

## WORTH READING

### Christmas Appeal 2013

Fr. Jose Medina – December 12, 2013

As you plan Christmas gifts for all those you love, think of us. All our endeavors are made possible by people like you who support our work. Your gift will be used to let everyone know that the One who fills man's desire for peace and joy is here today, in the flesh, in a town near you, within a group of people who may not seem like much but who grasp that pearl with tender tenacity. [Click here](#) to see the full letter.

Donations can be made by check payable to the Human Adventure Corporation. Please note in the memo that the funds are to be allocated for the Christmas Appeal. You can also donate online by [clicking here](#). I hope you consider supporting us for the coming year in your response to this annual Christmas Appeal. Gratefully, and with my best wishes for a blessed Advent season.

### Pope Francis' Lesson on the Meaning of Christmas

Fr. Juli6n Carr6n – December 23, 2013



The letter of Fr. Julian Carron on the meaning of Christmas published by La Repubblica December 23, 2013.

"Dear Editor, under the daily pressure of living that we all have in common and that seems to quash our hope, does Christmas still have something to say to us? Is it just a remembrance that evokes good sentiments, or is it the

news of a fact that can affect our real life?" Read the complete letter [here](#).

### Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace

Pope Francis – December 23, 2013

Message of His holiness Francis for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace (January 1, 2014)

Christ embraces all of humanity and wishes no one to be lost. "For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." He does it without oppressing or constraining anyone to open to him the doors of heart and mind. "Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves" – Jesus Christ says – "I am among you as one who serves." Every activity therefore must be distinguished by an attitude of service to persons, especially those furthest away and less known.



Service is the soul of that fraternity that builds up peace. [Click here](#) to see the complete message.

During the Christmas season we continue to follow the speeches and the meditations of Francis, by visiting the website [vatican.va](http://vatican.va).

## SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY



School of Community for the rest of the month of December will be on the first lesson of the 2013 [Fraternity Exercises](#).

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](#).

Be sure to read [Fr. Carron's new School of Community](#) as a help in your own.

## TRACES



The upcoming issue of Traces, 11, celebrates the end of the year of faith with a focus on Pope Francis—"From Peter to Peter"—and with vignettes that

describe the arrival of Another in dramatic situations, from the U.S. to Italy and Dubai... A profile on AVSI's fundraising targets and the situation in the Philippines further develop the hope being explored in this issue, which broadens our horizons also via articles on three brilliant and maverick thinkers of our day: Drs. Strippoli, Wieseltier, and Moro, in exclusive interviews. As the editorial reminds us, "He fills history in order to fill our lives now."

## 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)

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).



### 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.

## FILM REVIEW: ENDER'S GAME

By Tim Dolch and Mark Lickona



There is a (now) classic Catholic science fiction novel, Walter M. Miller Jr.'s *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, about which Walker Percy wrote: "The coordinates of the novel are radically Jewish-Christian. That is to say, the time-line, the x-coordinate, the abscissa runs from left to right, from past to future. But the time-line is crossed by a y-axis, the ordinate. What is the y-axis? It is Something That Happened or Something That Will Happen... [A]ll other sci-fi novels, even the best, 1984 and *Brave New World*, are written on a single coordinate, the time-line." (Note the similarity of this description to Giussani's diagram in Chapter 3 of *At the Origin of the Christian Claim*.) *Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card, both the original novel and the recent movie on which it is based, is another rare example of such an orientation in science fiction. The story involves an encounter with an extraterrestrial intelligence. As it happens, Ender (played by Asa Butterfield) needs his religious sense fully alive in order to communicate with them. But even before that encounter, his deepest desires also come out with regard to his ethical choices as a military leader. His superior (played by Harrison Ford) manipulates him into certain immoral actions. In the movie, unlike the book, however, the deeper questions raised are weakened. For while it's true that the book preserves Ender's introspection and deep sense of himself ("At the point where I understand enough about my enemy to destroy him, it is then that I love him"), this depth is somewhat absent at the film's critical moment. While the film's lesson about the moral horror of pre-emptive war is appreciated, a little self-awareness on Ender's part as a cog in the war-machine would have brought it to a more essential (personal) level.

## 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.

## CL 1954-2014

### Help make a video for the 60th anniversary of CL

On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the birth of CL, a video will be made, aimed at Italian and international TV channels, social media and DVD distribution. The video will document the richness of the life of the movement in Italy and around the world. An innovative video production that needs the help of all.

On the site [www.video60.clonline.org](http://www.video60.clonline.org), you can learn how to participate in the creation of short films, which must be submitted by January 31, 2014.

## PRIEST RETREAT 2014

### The Gift of Communion

The 2014 Retreat for Priests will be held in Houston, Texas from April 21st to the 25th. For more information including the possibility to receive a brochure for you or any priests you would like to invite, contact Jonathan Fromm, [jfromm@clhac.com](mailto:jfromm@clhac.com).

To register for the retreat, [click here](#).