants, and offer the opportunity to share experiences with Christians from all over the world. Finally, I cannot fail to mention your pilgrimages to the Holy Land and in other places of faith. These journeys are experiences of great spiritual intensity, which lead one to deepen or at times discover the roots of faith and to strengthen one's own relationship with God. [...]

I therefore invite you to go forward and persevere in your mission with zeal and without fear, to bear witness to faith with joy and hope, and always to remain open and obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit: He is the Protagonist in the life of the Church and in evangelization. I encourage you to maintain your commitment to the formation of the young generations and to interreligious dialogue, in particular with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

May Our Lady keep you always in the joy of discipleship, in the joyful and grateful wonder of having received the gift of being the Lord's disciples. I bless you and all the brothers and sisters of the community from my heart. And I ask you, please, to pray for me. Thank you!

-Pope Francis

New “Friends of the Lamb”



It is with joy that we announce four new members of the Denver Friends of the Lamb (FOL). The FOL are associated members of the community who share our charism and commit each year to fellowship with us. Ruby Moscoso has long been a dear friend of ours. At the Divine Mercy Sunday Vespers, she officially made her commitment as FOL. Alongside Ruby, Megan, who previously

discerned joining the lay branch but is in working in California, also joined the FOL. John and Araceli are a married couple living in South Carolina. They also discerned joining the lay branch. They were able to visit during Holy Week and make their commitment as Friends of the Lamb at that time. What a gift the fraternal life is! **-Rachel** (lay member)

Sr. Helen in Hong Kong and Macau (China)

I was in Hong Kong for two years studying Chinese and in Macau for ten years. Now the community has asked me to take care of our Chinese “Friends of the Lamb.” After COVID, I could finally come back to visit our friends (February 28-March 10, 2023). Our Friends of the Lamb renewed their commitment. Among them, two are from mainland China. It is a very fervent little group!



Hong Kong in recent years has changed a lot. The government, which is totally influenced by Beijing, dictates a new law. People cannot express their opinion freely. All the members of the opposition are in jail. A lot of people migrate because they don't want their children to receive an atheistic education, but I heard a beautiful testimony from friends of mine who migrated two years ago to Bristol (a little town in the UK) and they welcomed into their new parish around twenty Chinese people. This Easter, five of them received Baptism. It is beautiful to see that in all these troubles, God continues to touch the people! Thank you for your prayers for China!

-Sr. Helen

“Friends of the Lamb” (adults) and “Disciples of the Lamb” (18-30 yo) are associated with the Community of the Beatitudes, and share its spirituality and apostolates.

ASCEND in Florida

It was a great joy to participate in the ASCEND conference with "St Paul's Outreach" (Mission Saint Paul) on January 3-6 in Florida! We met 750 students from different campuses, coming from all over the United States. "St Paul's Outreach" works in the universities and its ministry is strongly marked by the Charismatic Renewal, with a great openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



With these young people we were able to meet the Lord through adoration, praise, and the teachings on the theme: "Words of Eternal Life." Sr Sarah and Br Nilson, together with Maria and McKenna, missionaries this year for "Beatitudes Missions," were able to share the charism of the Community of the Beatitudes, bringing together young people for Lauds, Vespers and a time of dances. What blessings!

-Fr. Nilson

Fun Day at the Museum

On President's Day when most people have the day off, the community planned a fun day together at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The large group of community members and friends of the community gathered at the main entrance. We moseyed through the many exhibits that span the three floors of the building. It was impossible to remain in one large group, so we became many small groups who intersected with one another regularly. The gems in the rock and mineral exhibit were pure gold and the special deep sea adventure was a splash.

-Rachel (lay member)



Road-Trip Mission



This year Beatitudes Missions took, for the seventh year in a row, a one-month long road trip! Fr. Nilson, Sr. Sarah and our two missionary interns, Maria and McKenna, went first to Ascend, the conference organized by SPO, in Orlando, in order to meet Christian young adults. Fr. Nilson had to go back to Denver, but we had the joy to welcome to the team Fr. Anthony, Sr. Brigitte-Marie from France, Br. Florian from Switzerland, and Armelle, a French young woman who wanted to give 3 months to God with our community. Our team was international and intergenerational, ready for adventure! We had an incredible itinerary: we spent ten days in Tallahassee with college students, we went to North Carolina, then our team was interviewed by EWTN and got to share our witness on TV!! We also participated in the “March for Life” in Washington. After a few days in Pittsburg with students, we went to Franciscan University, then Cincinnati and Nashville.

