

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 161

July 2016

## Coming Events

Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass  
on last Sunday of the month

Adoration - 6 to 7am daily, all  
night Fridays starting 9pm

St Maria Goretti Wed 6

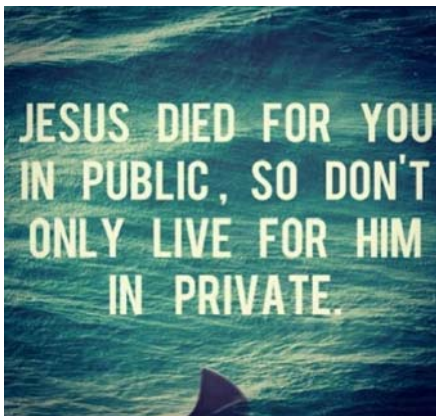
Our Lady of

Mount Carmel Sat 16

St Mary Magdalene Fri 22

St James Mon 25

**New Parliament Prayers:** Please  
pray for all our federal politicians,  
that they will not offend God and  
damage our country, but that they  
will choose what is true and good  
and bring great blessings to our  
land.



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The date for submissions for the next  
Wag is: **Wednesday August 3rd.**

## Bishop Hanna visits West Wagga Wagga Parish!



Bishop Hanna Confirmed  
over 40 young Catholics in  
the West Wagga Wagga  
Parish group. On Bishop  
Hanna's right is Lara  
Drum together with her  
Sponsor, Ann-Marie  
Parmenter.

Bishop Hanna dining with  
the members of the  
Confraternity of Christ the  
Priest at the House of  
Studies in San Isidore.



## pastor's page

### Our Lady of the Rosary of San Nicolas, Argentina

The world is facing huge challenges. One is the scourge of Jihad, Islamic expansion through violence following the example of Mohammed and the commands of the Koran.

Another is the full scale attack on family in the West and the public rejection of God's plan for man and woman. "Male and female He made them", but there is an effort to force schools to contradict this and mad ideas which 10 years ago would have seemed only laughable are now being made into law.

An example is in New York where if an employer insists on calling a man "he" when he wishes to be called "she" or even "xe", he faces a fine of up to \$250,000!!! And Target in America is allowing any man to go into the women's toilets if he says he feels like a woman, and a man was declared "Woman of the Year" and now boys are being allowed to compete against and beat girls in girls competitions.

Obama has ordered public schools to allow boys into girls shower rooms saying he will remove funding for school lunch programs for the poor if schools refuse to comply. Girls must consider the whimpy feelings of transvestites but the transvestites and the President don't care about the sensitivities of normal girls.

In Australia the right to protest against abortion and to argue in favour of traditional marriage is being challenged in law courts. Society is beginning to self destruct, leaving it an easy target for Islamic oppression. We need help!

Throughout history, Our Lady has visited through apparitions to give warnings and consolation. Our Lady appeared to the children in Fatima 100 years ago, bringing them and the world so many blessings. Before the genocide in Rwanda, Mary appeared to some high school girls, warning of the coming disaster and calling for prayer and return to Faith.

Recently Our Lady appeared in Argentina and this has been confirmed by the local Bishop as worthy of belief by us. So, how did this happen?

In San Nicolas, near Buenos Aires, rosary beads in homes throughout San Nicolas de los Arroyos suddenly began glowing without any rational explanation. They were not the glow-in-the-dark type rosaries, just your standard kind.



What began with glowing rosaries and the rediscovery of a statue of the Virgin Mary in Argentina has now been approved by the local bishop as a series of apparitions that are "of supernatural origin" and worthy of belief.

A wife and mother named Gladys Quiroga de Motta saw these glowing rosaries and began to pray to the Virgin Mary. The Virgin appeared to her first on Sept. 25, 1983 carrying the infant Jesus and wearing a blue gown and veil. Her figure glowed with light.

With only a fourth-grade education, Gladys had no great knowledge of the Bible or theology. She is a mother of two daughters and a grandmother.

