



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### JOY

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**Joy** is one of the indicators that we are growing in our service, in our Christian lives. It is also one of the values of the kingdom of God.

#### What makes you joyful today?

- When you value and find contentment in simple things, you will be joyful.
- If you find extraordinary in ordinary things in your life, there is joy.
- If you are able to discover your simple joy today, choose that joy because it is a personal encounter with the source of our joy - God Himself.
- There is joy in being alone.
- There is joy in silence.

#### Reflection: The Vine and the Branches discourse of Jesus (John 15)

- The command of Jesus is to 'remain in Me'. Stay with Me, remain in My love.
- I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11).

**Why was Jesus telling us these things?** There is only one intention - He wants us to live in the joy that the kingdom offers and not the joy that the world offers.

- The joy offered by the world is all about materialism - only temporary joy, it has an end.
- Jesus is dreaming for all of us a real joy that would complete our being.

In the Gospel:

- Jesus speaks of the love of God for His disciples and all of us.
- In His love, we find the fullness of joy.
- His love produces immeasurable joy in our Christian life.

#### Origin of the word Joy

Charis = Greek word of joy - Chara (noun) Charo (verb)

Charis is synonymous to grace, and grace is joy. To see grace, we need the eyes of faith.

#### Basic Truths about Joy

- It refers to physical comfort and well-being.
- In the Biblical sense, it means LIFE.
- It is the expression of the fullness of life and love.
- It becomes the sign of the presence of God and the basic mood of Jesus' disciples - basic characteristic of the disciples is JOY.

#### The mission of the Church: The JOY of belonging

- To give witness to the gospel of joy.
- To evangelize people is to proclaim the joy of God for all of us.
- To evangelize is to proclaim the gospel filled with the joy of God.

The challenge of Pope Francis to those involved in the Liturgical Music is to be interpreters of the gospel of joy. Let the music of the Church express the joy of the gospel.

Let all the aspects and the intentions of our community life be an evangelization of the gospel of joy.

- The mark that we receive in baptism is the mark of Christ - of joy.
- Every time we make the sign of the cross, we proclaim the gospel of joy because the cross is the joy of God saving us.

There are instances in our lives that we cannot find joy in ourselves, family, society, and community because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

We live out the mission of the Church by belonging - we belong to each other.

#### 3 Pillars of the Spirit of Belongingness of Early Christian Community:

1. They were faithful to the teachings of the apostles - they shared one faith.
2. Fellowship - we gather together in one table of fellowship which is the Eucharist.
3. Sharing of resources. Share in the spirit of love.

### 3 Important Reflections about Joy from:

1. **St. John Paul II:** You are made for joy. Rightly then, you thirst for joy. Christ has the answer to this desire of yours, but He asks you to trust Him.
  - The foundation of this joy is FAITH.
2. **Pope Benedict XVI:** It is only in being open to the love of God that we discover true joy and the fulfillment of our aspiration.
  - The source of our joy is our encounter of the love of God.
3. **Pope Francis:** Those who enjoy life most are those who leave their securities behind and become excited by the mission of serving others.
  - We find joy in service.

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” - Mother Teresa

ARK- Act of Random Kindness

If you are able to share just one random kindness to anyone, that is an offering of joy to the heart of Jesus.

***God's joy is within me and my joy is complete.***

Just **Open Your** heart, and you will experience the **EXCEEDING JOY** of Jesus for each one of us!

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