

# LAY WITNESS

July 6, 2018

St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

Vol. 36, No. 3

to unite the faithful from all walks of life in order to support, defend and advance the efforts of the teaching Church

## **From the President**

Dear Friends.

"Grace to you, and peace from Him Who is, Who was, and Who is to come" (Rev. 1:4).

There are many exciting things happening at the CUF International Office these days. Interns have returned, and are cataloging documents, files, and The Saint Joseph Foundation (SJF) library to make research resources more effective and available. When the project is complete, we hope to make our research resources available as a benefit to Chapters and members engaged in related research. The infrastructure and protocols for handling the sharing are yet to be developed, but the first stage of cataloging has begun. The second stage will commence later this summer.

The current server used for our database and internal files is full. It is also old. We will purchase a new server and update the software so we can begin writing protocols for information sharing. During one of the moves in 2014 or 2015, thousands of hard files were lost. With CUF's affiliation to SJF, we gained access to thousands of research resources. They cannot replace the ones lost, but they are a huge help and provide essential supplement to what we still have retained. This project will help protect the files and expand their use.

Information Services has continued to grow. We still have a long way to go before we reach the 800 requests per month that we saw in 2000, but we're on the right track. If requests

continue to increase at the current rate, we will need to hire another Information Specialist before 2019.

This issue of *Lay Witness* is our third since CUF's reorganization. The lead article defines the expectations of CUF membership. We are finishing the development of our chapter packets and will then complete a membership packet as well. We hope these informational materials will help CUF members better identify what it means to be a member, and how important it is for the Catholic Church today.

And, we continue our preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CUF Conference. For any Catholic apostolate to celebrate 50 years of service and apostolic activity is a huge success. For CUF, with all its rich history, accomplishments, and intense struggles, reaching this milestone is all the sweeter. We hope to see you there! Please plan to come, and make your reservations early!

God bless you all; St. Joseph and his Immaculate Spouse keep you!

Peace,

Philip C. L. Gray

PS: I almost forgot to mention, the first yak of 2018 was born on 27 May!



#### Prayer of Catholics United for the Faith

O God our Father, who sent Your only-begotten Son to suffer and to give His life for the life of His Church, rule, protect, and nourish her continually, we beseech You. Teach us of Catholics United for the Faith to direct our zeal first of all to the renewal of our own hearts. Then, if it be Your holy will to allow us to be in any way Your instruments in the wider renewal of Your Church, give us the grace to know what services, small or great, You ask of us, and let the Holy Spirit teach us to perform them in obedience, patience, and charity, leaving entirely to You what fruits they may bear. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of that Holy Spirit, one God,

forever and ever. AMEN.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, Mother of the Church,
intercede for us.
St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family
and Patron of the Universal Church,
pray for us.

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## **Believing is Doing**

#### By: Philip C. L. Gray

"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world..." (Mt. 25:31-34.

If you're scratching your head and thinking, "Didn't we already discuss Faith in the last issue?" please forgive me. This reality is at the core of CUF's reason for existing and I want to keep unpacking it with you. In the last two issues of *Lay Witness*, I re-introduced the Mission of CUF. Particularly, I explained how the Virtue of Faith must be "mixed" within each of us. If it is not, we cannot hope to enter into God's Rest (c.f. Heb. 4:2, *et al.*). In this article, I will use the Word of God to show how authentic Faith necessitates apostolic activities. Then I will offer a practical guide to the kinds of apostolic activities that will "mix" the Virtue of Faith within us and strengthen the Bonds of Unity with Christ and His Church.

# Faith apart from works is dead (James 2:28)

My parents raised me Catholic. They raised me to read the Bible; to pray the Bible. I grew up on the Word of God. Bibles sat on the end tables in our living room. Bible studies and prayer meetings (the same thing back then) were held in that same living room. I fell in love with the stained glass windows in the churches I attended and I could identify the different biblical themes and stories they depicted. I still love to meditate on the biblical imagery found in the stained glass that adorns beautiful Catholic churches.

This deeply personal formation in Scripture continued into adulthood and I came to understand the message in James 2:28 to be self-evident. For context, simply read James 2:8-28. As Catholics, these verses should be familiar to us. Those of us formed by the Word of God and who understand how the doctrines of the Catholic Faith flow from that Word also know that this singular passage from James' Epistle is often used as a dividing line between Catholic and Protestant thought.