At various times, the Virgin Mary apparition referred the woman to several Bible verses. One month after the first appearance, the apparition gave Gladys a white rosary and said,

**"Receive this Rosary from my hands and keep it forever and ever. You are obedient; I am happy because of it. Rejoice, for God is with you."**

The Virgin Mary asked Gladys to go look for a statue that had been blessed by a Pope and was forgotten. Following the Virgin's instructions, it was found on Nov. 27, 1983 in the bell tower of the church. The statue resembled the apparition. The statue was of the Mother of God holding the Child Jesus. It had been brought from Rome after it was blessed by Pope Leo XIII.

Gladys also received 68 visits and messages from Jesus. She reportedly received the stigmata on her wrists, feet, side and shoulder. There have been several documented healings related to the apparitions, including the healing of a boy with a brain tumour.

What were the messages of Our Lady? At one point, Mary said,

**"Many hearts do not accept my invitation to prayer and to conversion. That is why the work of the devil is growing and expanding."**

The warnings said that mankind is **"in the process of falling in to a progressive self-destruction"** and the Virgin Mary represents hope. **"It is up to you to set your eyes and your heart on God,"** she said.

**"I want to cure my children from this illness which is materialism; an illness which makes many suffer. I want to help them discover Christ, and I want to make it known to them that Christ prevails over everything,"** Mary said in the apparition. She stressed the importance of prayer, especially the rosary.

The apparition of Jesus told Gladys,

**"If this generation will not listen to my mother, it will perish. I ask everyone to listen to her. Man's conversion is necessary."**

**"Today I warn the world, for the world is not aware: souls are in danger. Many are lost,"** Jesus said in a 1987 apparition.



## Pastor's page continued ...

**"Few will find salvation unless they accept me as their Saviour. My mother must be accepted. My mother must be heard in the totality of her messages. The world must discover the richness she brings to Christians."**

**"The children of sin will grow up in sin if their unbelief increases. I want a renewal of the spirit, a**

**detachment from death, and an attachment to life. I have chosen the heart of my mother, so that what I ask will be achieved. Souls will come to me through the means of her Immaculate Heart."**

These are a timely reminder for all of us to live not for this world only, to live our Faith no matter how crazy our world becomes around us.

In fact, the world needs our faith which, as well as helping us to heaven, will also help this world to be protected from evil and to be a place of happiness and peace.

*Fr Thomas Casanova CCS*

## July Jokes

### And Then They Voted

While looking at a house, my brother asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. She asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?" When another person jumped in and explained that the sun rises in the east (and has for some time), she shook her head and said, "Oh, I don't keep up with that stuff." And then she voted.

I used to work in technical support for a 24x7 call center. One day I got a caller who asked what hours the call center was open. I told him, "The number you dialled is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." He responded, "Is that Eastern or Pacific time?" And then he voted.

So my colleague and I were eating our lunch in our cafeteria when we overheard one of the admin assistants talking about the sunburn she got on her weekend drive to the shore. She drove down in a convertible, but "didn't think she'd get sunburned because the car was moving." And then she voted.

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because they were trained professionals and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?" And then she voted.

Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice doggie' until you can find a rock..

I was in a high school advanced physics class and the teacher was talking about a new military weapon that uses sonic waves on the battlefield to burst enemy soldiers' chests.

One Individual in the class spoke up and said, "Well that's stupid! Why don't they just wear headphones?" And a few years later, he voted.

'The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it'. - Ronald Reagan

'This telephone is an amazing invention but who would want to use one of them?' American President, Rutherford Hayes 1876.

'Edison's electric light bulb is good enough for our transatlantic friends, but unworthy of scientific or practical men'. British Parliamentary society set up to investigate electric lighting in 1878.

'Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country'. Mayor Marion Barry

'I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency, even if I'm in a cabinet meeting'. - Ronald Reagan

In democracy it's your vote that counts; In feudalism it's your count that votes.

Which is the funniest softdrink? Joke-a-cola.

What do seven days of dieting do? They make one weak (week).



How can you keep from getting a sharp pain in the eye when you drink chocolate milk? Take the spoon out of the glass.

Why did the donut go to the dentist? It needed a chocolate filling.

