In all my years of working with youth, I have not experienced anything more promising and exciting as this “Pure Witness” ministry.

~ Fr. Clair Watrin~

Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

~ Blessed Mother Teresa ~
A Message From Our Founders

Dear Friends of Pure Witness,

We join with each of you as we all pray during these times for peace in our world, for an end to the suffering caused by terrorism and war, for the alleviation of poverty and for relief of those who suffer from addictions, depression and who have lost the value for the dignity of human life. Yet, even amongst these great needs in our world all around us there are signs of hope for our world through our Church, as we see a generation of young people rising up in response to the call to holiness.

We see this so clearly in our fifteen wonderful missionaries, serving in the work of the New Evangelization with Pure Witness, as well as in the many youth and families we serve each day. Young people are hungry for truth. They are looking for answers. They are desiring to live lives full of purpose and to have the integrity of character that will allow them to become all that they were created to be. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said, “The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness!” This truth rings clearly in the hearts of young people. The empty promises of the world quickly lose their sparkle; young people want something more to live for ... and they find that something in Jesus Christ.

At Pure Witness, we are challenging Catholics of all ages to become pure witnesses of their faith by setting Christ at the heart of their lives. This is a challenge for each of us. It is so easy to let the world distract us from the true purpose of our being – eternal life with God! As we focus our hearts back on Christ, He not only promises us joy for all eternity, but He blesses us with joy for the journey in this life!

We are so blessed to see our missionaries each day authentically striving to set Christ at the heart of their lives. They inspire us with their integrity of purpose, their determination to grow in virtue, their sincere love for souls. They encourage us daily to become all that we were created to be, to lay aside our false idols and to purify our own hearts. Mostly they keep us on track by their own desire to grow in holiness, and they remind us of our personal call to become saints ... and so, by the grace of God we pray each day, “Help us to become great saints, for the glory of Thy Name!”

So it is with much gratitude that we send to you this seasonal update of the activities of Pure Witness. Your support has allowed Pure Witness to grow – with our fifteen awesome missionaries – and for us to reach out to a great many youth and families who are searching for the support they need to live fully their faith in this day and age. The enthusiasm that we encounter daily of young people eager to grow in their faith gives us great hope!

You are part of the on-going transformation of our Church and our world, which is ever seeking the true peace and joy that only Christ can bring to fulfill the longings of every human heart.

Thank you for making the difference through your prayers and financial support. We could not do this work without you. Know that you are truly making a difference in so very many lives. May you be blessed a hundredfold for your goodness. You remain ever in the daily prayers and offerings of each of us at Pure Witness.

Together with you,
“Setting Christ at the Heart of Our Lives!”
James and Carmen Marcoux
Founders of Pure Witness Ministries

A Message From Fr. Clair Watrin

This past August and September Pure Witness invited me to be the Spiritual Director for the Fall Training for this year’s fifteen missionaries; I was greatly blessed and impressed by what I saw and experienced! The young adults who participated were inspiring in their openness to the Lord and their zeal to evangelize! I believe that the training was excellent and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Western Canada, by the grace of God, is giving birth to a unique and powerful ministry that will do great things for our youth and families in this area and hopefully eventually for all of Canada and beyond. Pure Witness is, in my experience, truly a work of God and worthy of our complete support!

Fr. Clair Watrin, CSB
(Spiritual Director for PWM Fall Training 2014)
I have served as a missionary in the past, but I have never been so excited to see what God has in store for this year. There is a movement happening within the Church, an awakening of souls in the youth of this era that I am proud to be a part of.
- Daniel Taylor, 23 - Aurora, ON

So here I am in Saskatchewan. This is the best I ever could have hoped for. I have a beautiful new family here and a mission to love. My mission is love.
- Pio Hartnett, 20 - Galway, Ireland

This year I truly feel that God is calling me to be His pure witness so that I may see Him in others and others may see Him in me. Through this and God’s strength I hope to be able to spread his love, joy, happiness, and peace to His sons and daughters!
- Ian Rankin, 25 - Windsor, ON

God calls us into the unknown and the difficult. I am honored, humbled, and excited to be accepted in this awesome ministry. I am ecstatic to serve and move closer to the best version of myself in serving Him.
- Nolan Conrad, 22 - Halifax, NS

One thing drew my heart towards wanting to become directly involved as a young-adult missionary in the Catholic Church ... and that was the irresistible joy of other young people on fire for Christ.
- Sean Roche, 22 - Medicine Hat, AB

I fell in love with the team, the ministry, and the Marcoux family. They had a huge impact on my life and now I want to be God’s instrument to impact and share Christ with the world: a world that is desperately looking for truth, love and happiness in all the wrong places.
- David Paul, 22 - Calgary, AB