I grew up in the Bible Belt. I even have a Bible Belt buckle (matches my cowboy boots). Most of my friends in town were Protestant. My dad's side of the family was Baptist. As self-evident as James 2:28 is to me, I could never understand how Protestants—and some "Catholics"—couldn't understand this simple truth. On the rare occasion that someone broached this topic with me, the conversation would quickly turn into an apologetics debate. I would watch as my opponent engaged in some pretty impressive mental gymnastics to try and build a case that faith does not need works to save a person. Of course, when I cited James' Epistle, the person either ignored my citation or brushed it off as "an insignificant passage that barely made it into the Bible". Never could a person provide me with a systematic explanation that did not exclude a basis in Sacred Scripture.

My good-natured spats with friends were only a small manifestation of a much larger Christian debate on the doctrine of *sola fide*, which is the belief held by many Protestant sects that faith in Jesus alone is all that is needed for salvation. In my experience, most Christians, Catholic and Protestant, do not understand the doctrine. They do not understand the nuances of their own church's stance, and far less what their opponent's church may believe. This doctrine is often used as an academic pretense for disunity, even if individual practice defies the academic pretense.

If you are confused, revisit James 2:8-28. He makes it pretty easy to understand that if one does not practice faith, one does not have faith. He summarizes key events in salvation history to demonstrate how the Patriarchs were justified by *acting* in faith, not by *merely* believing. Saint Paul demonstrates the same thing in his epistle to the Hebrews. A key theme in this epistle is the necessity of doing stuff (my words) in conformity with faith or we will not enter God's rest. Put another way, if you want to go to heaven then you must do more than just believe. Demons believe. Mere belief is not faith, and it won't get you to heaven.

Jesus summarized this just two days before He entered His Passion and died for us. Continuing the passage in Matthew's Gospel, that began this article:

...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the

Page 2 Volume 36 • Issue 3

least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Mt. 25:34-46).

As we see from the passage above, St. Paul and St. James only restate what Jesus said. Authentic faith necessitates apostolic action. If a baptized person, especially one who is raised in the Catholic Faith, does not pursue apostolic activities, that person has squandered his inheritance of faith and will not enter God's rest. That is God's Word, not mine.

#### Mixing Faith Within Us

When I was in high school, attending an all boys, Catholic boarding school called Subiaco Academy, I considered a career in the Air Force. I had two nominations to the Air Force Academy. One night, I had a scheduled meeting with my liaison officer, and he was late. I took the opportunity to step into the abbey church and pray. He found me there, and he began our meeting with an impromptu question about whether my faith was important to me. He went on to explain that with so many religions represented in the armed forces, it would be imprudent and harmful to make specific religious demands on anyone. "But faith is like a river running through the [Air Force] Academy campus. Anyone can choose to stoop down and drink, and it is encouraged." At first, I thought that was a pretty cool analogy for faith. Then, I considered deeper realities.

No, we are not called to walk beside a river of

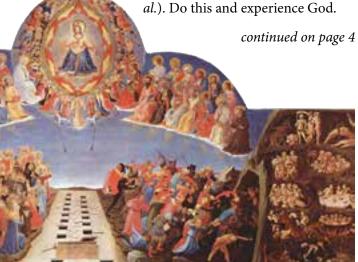
faith that we stoop to drink from when we like. Rather, our faith is a River of Life flowing from the Throne of God, and we are called to be fish living in those waters. We must make faith the environment we live in and allow it to permeate every aspect of our person and our life.

How is this accomplished on a practical level? How is faith mixed within a person? The answer is simple; the process is not. "Mixing faith within a person" is done through proper faith formation. Most of us know some of the elements that this includes; learning our prayers and catechism, participating in Bible studies, developing a regular prayer life and the like. Much has been written about what constitutes a good Catholic education. CUF even has a FAITH FACT or two on the subject. I see no need to re-write what so many more qualified individuals have already written. Rather than attempting to enumerate points of doctrine to be included in a catechetical program, I'll focus on three aspects that should serve as starting points for us to mix faith in our lives.