Some warning texts from actual label instructions on consumer goods

- On a hairdryer: Do not use while sleeping.
- On some frozen dinners: Serving suggestion: Defrost.
- On a Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of the box): Do not turn upside down.
- On a Bread Pudding: Product will be hot after heating.
- On packaging for an iron: Do not iron clothes on body.
- On sleep aid: Warning: may cause drowsiness.
- On a food processor: Not to be used for the other use.
- On packet of peanuts: Warning: contains nuts.
- On an American Airlines packet of nuts: Instructions: open packet, eat nuts.
- On a child's Superman costume: Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.

# St. Thomas Aquinas and the Art of Making a Public Argument

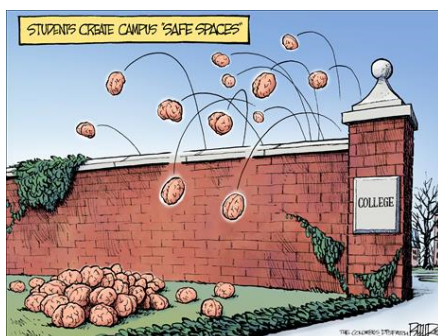
by Bishop Robert Barron



06/21/2016, ncregister.com

There is, in many quarters, increasing concern about the hyper-charged political correctness that has gripped our campuses and other forums of public conversation. Even great works of literature and philosophy—from Huckleberry Finn and Heart of Darkness to, believe it or not, Kant's Critique of Pure Reason—are now regularly accompanied by "trigger warnings" that alert prospective readers to the racism, sexism, homophobia, or classism contained therein.

And popping up more and more at our colleges and universities are "safe spaces" where exquisitely sensitive students can retreat in the wake of jarring confrontations with points of view with which they don't sympathize. My favorite example of this was at Brown University where school administrators provided retreat centers with play-doh, crayons, and videos of frolicking puppies to calm the nerves of their students even before a controversial debate commenced! Apparently even the prospect of public argument sent these students to an updated version of day-care.



Of course a paradoxical concomitant of this exaggerated sensitivity to giving offense is a proclivity to aggressiveness and verbal violence; for once authentic debate has been ruled out of court, the only recourse contesting parties have is to some form of censorship or bullying.

There is obviously much that can and should be mocked in all of this, but I won't go down that road. Instead, I would like to revisit a time when people knew how to have a public argument about the most hotly-contested matters. Though it might come as a surprise to many, I'm talking about the High Middle Ages, when the university system was born. And to illustrate the medieval method of disciplined conversation there is no better candidate than St. Thomas Aquinas. The principal means of teaching in the medieval university was not the classroom lecture, which became prominent only in the 19th century German system of education; rather, it was the *quaestio disputata* (disputed question), which was a lively, sometimes raucous, and very public intellectual exchange. Though the written texts of Aquinas can strike us today as a tad turgid, we have to recall that they are grounded in these disciplined but decidedly energetic conversations.

If we consult Aquinas's masterpiece, the *Summa theologiae*, we find that he poses literally thousands of questions and that not even the most sacred issues are off the table, the best evidence of which is article three of question two of the first part of the *Summa*: "*utrum Deus sit*?" (whether there is a God). If a Dominican priest is permitted to ask even that question, everything is fair game; nothing is too dangerous to talk about. After stating the issue, Thomas then entertains a series of objections to the position that he will eventually take. In many cases, these represent a distillation of real counter-claims and queries that Aquinas would have heard during

*quaestiones disputatae*. But for our purposes, the point to emphasize is that Thomas presents these objections in their most convincing form, often stating them better and more pithily than their advocates could. In proof of this, we note that during the Enlightenment, rationalist philosophes would sometimes take Thomistic objections and use them to bolster their own anti-religious positions. To give just one example, consider Aquinas's devastatingly convincing formulation of the argument from evil against the existence of God: "if one of two contraries were infinite, the other would be destroyed...but God is called the infinite good. Therefore, if God exists, there would be no evil."



