

Convent 2016

The Church's true authority is grounded in love because she holds within her realm the authority to make her people the children of God. She also has the authority to forgive, and the capacity to love. And just as her Head, Jesus Christ, she exists to serve, and not to be served. She guides her people with love, recognising that each person is unique, and is to be ministered to with an authority that is based on serving, not being served.

With more and more people embracing a materialistic approach to life, rather than the biblical approach that is grounded in self-denial, it is all the more imperative that the Church's clergy and religious reach out with the love of Christ, and the healing power that comes with being grounded in His love. As increasing numbers of young people are turning to atheism, it is all the more important that today's seekers find in the Church an outpouring of love and humility, so they might see, at first hand, the transformational power of Christ at work. We cannot, as church people, allow those who are in dire need of Christ, see in us a lifeless religion. The worshiping ecclesiastical community must therefore abolish religion, and replace it with the transformational power of Christ.

Father John Myendorf said that "Christ became human, in order to free us of the illness of religion". Father John wrote, "Unless we church people put off religion and put on Christ, we will continue to fail in our vocation as servants to others and messengers of God's peace". Unless the Church's bishops, priests, religious and people demonstrate:

holiness and humility,
and the imitation of Christ the Saviour as servant,

then the authentic witness of Christ will have been lost in our generation.

The world needs to see authenticity of faith, and until Christ is seen in the lives of Christians who are living as icons of Christ, and serving as loving, humble servants of the Most High, the world will continue looking for truth in a wasteland of spiritual confusion. The Church must proclaim the Good News in all humility and love, for “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45),”