1. Personal Relationship with God: No amount of education, no matter how thorough and clear, will develop the Virtue of Faith if one does not have a personal relationship with God. I am not speaking here of going to Mass daily, praying the Rosary, or completing a host of other pious practices. These are all very good things; I do them and I try to train my children to do the same. Nonetheless, just as Faith without works is dead, so works without Faith are dead. How many times did Jesus criticize those who exercised an outward show of religion without attending to the deep interior life? The only way for the Virtue of Faith to be integrated, that is "mixed", into our person and our society is if we, as individuals, possess and pursue a deep, personal relationship with God. This relationship will take form differently in each of us because each of us is unique.

Each day, put aside your Bible, your Missal, your devotionals, and just talk to God as a child should talk to its father. Share your joys, sorrows, fears, and accomplishments. Give Him your life as a child proudly gives a picture drawn just for dad. And then listen. Take time to listen. God speaks to us and guides us in the silence of our hearts;

deep within our being (Sir. 37:13-15, et



The Last Judgment, Fra Angelico

2. <u>Personal Formation</u>: Imagine your father gives you a gift on your birthday. It comes in a small box, but you can tell it has been wrapped in beautiful paper with great care. As he gives it to you in front of the whole family, he says, "I love you; I hope you like it!" What comes next? Do you unwrap it? Do you find out what it is? Will you use the gift for others? Think how offended your father would feel if you simply set the gift aside without opening it; how awkward everyone in the room would feel; how confused and offended others would be on behalf of your father.

My existence and yours is a sheer, gratuitous gift from God. His goodness doesn't stop there. He also gives us the gift of personality traits, temperaments, and talents that make each person unique and unrepeatable. So many of these gifts are present in us *potentially*. God wants to see us unwrap these gifts and use them for our good and the good of others for our entire life. This is why He gifts us to a family of His choosing. God intends our families to be the loving community in which we learn about ourselves and develop virtue. Like stones worn by a river, family life should gently but persistently soften our rough edges and polish what is best in our natures.

Despite the baggage every family carries, there is a great comfort in knowing that God chose our family for us. Our upbringing and formation at the hands of our parents, no matter how "good" or "bad" the memories, are a training ground for us to learn how to use our unique combination of personality elements and talents given by God. We may not like our particular training ground. We may not think it is the best; but it is the one chosen by God for each person. It is up to each of us to reflect on who we are as individuals and consider carefully the gifts and talents God has given us.

Preeminent to all these gifts is the Virtue of Faith. At the moment of our Baptism we are "born of water and the Spirit" into new life in Christ, and God the Father bestows on us the free gift of faith. This gift must be cultivated with formal catechesis and the formation that only practicing the faith can provide. This is a process our parents direct for us until we are old enough to take on the responsibility ourselves. Ultimately, it's up to us to unwrap the gift, find out what it is, and use it for the good of the whole Church. If we never unwrap the gift, never thank the Father for giving it on our birthday, never show appreciation by using it, we offend not only the Giver of the gift we also offend the family of faith we are part of.

That's where the "virtue" part comes in. When we speak of a person attaining virtue, we understand virtue to be the integration within a person of natural attributes (temperament, physical capabilities, talents, etc.) with divine attributes God has shared with man. To the degree

that a person unwraps the Virtue of Faith and integrates it into his personality, temperament, talents, abilities, and experiences, he swims in the River of Life as opposed to floundering about on land hoping to flop in.

3. <u>Social Formation</u>: This cultivation of virtue can never remain private. We must learn to integrate Faith into every relationship and every circumstance of our lives. This takes effort and courage, and it allows us to participate in and build up the Society of Grace. To possess the Virtue of Faith, each individual must be united to the Society of Grace, the Catholic Church, or Faith will not be efficacious—it won't work—in us. It will be dead. The life of Faith requires that we be united by the Three Visible Bonds of Communion; that is, the Sacraments, the Profession of Faith, and Apostolic Succession (*Catechism* #815). To the degree we share in these three Bonds of Communion, we are united to Christ and His Church. And to the degree we share in this unity, the Seeds of Faith find fertile ground to grow.

When Faith is integrated into our social formation, it becomes familiar to say things like, "God bless you" or "Peace" or some other such gesture of blessing. It becomes familiar to treat people with dignity, because doing so is a way of being holy as God is holy. As we do these things, we are contributing to a Society of Grace and encouraging others to do the same. At this level of mixing Faith, we pursue apostolic activities on our own initiative.

