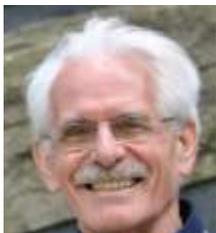


Faith and Sharing: a 50th, a Jubilee



By Marc Rioux,
North American Spiritual Guide

Jesus, after his baptism, spent the time needed in the desert to "live a retreat of vocational discernment", then decided to return to Nazareth where he had been raised. As usual, on the Sabbath, he went to the synagogue of his native village. He got up to read. He read this passage from Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives, to give sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed, and to proclaim the acceptable year - Jubilee - of the Lord." He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
Lk 4:18-19.21

Verse 19 of this text recalls the Lord's request to Moses to celebrate a year of Jubilee every 50 years (Lev 25:10). This is the year when the debts of the poor are canceled, the slaves are freed and the land is returned to its original owners...

Faith and Sharing has been inspired for 50 years (1968-2018) by the witness of life and the preaching of Jean Vanier, who calls us to live the radical message of Jesus by making us the neighbor of the marginalized, the destitute, the left-behind,...

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me" at my baptism... One day each of us freely decided to try to follow Jesus and to announce the Good News, by recognizing our fragility and making us poor with the poor according to the heart of God.

In this fiftieth (Jubilee) year, we are invited to remember, with a heart full of gratitude, what we have experienced during these years of grace granted by the Lord.

One of the ways to remember will be to share, in the October 2018 bulletin, short personal testimonials that will surely highlight how Faith and Sharing has been, for hundreds of people, a place of growth in the faith of the God of Jesus and a place of commitment and solidarity with our more deprived sisters and brothers.

The importance of sharing our personal and community experiences with Faith and Sharing as a testimony cannot be underestimated. Celebrate the 50th and feast, as Jean Vanier writes, remembering the past, celebrating the present and keeping an open eye on the future.

"The feast is a time of thanksgiving in which we thank God for a historic event in which his loving power has manifested itself in regard to humanity, the people, or the community; it is also a reminder that he is always there, present, watching over his people and the community as a Father who loves his children. The feast is the celebration not only of a past action but of a present reality". Jean Vanier 

