

## WORTH READING

### Evangelii Gaudium

**Pope Francis – November 24, 2014**



*Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world. Given in Rome, St. Peter's Square, at the end of the Year of Faith, November 24, Solemnity of N. S. Jesus Christ King of the Universe, in the year 2013, the first year of the Pontificate of Francis.*

"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness." Read the complete *Apostolic Exhortation* [here](#).

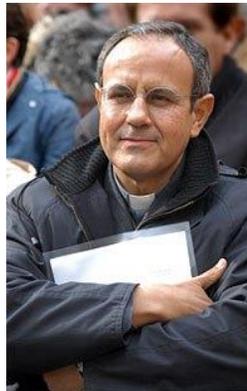
### "Let Us Be Witnesses to Love"

**Fr. Julián Carrón – Eco di Bergamo, October 31, 2013**

*The interview with Fr. Julian Carron, edited by Carlo Dignola, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the presence of the Movement of Communion and Liberation in Bergamo, Italy.*

Faith must be a present experience, in which I find confirmation of its relevance. Otherwise, faith will not be able to hold up in a world in which everything says the opposite. The challenge and the dramatic beauty of this moment in history is this: that we Christians have no other support, no other advantage and foothold than the experience of beauty we have in the faith, together with our sisters and brothers in faith."

[Click here](#) for the full article.



## IN THE PUBLIC ARENA

### The Big Apple from Skin to Core: Poetic Images of New York

**December 18, 2013 – New York, NY**

*An evening of poetry, jazz and photographs with readings by Angela Alaimo O'donnell, Poet and Associate Director of the Curran Center for American Catholic Studies at Fordham University, and Rita A. Simmonds, Poet. Music by Jonathan Fields and David Horowitz. Photographs by Theodore Oberman.*



William Carlos Williams wrote, "It is difficult to get the news from poems, yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there." Through this multi-media presentation of poetry, music and photography, fellow New Yorkers can share in the life of The City as observed, documented and celebrated by

artists, both present and past. Please join us in the heart of Manhattan for a collaboration and a celebration of the dynamism, spirit, and creative energy that makes New York the soulful city she is. For more information [click here](#).

## SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY



The School of Community for the month of December will be on the first lesson of the 2013 [Fraternity Exercises](#); which is the focus of the Advent retreat.

In January we will move on to the book by Fr. Luigi Giussani, [At the Origin of the Christian Claim](#). We will start with the introduction of the book, followed by chapters eight and nine. We will continue this work until the 2014 Fraternity Exercises.

In January Fr. Jose Medina will give an outline of chapters eight and nine of *At the Origin of the Christian Claim*; so that we go further into our work together.

Please be sure to read [Fr. Carrón's School of Community](#) as a help in your own, also keeping in the mind the [letter he wrote to the Fraternity](#).

## TRACES



As the Year of Faith draws to a close, the next issue of Traces (Volume 15, Number 10) revisits its pivotal moments through the words of Benedict XVI, who opened it, and of Francis I, who concluded it, while other articles, including a Spanish daily's interview with Fr. Carrón, underscore the beautiful drama of a life of faith in these times, with a special focus on science and medicine.

## GET EMAILS DIRECTLY

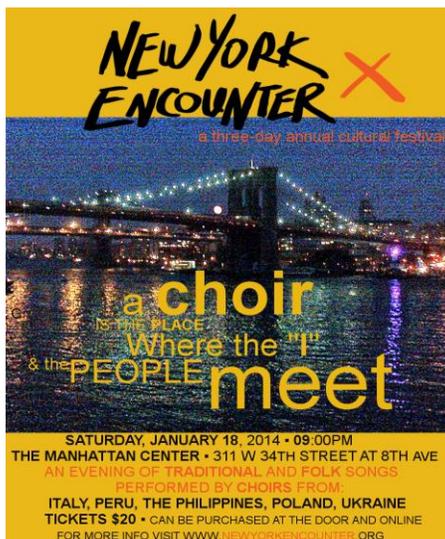
If you would like to receive emails directly from the CL National Office, please follow [this link](#).

## NEW YORK ENCOUNTER

### New York Encounter

The NYE is an annual three-day structured program that's filled with activities such as presentations, artistic performances, conferences, lectures, exhibits, and booths that strive to witness Pope Benedict XVI's claim that "the intelligence of Faith has to become the intelligence of reality," because faith in Christ allows a person to fearlessly "test everything and retain what is good." (1 Thess 5)

Aware of the many gifts we have received through the years with the NY Encounter, this year we wish to propose to everyone in the United States to actively participate, within your capacity, at the NY Encounter by either visiting, volunteering at the Encounter, finding ways to invite other people who might not know about it, or by raising funds to sustain it.



### Ticket to Saturday Night's Show

Saturday night there will be a ticketed show entitled, "A Choir is the Place Where the 'I' & the People Meet". Although you can buy tickets at the New York Encounter, it is greatly suggested that you buy them in advance online. Please follow [this link](#) to buy your tickets to the show.

Please note that if you purchased your lodging package through the CL National Office, your ticket was included in your price and will be given to you at the New York Encounter.

### Lodging at the NY Encounter

You can find a list of several hotels that are holding blocks of rooms at a discounted price for New York Encounter participants on the [New York Encounter website](#).