#### **Personal Initiatives**

As Catholics dedicated to uniting the faithful in order that we might defend, advance, and support the Teaching Church, we must mix Faith within the society in which we find ourselves. This takes personal initiative to pursue apostolic activities by our own undertaking (cf. Canons 215-216). This is the final point of this article and a core tenet of CUF membership. It is this willingness to take our faith beyond the thresholds of our homes and churches and bring it out to the world that makes CUF an apostolate. An apostle, from the Greek *apóstolos*, is one who is sent out. CUF members do stuff. So, what do you do? How do you choose the right activity for you?

First, know yourself. Take time to consider your own Personal Formation. A prudent steward will only manage the affairs put into his charge. If he tries to manage the affairs of another steward, he will fail in the tasks given to him and likely cause discontent with the other steward. In like manner, God has given each of us personal talents and gifts. Be a good steward of them and use them wisely. Choose apostolic activities that coincide with your gifts and talents; that match your Personal Formation. As St. Paul writes,

continued on page 6

Page 4 Volume 36 • Issue 3

## **Morsels of Mirth**

#### Theme: Virtue of Faith

Find the answer to each clue hidden in the word search below! (Hint: Read the main article!)

- 1. A gift, freely given by God at Baptism, that must be "mixed" within a person to become efficacious.
- 2. The integration of natural attributes with divine attributes God has shared with us.
- 3. If faith is a river, flowing from the throne of God, we are called to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. This formal religious instruction is a necessary part of a Catholic education.
- 6. Virtue is the \_\_\_\_\_ to do the good.
- 7. This community is gifted to us by God to serve as the training ground for personal formation and growth in virtue.
- 8. The false teaching that goods works play no role in our salvation.
- 9. The Epistle of St. \_\_\_\_ clearly teaches the need for good works in the Christian life.
- 10. 37:13-15 of this book of the Bible tells us to listen deep within our souls.
- 11. The 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of this Gospel tells of sheep and goats.
- 12. Our new birth into the life of Christ.
- 13. Christ's Office as \_\_\_\_\_ empowers all Christians to serve as intercessors.
- 14. Christ's Office as \_\_\_\_\_ allows all Christians to serve as teachers of the faith.
- 15. Christ's Office as \_\_\_\_ impels us to right wrongs within our power.

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Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills (1 Cor. 12:4-7, 11).

Let me offer just one way to discern your choice of apostolic initiative. I will frame it according to the Threefold Office of Christ shared by all the baptized of Priest, Prophet, and King.

Priest: Though there are many theological similarities between the ordained priesthood and the non-ordained priesthood, there are also very clear distinctions. For purposes of this article, I write only about the latter. As shown in many passages of Sacred Scripture, a priest stands as a mediator between God and man (Num. 16:48; Heb. 9:7; et al.). As a mediator from man to God, a priest is an intercessor. As a mediator of God to man, a priest is a dispenser of grace. Both roles express apostolic initiative because they originate from within a person for the benefit of another.

The role of an intercessor is one often underrated. Few people watch the center during a football game; they watch the quarterback, or someone in the backfield where many of the plays occur. Regardless of how necessary he is, the center just doesn't get much press. And he *is* necessary. If the center is not big and strong and good at what he does, the quarterback is in big trouble. He won't be able to make plays. It's the same with intercessors.

True intercessors have a close and strong relationship with God. Like a great center, they are aggressive, and they do not back down. They know how important their role is, even if others don't know or notice. Intercessors, by mediating the needs of others to God, call down His grace into the situations they pray for. Just as the widow wore out the unjust judge with her constant demands for justice so intercessors storm heaven with the prayers others need to accomplish great things (Luke 18:1-8).

If you have a close relationship with God, or the time to develop one, please consider being an intercessor. This choice of apostolic activity is great for those who have limited opportunities for involvement elsewhere. And, it is so essential. Don't get me wrong, **all** of us should be praying for others. We should all be offering our sufferings and prayers for the conversion of sinners and for specific needs we identify. I am speaking here of initiating planned, apostolic action.

Just as a volunteer plans to spend a certain amount of time each day or week doing a specific task, an intercessor should plan to spend a certain amount of time each day or week at a specified time to storm Heaven for specific causes. Write the causes down and include scripture verses specific to the petition. The Psalms and Prophetic Books are filled with great passages for this. As you pray, make your way through your list. Be persistent. And, make sure you actually ask for God's favor and grace. Do not be timid. Jesus promises that Our Father in Heaven will give good things to His children who ask (Matthew 7:9-11). So, be a child and ask. And please, make sure you have me on your list, and all the CUF staff, directors, officers, and members. We need your prayers so that our work will be successful.

