

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

(PART 3)

John Paul Speaks

*Notable quotations from Pope John Paul II and
official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church*

“A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE FROM CHRISTIANS”

In our own time, there are so many needs which demand a compassionate response from Christians. Our world is entering the new millennium burdened by the contradictions of an economic, cultural and technological progress which offers immense possibilities to a fortunate few, while leaving millions of others not only on the margins of progress but in living conditions far below the minimum demanded by human dignity. (50)

RESPECT FOR LIFE

A special commitment is needed with regard to certain aspects of the Gospel’s radical message which are often less well understood, even to the point of making the Church’s presence unpopular, but which nevertheless must be a part of her mission of charity. I am speaking of the duty to be committed to *respect for the life of every human being*, from conception to natural death. (51)

“A SURE COMPASS”

Now that the Jubilee has ended, I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the Council as *the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century*: there we find a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the century now beginning. (57)

“GO FORWARD IN HOPE!”

Let us go forward in hope! A new millennium is opening before the Church like a vast ocean upon which we shall venture, relying on the help of Christ. The Son of God, Who became incarnate two thousand years ago out of love for humanity, is at work even today: we need discerning eyes to see this and, above all, a generous heart to become the instruments of His work. (58)

A “SURE GUIDE”

I point to Mary once again as the radiant dawn and sure guide for our steps. Once more, echoing the words of Jesus Himself and giving voice to the filial affection of the whole Church, I say to her: “Woman, behold your children” (cf *Jn 19:26*). (58)

NO “DULL EVERYDAY ROUTINE”

After the enthusiasm of the Jubilee, it is not to a dull everyday routine that we return. On the contrary, if ours has been a genuine pilgrimage, it will have ... stretched our legs for the journey still ahead. We need to imitate the zeal of the Apostle Paul: “Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (*Phil 3:13-14*). (58)

“THE RISEN JESUS ACCOMPANIES US”

The Risen Jesus accompanies us on our way and enables us to recognize Him ... “in the breaking of the bread” (*Lk 24:35*). May He find us watchful, ready to recognize His face and run to our brothers and sisters with the good news: “We have seen the Lord” (*Jn 20:25*). (58)

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