There may also still be some discounted package options left with booking directly through the CL National Office. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Jonathan Fromm, [jfromm@clhac.com](mailto:jfromm@clhac.com), at the CL Office.

### Volunteering

The happiest people at the New York Encounter are the volunteers. This is a way to not only help out at the New York Encounter, but a great way to see the New York Encounter.

It is now possible to enroll as a volunteer for the 2014 New York Encounter (January 17-19, 2014). Please sign up by filling out the form at [this link](#).

There is also great need of volunteers for the evening of Friday, January 17, as well as for the setup and tear-down operations, so please plan your trip to arrive early in the afternoon of Saturday. See on the online enrollment form for details.

### Additional Information

For additional information concerning all aspects of the New York Encounter including fundraising and donation ideas, please see the [announcements](#) from the Beginning Day and contact Olivetta Danese, [odanese@newyorkencounter.org](mailto:odanese@newyorkencounter.org).

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### The Power and the Glory

by Graham Greene



"When I read the final page of Graham Greene's, *The Power and the Glory*, I knew with greater certainty the purpose of my life. Not a small thing. It

was worth my time! Ranking as one of Greene's best works, *The Power and the Glory* explores a priest who clings to the Faith while at the same time tries to make sense of his brokenness, sin, and his relationships with others and with God."

[Click here](#) for more of Marcie Stokman's reflection on *The Power and the Glory* and the possibility to buy the book.

## ADVENT RETREATS

See the list of Advent Retreats around the country. For a full, [click here](#):

### December 7

Atchison, KS; Chicago, IL; Evansville, IN; Houston, TX; Miami, FL; Sioux Falls, SD; Washington DC; Los Angeles, CA

### December 8

Boston, MA; Oklahoma City, OK; St. Paul, MN; South Bend, IN; Portland, OR

### December 14

Denver, CO; Greenville, SC; Philly, PA; San Jose, CA; Seattle, WA; Spokane, WA

### December 15

New York, NY; Steubenville, OH

Please keep in mind that the bulk of the Advent Retreat will be on the first lesson of the Fraternity Exercises, which is the work of the School of Community for December. Remember to take notes at the retreat to help you with your work on the School of Community.

## CL NATIONAL OFFICE

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## AVSI RESPONDS IN THE PHILLIPPINES

### Reach out:

#### AVSI responds to families in the Philippines

Calabanga, Philippines – AVSI-USA is collecting emergency funds to support victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Calabanga region of the Philippines. All donations will be used to provide basic items including food, clean water, and medicine all of which have become scarce and increasingly difficult to access throughout the island nation.



AVSI's response builds on relationships with communities and schools who have been supported by our Distance Support program for 20 years. All donations from the emergency campaign will be distributed in partnership with the Dominican Sisters of Blessed Imelda in Calabanga, ensuring that help reaches the families who are most in need.

For more information and option to donate please, [click here](#).

## WELL-READ MOM

### Enriching the World's Understanding

By *Suzanne Tanzi*

*Marcie Stokman, homeschooling mother of 7, grandmother of 4, nurse, psychologist, and seeker of beauty tells us why she founded the Well-Read Mom reading group that, in only one year's time, has gained recognition in 26 states, Canada, and France for a total of 74 registered reading groups (and others less formally following the series). Not just a "nice Catholic reading group," but a powerful catalyst for personal and communal change.*

#### What was your inspiration for founding the Well-Read Mom reading group?

In 2012, I was invited to give a talk at a parish on why reading matters for women. During the question and answer segment, I realized that most of the women in attendance were not reading anything except for junk off of grocery store shelves. A profound

sadness settled upon me with this discovery, and I thought about my own need to be accompanied, in my reading ventures as in all facets of my life. Also during this timeframe, my newly married daughter and daughter-in-law, who were frequenting the usual "mothers' groups" with their newborns, expressed their desire for more from their own meetings with moms—more than just talking about babies.

#### You had mentioned previously that being at the New York Encounter in January 2013 was also complicit in driving your efforts...

True. Attending "The Katrina Letters" performance that Saturday night was a pivotal moment. It gave me the courage to look at the sadness I felt and acknowledge my desire to be accompanied, echoed by my daughters, and move with it.

#### How so?

Some love letters between a young couples, dating back to the 1940s, were discovered by the couple's family, awash in the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina, and the reading of them was set to music by their son, Chris Vath. He put together an arrangement, called "The Katrina Letters," that left me stunned and in awe. I thought, "Why was it not enough for Chris to read these nice letters with his family? How did it overflow into this amazing event?" And I realized two things: he couldn't have done it without already belonging to a people and secondly this made him willing to take a risk with his desire to share something. So his belonging and risk met my sadness and desire!

For the complete interview please, [click here](#).



Many women understand the value of reading high quality literature to nurture their children's moral growth, yet they lack seriousness when it comes to the education of their own hearts. Marcie Stokman's desire to meet this need--found also in herself--has generated the Well-Read Mom book club, which is catching on across the nation. To learn more about this initiative, to be described in further detail in an upcoming issue of Traces, see: [www.wellreadmom.com](http://www.wellreadmom.com).