I feel truly blessed to be called to serve as a missionary again this year. The opportunity to work as part of the office team to support the mission holds a very special place in my heart.
- Joey Paul, 19 - Calgary, AB

It has been our joy over the past four years to see Pure Witness ministries grow and flourish. We have seen so much fruit from the witness our missionaries give wherever they go, for as Pope Francis said, “The best instrument to evangelize young people is other young people!”
- James and Carmen Marcoux

This is my 3rd year with Pure Witness and I’m so happy I have this opportunity to employ my gifts, talents, service and time in such a meaningful way: proclaiming the joy of the gospel through the witness of my life in both word and deed!
- Mikaelah Marcoux, 20 - Saskatoon, SK

From the first, crazy orientation day, I was overwhelmed by the blessing of being called to have a part in this ministry. How can a girl not be excited to spend her year promoting the joy of Jesus?
- Nicole Mallett, 18 - Tramping Lake, SK

Even at a very young age learning about and experiencing my faith has been a source of great joy and excitement. I truly believe that there is no better way to experience the joy of the Lord in it’s purest form than serving Him.
- Nicole Painchaud, 24 - Sturgeon County, AB

This ministry is my passion -- where I find joy and life. I am really excited for my new journey with Pure Witness and I look forward to how much I will grow this year spiritually and relationally.
- Kayla Grimard, 19 - Chilliwack, BC

I know the journey will be very difficult, with many obstacles along the way, but with full reliance on God, I am confident He will help me along the way, and carry me when I fall.
- Silken Neutelings, 21 - Kamloops, BC

I’ve been so blessed over and over again by the struggles and joys that ministry life brings! I simply love the work I do! Bringing Christ and His love to as many souls as I can is my heart’s passion in life!
- Rebekah Marcoux, 22 - Saskatoon, SK

When God introduced me to Pure Witness Ministries, He asked me to trust in Him and in His Will for me. What a blessing it has revealed itself to be! God knows what I need better than I do. He loves me so well!
- Leah Borris, 19 - Morinville, AB

PWM is an incredible ministry and it has been, and continues to be, a huge part of my life! I LOVE what I do! I have learned so much over the past 2 years about all this stuff and I continue to learn more and more every day!
- Laura Rice, 21 - Saskatoon, SK
Sponsor a Missionary

As Bishop Don Bolen has said, “Pure Witness, while it serves many youth and families, also serves those who are working within it. The work of forming these missionaries as disciples to engage our society with the gospel message is essential to our church. It is with great joy that I support and encourage you to consider Pure Witness as a partner in your work of evangelization in engaging this generation of youth and their families.”

Please consider sponsoring a missionary with monthly support or a one-time donation. If you’re not sure which missionary to choose, just indicate on your donation form “any missionary in need” and we will direct it on for you.

Retreat Team

The Retreat Team has been kept very busy putting on ALIVE (Always Living In View of Eternity) Retreats throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta. The compelling witness of this dynamic crew is what reaches the hearts of so many children and youth in elementary, junior high and high schools, for as Blessed Pope Paul VI said, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” Through the authentic witness of these missionaries students can see that Jesus is truly relevant in their lives, and they are inspired in the hope that the Gospel brings. Bring the Pure Witness Retreat Team into your school and experience the blessings of how relational ministry with these dynamic young adults can impact your school. Call James at 306-934-3511 or email james.marcoux@purewitness.com.

Local Outreach Team

The Local Outreach Team is kept busy running many awesome programs. Their dedication to youth and families and the dynamic witness that they are continues to bless the diocesan community and beyond. Our YEPs (Youth Evangelization Program) brings out 60-80 youth, grades 8 and up, one Saturday each month to grow deeper in their faith so they can be the pure witnesses in their lives that our world needs. We also put on monthly ReConnects – events that bring families together in a Catholic cultural context. Our Local Outreach Team has been engaged by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to run their Youth Groups and Choral Programs that minister to youth from Saskatoon. If you are in the Saskatoon area and are interested in getting your children more involved with their faith, please contact Laura at 306-717-7868 or email laura.rice@purewitness.com.

Office Team

The Office Team continues to work behind the scenes to make sure all these great things happen, doing many little things with great love! Their passion for the mission of Pure Witness has been helping us to move ahead and to reach more and more souls who are longing for what the world just cannot offer – the peace and joy that only Jesus’ love can bring when we live our lives purely for Him!

I feel that my faith is strengthened and I feel more enthusiastic about strengthening my relationship with God.

~ Gr. 10 ALIVE Retreat Participant ~

Thank you for all the hard work and preparation for today. You guys talked about exactly what I needed to hear.

~ Gr. 12 Yepper ~