
We are Salt, Light and Leaven of the Earth

Catholic Secular Society of Missionaries of God's Love: To promote the vocation of the laity towards God



"Today too, there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelization in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith. In rediscovering his love day by day, the missionary commitment of believers attains force and vigour that can never fade away" (Porta Fidei, 7).

The Missionaries of God's Love motivated by the exhortation of the apostolic letter *Porta Fidei* and contributing to the evangelization program of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, in April, the Society of Missionary of God's Love led a four-part series called "The Bible, A Hidden Treasure". This introductory course was welcomed by all participants: those who are starting to become involved in their parishes, and those who are actively involved in their parishes. Many participants have expressed a great interest in continuing with the next series, an introduction to the Old Testament, describing the beginnings of the story of Salvation. These series are a means to equip the laity to grow and carry out the mission that Pope John Paul II describes in his encyclical, *Christifideles Laici* (15):

The lay faithful "are called by God so that they, led by the spirit of the Gospel, might contribute to the sanctification of the world, as from within like leaven, by fulfilling their own particular duties. Thus, especially in this way of life, resplendent in faith, hope and charity they manifest Christ to others.

Fourteen years ago two of our founding members approached their parish priest with a proposal for a project: to work with lay people in need of spiritual support. After taking a closer look at their proposal, Fr. Salvador Ahumada, their parish priest, began to shape the original proposal into a very ambitious project. His words were: *"This project is not for two or three people. Go out and evangelize with your testimony of life, and invite those who identify with your way of living the faith, to join the project by recognizing a calling to this lay vocation"*. They followed Fr. Salvador's advice, and throughout many years, they encountered a many challenges and situations that shook their faith, but the wisdom of their spiritual director encouraged them, and this encouragement made them feel God's love and made them proud to be His disciples.

The Birth of the Society

After several years of apostolic work at our home parish Our Lady of Guadalupe in Calgary, on April 18, 2008, our statutes (*Ad Experimentum*) were presented to Bishop Frederick Henry for his review and approval to work as a Catholic Secular Missionary Society. It was on August 5th, 2010 that thanks to the guidance and patience of Bishop Henry, Fr. Brian Hubka and Fr. Salvador Ahumada--our statutes were approved, thus marking the beginning of the "Catholic Secular Society of Missionaries of God's Love". Our mission became even greater: "To promote the vocation of the laity towards God" through an internal formation program oriented to awaken in our brothers and sisters the desire for a life of prayer and apostolic service.

This calling is rooted in scripture: *“As for you, my son, be strong through the grace that is ours in union with Christ Jesus, take the teachings that you heard me proclaim in the presence of many witnesses, and entrust them to reliable people, who will be able to teach others also.”* (2 Timothy 2,1-2) That mission entrusted by the Apostle Paul to Timothy echoed in the heart of the Missionaries of God’s Love, who in response to their baptismal call, in obedience to Bishop Henry through the guidance of our spiritual advisor, will make our best effort to create programs and opportunities for all those Spanish-speaking individuals desiring to initiate or strengthen their journey towards God. In the near future, we hope to expand our project to the English-speaking community as well.

We, as lay faithful, may have many ideas we would like to implement into parish programs, but it is the ministerial priesthood that provides the pastoral wisdom to maintain unity among the diversity of gifts and cultures in the church.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Bishop Henry and Fr. Hubka for their support, Fr. Salvador Ahumada for being our spiritual advisor for so many years, the Italian and English Catholic Community (formerly Our Lady of Grace Parish) for receiving us at our new parish *Mary, Mother of the Redeemer*, and we are looking forward to a new missionary experience working with the guidance of our new pastors of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, North American Delegation.



To enquire about our activities:

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