Thomas indeed provides a telling response, but, as stated, that is a darn good argument. Might I suggest that it would help our public discourse immensely if all parties would be willing to formulate their opponents positions as respectfully and convincingly as possible.

Having articulated the objections, Thomas then offers his own magisterial resolution of the matter: "*Respondeo dicendum quod...* (I respond that it must be said...). One of the more regrettable marks of the postmodern mind is a tendency endlessly to postpone the answer to a question. Take a look at Jacques Derrida's work for a master class in this technique. And sadly, many today, who want so desperately to avoid offending anyone, find refuge



## St. Thomas Aquinas and the Art of Making a Public Argument continued...

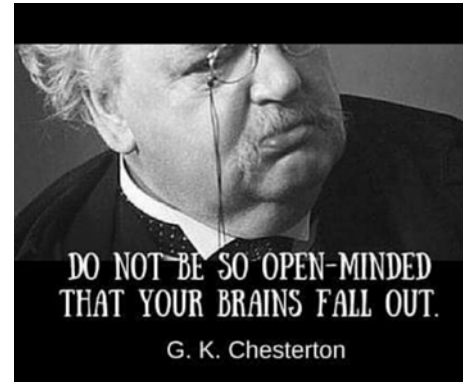
in just this sort of permanent irresolution. But Thomas knew what Chesterton knew, namely that an open mind is like an open mouth, that is, designed to close finally on something solid and nourishing. Finally, having offered his Respondeo, Aquinas returns to the objections and, in light of his resolution, answers them. It is notable that a typical Thomas technique is to find something right in the objector's position and to use that to correct what he deems to be errant in it.

Throughout this process, in the objections, Respondeos, and answers to objections, Thomas draws on a wide range of sources:

the Bible and the Church Fathers of course, but also the classical philosophers Aristotle, Plato, and Cicero, the Jewish scholar Moses Maimonides, and the Islamic masters Averroes, Avicenna, and Aviciberon. And he consistently invokes these figures with supreme respect, characterizing Aristotle, for example, as simply "the Philosopher" and referring to Maimonides as "Rabbi Moyses." It is fair to say that, in substantial ways, Thomas Aquinas disagrees with all of these figures, and yet he is more than willing to listen to them, to engage them, to take their arguments seriously.

What this Thomistic method

produces is, in its own way, a "safe space" for conversation, but it is a safe space for adults and not timorous children. Might I modestly suggest that it wouldn't be a bad model for our present discussion of serious things.



## Padre Pio's "Secret Weapon Prayer" that Brought Thousands of Miracles



*Fr Richard Heilman June 25, 2016*

When someone asks you to pray for them, why not pray with "Padre Pio Power"? When I heard that the prayer below (written by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque) was the one Padre Pio would use when people asked him to pray for them, I needed no further encouragement for choosing this prayer in the same way. Padre Pio has tens of thousands of miracles associated with him, including the healing of a very good friend of Saint Pope John Paul II.

When you use this prayer, keep a journal to record these special intentions. Keep in mind this type of petition is for specific needs such as gainful employment, healing from an illness, etc.

After some time has passed, refer back to this journal to record the amazing way God answers these

prayers. Due to our limited view and God's eternal view, it is important to always trust that He knows far better what is really needed in these situations. Be open to seeing how sometimes He answers our specific prayers in a way that does not always match exactly with what we asked. When looking back on these petitions, see how His way is better.

### Padre Pio's Sacred Heart Novena Prayer

O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in My name, He will give it to you." Behold, in Your name, I ask the Father for the grace of

(here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but My words will not pass away." Encouraged by Your infallible words I now ask for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of You, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your tender Mother and ours.

Say the Hail, Holy Queen and add: "St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us."

# The No. 1 Thing I've Learned From Talking With Fallen-Away Catholics

by Katie Warner

I've worked for Catholics Come Home, the international media apostolate working to invite fallen-away Catholics and others home to the Church, since its founding in 1997. This has afforded me, personally, the opportunity to dialogue with hundreds of fallen-away Catholics who contact the organization after seeing a Catholics Come Home TV commercial or stumbling upon the CatholicsComeHome.org website. Those who reach out to the apostolate via email, phone or mail make up a small but strong sample of the millions of people that Catholics Come Home has reached out to in less than a decade, and they have taught me a lot about those who leave the Church.