As a mediator of God to man, the priest is a dispenser of God's grace to all those he encounters. This role of Priest unites the Three-fold Offices of Christ in the life of the Christian, for grace is dispensed by serving as a Prophet or a King.

<u>Prophet</u>: The primary role of a prophet in Sacred Scripture was to encourage the people to do good. Often, that role would include mediating God's Word directly to His people. When it did include this element, the primary focus was still to encourage the people to do something good. This role as Prophet is often identified as a teaching role, and the Teaching Office of the Church is the Prophetic Office of Christ.

Do you have a sharp intellect and the ability to understand things and explain them? Can you distinguish between nuances, and explain those nuances clearly? Do you love to be around people, and socialize? If so, perhaps you should consider pursuing an initiative that puts these gifts to use.

Consider volunteering as a catechist in your parish's CCD program. Review the catechetical texts being considered for use by your parish or local Catholic school. Organize or volunteer at a Vacation Bible School this summer. Lead a bible study and use our Information Services to answer your own and others' questions about the Faith. If you're a student on a secular college campus, organize an apologetics club. If you're in the work force, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and dialogue about your faith when the occasion arises in the workplace. Invite a speaker to your parish, lead a book club, or volunteer to write brief catechetical blurbs in your parish bulletin.

As with the priestly duty of intercessory prayer, all of us are called to be prophets in our daily lives, but some of us are called to do more. There are some of us who God intends should actively plan to use our intellectual and social skills to educate and encourage others in the Faith.

King: Some of you who have been whole heartedly agreeing with me to this point may hesitate now as I ask

continued on page 7

Page 6 Volume 36 • Issue 3

you to take up your kingly role as baptized Christians. As followers of Christ, it is sometimes easiest to acquiesce or submit to the status quo under the guise of humility or obedience. Our kingly role is never a justification to be domineering or controlling, but we have an obligation to attempt to put the world into proper order by our apostolic work. We must use Jesus' model of a servant leader to understand what it really looks like to exercise our Kingly office: washing the feet of the poorest and least.

Intentionally set aside time to practice the corporal works of mercy and invite your children or grandchildren to join you. Pray outside of abortion clinics and be a conduit of grace and mercy for those inside as you engage in silent protest. Respectfully and charitably dialoguing with both religious and secular authority to correct errors. Our office is happy to walk with you as you navigate issues in your own parish or diocese. In fact, we have used our decades of experience to outline a tried and true method in our Lay Witness Effective Protocols. Please contact us for a copy.

These suggestions don't even begin to exhaust the possibilities for CUF's apostolic action. I only want to get the gears turning in your head. Our Chapter Packet and

developing Member Packet will have other ideas as well. You may find several ministries that you want to lend your time and talents to. You may focus your energies on integrating one apostolic activity into your monthly, weekly, or daily routine. You may carry out this calling quietly on your own for many years or you may be surprised by how many others you attract to your work by your apostolic zeal. The key is to be attentive to your gifts and the needs of those immediately around you and allow the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

CUF is here to help unite the faithful from all walks of life to support, defend, and advance the Teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. To be a CUF member means to be a Catholic united in the Faith to others who hold that Faith. Our International Office exists to help you be faithful, and to unite you with others who are faithful. We will help you grow in your faith, and we will help you "do stuff", because that's what CUF members do! When the last trumpet is blown, books are opened in Heaven, and Our Lord takes up His judgment seat, I want to see you on His right side. I will cry tears of joy to hear Our Lord say to you, "Good and faithful servant, you fed Me, you clothed Me, you visited Me, you taught Me...come and share your Master's Joy!"

### Yakin' About

#### **MOTHER ANGELICA TOURS**

Did you know that Mother Angelica, the founder of the largest religious media network in the world, was born and found her vocation in Canton, Ohio? Learn about what took this very remarkable Poor Clare nun to the south, what prompted her to start EWTN, and much more!

To register for an awe-inspiring tour and for more information go to <a href="https://www.motherangelicatour.com">www.motherangelicatour.com</a>

# JOIN IN THE FUN – AND LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Catholic Challenge is the only on-air Catholic quiz show in the USA. Tune in via radio, app, stream or podcast to learn more about the Faith. Test your knowledge of the Bible, Catechism, Catholic history, & the saints while teams compete for cash prizes for their favorite Catholic organizations!