Each time, we were amazed to see how people were happy to welcome us into their houses. We also met many students, shared our love for Jesus, and invited many young adults to World Youth Day. This May, we will welcome for one week eight young adults ready to give their summer to Jesus, as interns with the community in different houses in France. They want to spend time with God in our community, serve Him and help us for WYD, and discern their vocation. Praise God!

-Sr. Sarah

Jesus Our Hope Retreat House

“Be still and know that I am God”

For more information and reservations: jesus-our-hope.org

Discernment Retreat



The “Discernment Retreat” was an experience of my own chosen-ness and an invitation of intimate trust in God. We had a weeklong silent retreat in the mountains, in the cabins of Jesus Our Hope surrounded by God’s Beauty in nature. I got to journey with a group of young retreatants in a daily schedule of liturgy of the hours, Mass, outdoor work, adoration with

Jesus, Marian prayer, talks, and times of rest and contemplation. We were accompanied by every member of the Community, for which I felt deeply pursued by God through this generosity. I received a series of deep teachings followed by a detailed step that we would take (gratitude, acknowledgement of fears, entrusting ourselves to God). I was especially touched to be able to write a letter of gratitude to Mary detailing all the things that had happened in my life and to place this letter at the altar. This helped me to see how God has been writing the story of my life. That day, I experienced a clear image of Jesus holding me and looking upon me gently with a deep, joyful knowledge of me in His eyes and heart, and several words which He spoke to me. Eucharistic Jesus was revealing to me with love how my life has been a gratuitous and extravagantly tender gift from Him. I was also touched when, in the trust step, each of our names were personally written on the side of the Altar under the words of Jesus: “I lay down my life for the sheep” (Jn 10:15). The Spirit helped me to see in this step how I belong to Jesus my Good Shepherd, and how He thought about my name in a singular way when He was saying each word in the Gospels and had my name in His heart, His beloved, while He was on the cross. The entire retreat was overflowing and anointed with the Spirit. I received a deeper formation on several areas of the discernment process (Ignatian discernment, affectivity, freedom, entrapments, etc.) integrated into a time of deep exploration of the heart and inviting Jesus to show me who He is and who I am. By the end of the silent retreat, I received a gift of clarity to take a concrete step in my discernment process. I also received peace from God to trust that my first and most important call is always to belong to Him and to be Love (as St. Thérèse says).

-Maria G.

International Lay Meeting

In May I had the opportunity to go to France for our International Lay Meeting, April 28 - May 1st. We were ninety community members including married couples, single people, and consecrated lay members. Most people came from France and Belgium, but our nationalities included Mexican and Peruvians who are living in Europe, and countless others joined us by Zoom. It was exciting to represent Denver which for many seemed like “the other side of the world!”

It was a joyful occasion to gather together and to learn about the theme of “Gratitude,” even in the face of hardship or suffering. The teachings explained that gratitude is the capacity to see the good works of God, but often we can be blind, and we need to purify our minds to be able to see the true reality before us. We had a special prayer evening where we shared a million things that we are thankful for in the Community. It is true that the Lord continues to pour out His blessing on us, especially as we celebrate our 50 year anniversary since the Community’s foundation. -**Samantha** (lay member)



Beatitudes Missionaries



My name is Laura Bevins, I am a longtime friend and past member of the Community. At the end of May, we had the opportunity to welcome a team of eight Beatitudes Missions summer interns: from North Carolina, Kansas, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. They entered into Community life for six days, getting to experience the weekly triduum, and learning about the Community. Their time in Denver wouldn’t be complete without

a hike. They are excited for their summer on mission, and it was a joy welcoming them. Please pray for these interns as they spend the summer in France/Portugal preparing for and attending World Youth Day in Lisbon. -**Laura B.**



COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES

1973 - 2023

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Pray for our young adult group going in pilgrimage to the World Youth Day, July 5th - August 11th.

“Along the route we need to travel before arriving in Lisbon, we have at our side the Virgin of Nazareth who, immediately after the Annunciation, *arose and went with haste* (Lk 1:39). *Arise!* It is a word that speaks to us of getting up from our slumber, waking up to the life all around us.” -Pope Francis

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