The messages I receive from these inactive Catholics range from cordial to scathing, and it didn't take me long in this ministry to see that there are common threads in their conversations. Many of these people are hurting; many are angry; many are lost. All have stories; all have reasons for leaving — reasons ranging from "I just drifted away" to "I don't believe in these teachings" to "Someone in the Church wronged me" (with the first and the last reasons being most common).

But perhaps the most-shared feeling or expression in the many correspondences I have fielded over the years is this: Almost all of these fallen-away Catholics want to know that someone cares.

They want to know that someone cares that they left. They want to know that someone not only notices their absence, but also is actually saddened, or at least affected by it. Sadly, many, if not most, of these inactive Catholics have never found anyone to express this concern to them.

So I make an effort to tell fallen-away Catholics who reach out to Catholics Come Home that they are missed, and their brothers and sisters in Christ — including me — want them home and that their Heavenly Father in particular wants them to again be a part of the Catholic Church that Jesus Christ founded.

As a unity in the Body of Christ, a living organism, we aren't the same without them, and we care that they are away.

It never ceases to amaze me how even the seemingly hardest of hearts in an initial correspondence can be turned around after hearing that someone, anyone, cares about them and about their leaving the barque of St. Peter. I've been moved to tears more times than I can count by people who seemed bent on spewing their rage toward the Church and have then responded to my reply with words like, "Thank you for answering. You are the first person to respond to me ... and to care." Some of these people have admitted attempting to reach out to other people or organizations, seeking a listening ear or an extended hand of welcome, only to be further disappointed by the fact that not only did they exit the Church without a single person knowing that they had gone, but they also couldn't find anyone to help them explore the possibility of returning.

So many of our fallen-away family, friends, co-workers, relatives, neighbors and even strangers whom God puts in our path are desperately wanting to know that they are missed. Many just need to hear it from one person — and that one person can be you.

When you come in contact with people away from the Church, I encourage you to do two rather



simple, yet important, things.

First, tell them they are missed and that you care that they are away. I used to think it sounded cheesy to say that out loud or in writing, but I discovered that it really was what so many of these people wanted to hear. I add the caveat that you must mean it. Your words, tone and demeanor must be genuine. They need real empathy.

Second, invite them home. Often, when we ask people who return to the Church, after coming across a Catholics Come Home commercial or the website, why it is that they came back, they respond, "Because you invited me." Don't miss the opportunity to extend the invitation that may be the catalyst in that fallen-away Catholic's journey back to Christ and his Church.

Pope Francis has warned of the danger of Catholics being "backseat Christians." Don't take a backseat when it comes to welcoming fallen-away Catholics home. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to people whom you can encourage on their faith journeys. That is certainly a prayer that God loves to answer. And when God puts that beloved, wandering child of his in your path, remember the words of the King in Matthew's Gospel: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

"A nation always gets the kind of politicians it deserves. If a time ever comes when the religious Jews, Protestants and Catholics ever have to suffer under a totalitarian state, which would deny to them the right worship God according to the light of their conscience, it will be because for years they thought it made no difference what kind of people represented them in Congress, and because they abandoned the spiritual in the realm of the temporal."

*Ven. Fulton J. Sheen, The Catholic Hour, 1947*



## The Price of a Miracle

An eight-year-old child heard her parents talking about her little brother. All she knew was that he was very sick and they had no money left. They were moving to a smaller house because they could not afford to stay in the present house after paying the doctor's bills. Only a very costly surgery could save him now and there was no one to loan them the money.

When she heard her daddy say to her tearful mother with whispered desperation, 'Only a miracle can save him now', the little girl went to her bedroom and pulled her piggy bank from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all the change out on the floor and counted it carefully.

Clutching the precious piggy bank tightly, she slipped out the back door and made her way six blocks to the local drugstore. She took a quarter from her bank and placed it on the glass counter.

"And what do you want?" asked the pharmacist.