Visit **livingbreadradio.com** to register to compete.

Listen at AM1060, 94.5FM, or 89.5FM

#### **SACRED MUSIC RETREAT**

Take part in spiritual conferences and rehearsals with world-class musicians over the span of 4 days, culminating in a pontifical Extraordinary Form Requiem on Saturday and a pontifical Extraordinary Form Mass on Sunday. This once-in-a-lifetime retreat includes four-teen Extraordinary Form Liturgies. Registration opens March 12. Contact johnschauble@twc.com for more information.

When: August 8 – August 12

Where: St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, KY

(near Cincinnati, OH)

**Who:** Msgr. Wadworth, Kevin Allen, Nick Lemme and

the Oratorian Community of Cincinnati

Got an announcement? If your event is CUF friendly and like-minded to our mission, we will gladly post it here. Just call (740) 283-2484 and ask for Therese.

Answers: 1) Faith 2) Virtue 3) Fish 4) Society of Grace 5) Catechesis 6) Habitual Disposition 7) Family 8) Sola Fide 9) James 10) Sirach 11) Matthew 12) Baptism 13) Priest 14) Prophet 15) King

# **CUF LINKS**

## **Uniting the Faithful Conference**

Registration for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference is now open! You can register for the event and sign up to receive conference updates to your email at **cuf.org/conference**. These updates are a great way to learn

more about the wonderful speakers, religious orders, and apostolates you can look forward to engaging with at the conference as well as one of a kind events and opportunities that long time CUF members will not want to miss!

## **Chapter News**

Sts. Peter and Paul Chapter, currently based in Thaxton, Virginia, is looking for new members willing to carry on the CUF mission. If you know anyone who may

be interested in revitalizing the Chapter in the Roanoke area, please contact <u>administrativeassistant@cuf.org</u> or (740) 283-2484.

#### **Information Services**

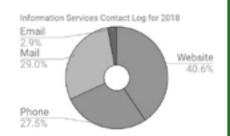
I am pleased to welcome Luke Iyengar as our Summer Information Services' (IS) Intern. Luke joined us after completing his MA in Theology from Franciscan University this past Spring. Luke will be assisting me in cataloging our library collection, organizing our research materials, and responding to IS Dept. inquiries. I am hopeful that with Luke's help we will be able to complete a few of our projects this Summer. Our second quarter continued to see a steady number of questions; however, the beginning of June brought with it a bit of a reprieve in the number of questions that we received. This reprieve has allowed us the time to begin working on some of our other projects. While I am thankful for the opportunity

to tackle these other projects, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have a question regarding the Faith. -Brian

YTD Means by which you have contacted Information Services: Email: 2.9%, Phone: 27.5%, Mail: 29%,

**Fun Fact:** 

Website Contact Form: 40.6%



## St. Joseph Foundation

The St. Joseph Foundation caseload remains just above 40 active cases. Inquiry activity has been steady with sporadic 'quiet' periods. Many inquiries have pertained to recourse against one's respective bishop. Following fraternal correction, the Faithful often want to know what (if anything) can be done to take action against a bishop whose administrative style appears to be harmful to both the presbyterate and laity. The answer to this question is frustratingly "it depends." Although the Faithful have rights and obligations in common as baptized members of the Church, a complexity develops in relation not only to the condition proper to each member but also the circumstance. This is the purpose of the inquiry process at the Foundation—to communicate your condition and circumstance so that the Office can contextualize rights, obligations, and opportunity (if any) to defend one's vocation within the Church in a given circumstance.

From the number of inquiries the Foundation receives, an estimated 25% become active cases. Those who work with us to address a particular issue are directly impacted by our work. In one active case, the Foundation directly impacts anywhere from 1 to over 500 members of the Faithful. With our current caseload, the Foundation directly impacts 2600 people. Considering that our work with one person in a parish impacts everyone in the parish, this number can be multiplied by a factor of 10 to modestly gauge the number of people impacted by our work indirectly (26,000). That is a staggering amount. It is also hopeful to know that a simple inquiry can lead to that much impact.

But please, not all at once. We are still praying for a canon lawyer. Best regards, Natasha.

Page 8 Volume 36 • Issue 3