

Towards the end of 2013, Pope Francis wrote to us all, giving shape to the way he wants us (all!) to embrace New Evangelisation : taking the first step, being involved and supportive, helping others to know the joy of the Gospel.

These 10 quotes are from the introduction to the document. Please use them as you wish - in the staff room, in the newsletter, for staff reflection, etc. And please encourage people to read and discuss the document. The entire document can be found at:

<http://www.vatican.va/evangelii-gaudium/en/index.html>

Quote from the introduction to

Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel

the first Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis.

Read – reflect – wonder: What does this mean today, for me?



The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. (Pg 3)

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I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her. (Page 4)

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Whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. (Page 4)

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There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realise of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times of life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. (Page 7)

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Sometimes we are tempted to find excuses and complain, acting as if we could only be happy if a thousand conditions were met. To some extent this is because our *“technological society has succeeded in multiplying occasions of pleasure, yet has found it very difficult to engender joy.”* (Page 7)

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I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had so little to hold on to. I also think of the real joy shown by others who, even amid pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith. (Page 8)

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An evangeliser must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that delightful and comforting joy of evangelising, even when it is in tears that we must sow. (Page 10)

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May the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelisers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ. (Page 10)

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Jesus can also break through the dull categories with which we would enclose him and he constantly amazes us by his divine creativity. Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. Every form of authentic evangelisation is "new". (Page 11)

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"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say: Rejoice!" (*Phil 4:4*) (Page 17)