"It's for my little brother," the girl answered back. "He's really very sick and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the

pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my daddy says only a miracle can save him. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, child. I'm sorry," the pharmacist said, smiling sadly at the little girl.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I can try and get some more. Just tell me how much it costs."

In the shop was a well-dressed customer. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," she replied with her eyes welling up. "He's really sick and mommy says he needs an operation. But my daddy can't pay for it, so I have brought my savings".

"How much do you have?" asked the man.

"One dollar and eleven cents; but I can try and get some more", she answered barely audibly.

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man, "A dollar and eleven cents - the exact price of a Miracle for

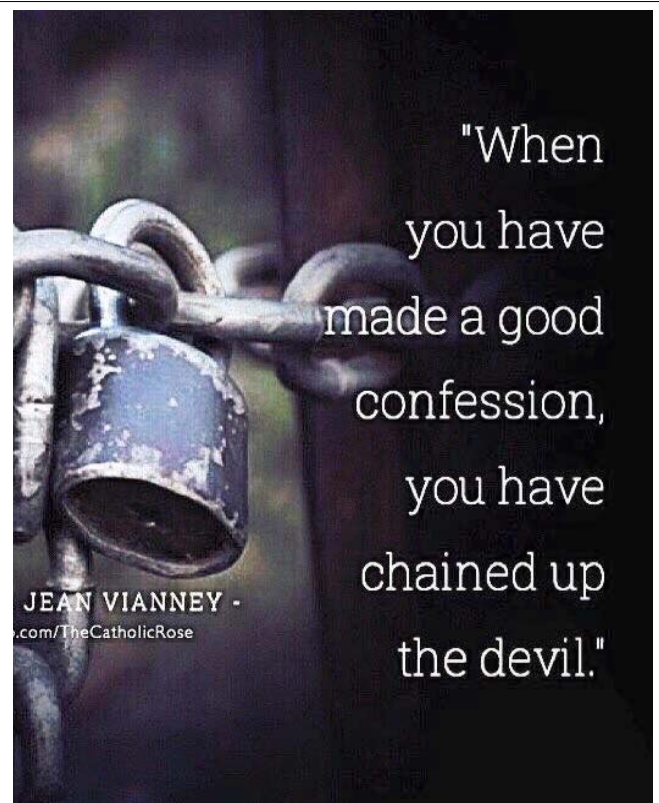
little brother."

He took her money in one hand and held her hand with the other. He said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of Miracle you need."

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a neurosurgeon. The operation was completed without charge and it wasn't long before Andrew was home again and doing well.

"That surgery," her mom whispered, "was a Real Miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost."

The little girl smiled. She knew exactly how much the Miracle cost ... one dollar and eleven cents ... plus the Faith of a little child.



# The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



Serving: Ashmont,  
Collingullie,  
Glenfield, Lloyd,  
and San Isidore



Find the words below  
hidden in the 225 letters  
to the right.

- |           |        |      |
|-----------|--------|------|
| PLENTIFUL | EATING | ROAD |
| KINGDOM   | PURSE  | HEAL |
| HARVEST   | HOUSE  | TOWN |
| SANDALS   | PEACE  | SICK |
| DRINKING  | GREET  | BAG  |
| WORKERS   | WAGES  | FEW  |
| ANYONE    | FIELD  |      |

# Jesus Sends Out Workers

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2 (NIV)



Jesus' Good News is for all.

E H O U S E Y H P U R S E V Y  
 E D X F G R C H H P P E A C E  
 J S A N D A L S U C P E A X C  
 H C O N E G Y G N Z R Q Y B U  
 T O W N N Z W O R K E R S I C  
 M A L X G R E E T N Z Y S Q H  
 L P N C H A R V E S T Q U Q X  
 O P L Y F W L L L V G H R I G  
 N P K E O I P D R I N K I N G  
 E F I F N N E U C Q I L I M K  
 T A N D E T E L F I A T U Y Z  
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 A P D Z L W A F H E C N N A S  
 G I O B O W O S U I D Z O Z L  
 X R M W A G E S S L Y R M H K