

Voluntas Dei Institute

Canadian District

A Call to share God's love



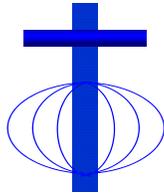
Jublas Nolasco

Voluntas Booklets - 2016-2017

Voluntas Dei Institute
2053, rue Nadeau
Thetford-Mines (Québec) - G6H 3K4
Tél: 418-338-6602

Courriel/Email: edpontbriand@cgocable.ca
Site Web/site: www.voluntasdeicanada.org
Facebook: @ voluntasDeicanada

Personal Notes



Dear Sisters and Brothers Voluntas,

Here is the last piece in this trilogy containing the written testimony of our three fellow priests who had agreed to speak at our 2016 District Congress as "Voluntas who came from elsewhere".

At the "En route 2017" Congress, you were given copies of the "Voluntas booklets" by John Yake and Arun Paul. Here is Jublas Nolasco's.

This colleague who lives in Toronto, who is very involved in the hospital environment, is a priest with a heart of fire. Although, in his early thirties... he has this incredible passion for his mission!

Personal Notes

For those who use Face Book, you see that he is actively participating. Like me, you are able to appreciate his acute mind and his enthusiasm to share his personal thoughts or the findings he makes through his readings.

Like Arun Paul and John Yake, he is very much at ease with communication, written and spoken especially.

In order to better place the contents of these booklets I come back to the aim of the three presentations heard during the 2016 congress. We asked our colleagues to elaborate on the theme suggested to all members: "Voluntas Dei, much more than a name: a passion, a vision, a mission".

That's how they told us about their passion, their vision of the Institute, their own mission and how it fits into ours and colors it.

As many of us, they came to the Voluntas with their life history, their psychological journey, their culture, the imprint of the spirituality that shaped them in the past, their desire to be in coherence with their being and their quest for the will of God.

A big thank you to you Jublas for this sharing; thank you also John and Arun for having kindly given us these reflections in the previous booklets.

Robert Lebel, Director

A Call to share God's love

My name is Jublas C. Nolasco, I am 37 years old. I am the youngest of six siblings. I was born into a devout Roman Catholic family, which meant I was brought up in religious household. To this day we are all practicing Catholics. When we were children, we would go to mass every Sunday. At an early age, I was searching for the purpose of my life because I felt a void within me with respect to meaning and purpose.

The Transformational experience of God's love

One significant and unforgettable moment was in my senior year of high school, when something wonderful happened as I attended mass. I could not explain why, but I did feel that the presence of God was very alive and overwhelming within me. I did not understand it then, I thought it was just a good feeling.

I shared this experience with a nun who was the teacher in my Christian living class. She listened to my stories and guided me in my journey toward faith. She was very supportive and encouraging in my spiritual life. Thus, her guidance inspired me to attend mass every day, I found myself engaged in different organizations in my home parish, such as, Youth for Christ, the charismatic movement, light of Christ, and Altar Servers. It was then that I realized I was being called to something profound.



Jesus asked: "when worrying, can any one of you add a single hour to your life?" Worry is a thief. It steals away your peace, joy, love, health and blessing.

Stop worrying; start wishing.

Every atom in God's universe is governed by the law of focus. What you focus on flourishes because our perception creates our reality.

Worrying and wishing use the same innate power that you use to create your reality - your imagination.

Worrying is imagining that bad things might happen to you while wishing is imagining that good things will happen to you.

Stop worrying; start working.

Worrying is not work. Working is productive; worrying is not. The very common reason why people can't solve their problems is because they overthink. We overanalyze. So we get stuck in the paralysis of analysis.

Stop worrying; start worshipping!

As a chaplain, I have learned that the irony of life is that when we lose someone who dies, we must learn to be grateful for what life can give us, thus: "we think that we are very vulnerable but we are stronger than we could ever imagine".

Be grateful for life and celebrate it with love and joy so that each moment is a God given grace to us; let us always look at the brighter side of life in the present moment.

Don't go through life expecting something bad to happen; instead, hope that the universe will convey the abundance of blessings into your life.

Don't allow your fear to interfere with your negativity but secure your faith in God so that all things work for your own good, realizing that what you have is the power of NOW; the present moment to create new possibilities in your life.

We easily judge ourselves if we don't achieve our standards... in reality... life must move on with standards or no standards at all.

So, why dwell on to something, when we can choose to live life and be happy with what we do... knowing that we live in the grace of God in the ordinary encounter!

Matthew 6: 25, 27 "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear?"

Indeed, God works in wondrous and even mysterious ways. In my spiritual journey, I can say that each day God was transforming me into a new person. God was leading me into a new life. I realized that in spite of my feelings of unworthiness in the face of God's love, I was a child of God and a mirror of God's love. I found my happiness in God. I found my peace in God

The Call to Priesthood

My goal and mission in life changed. My dream had changed because it was no longer worldly, but meant for God. It is in this experience that I desired to consecrate myself to. This was the time that in my dream, I saw myself as a priest. I entered the seminary and was ordained to priesthood.

My first contact with Voluntas Dei was with Fr. Leo, known as the Cooking Priest in EWTN. He told me about the Voluntas as he had recently joined it himself and introduced me to its Director in USA, who led me to Fr. Andrew Mayer. Since I met our team, I felt welcomed and accepted. I love the teachings and sharing of our team meetings every month. The spirituality of the Will of God in living the present moment deeply touched me and I felt that this is the community where I belong.

This was 3 years ago and this was also the beginning of my new ministry as a priest-chaplain at St. Joseph Health Centre. I have a special ministry in the mental health department that serves more or less 40 to 50 patients. I am grateful to God for this ministry and experience because my encounters with patients have made it possible for me to become more conscious of who I am.

I have discovered that I was vulnerable; a child called by God to be his instrument of faith, love, and hope. I had become more aware that my patients are vulnerable as they express the struggles and sufferings in their lives. I have identified myself as one who is loved and one who is looked upon to convey God's presence and blessings. In the spirituality of *Voluntas Dei*, in whatever situation we are, we are called to do the Will of God in every moment.

One of the many spiritual care experiences for me that stood out was a woman who was suffering with depression. From the time I met her, she wanted to end her life. She shared her life story of suffering, had cancer 3 times and survived 3 times, but having no purpose and meaning in life. She would describe her life as a waste. She also suffered different psychosis episodes. When I visited her, I listened to her with respect and showed her how important she was. Once, she spoke about her Catholic faith and told that she was excommunicated because she was divorced. She felt that she did not deserve God and had not been practicing her Catholic beliefs for the past 20 years. She is now 69 years old.

Silent, speechless, and moved, I felt her pain and suffering, I told my patient; "I felt God is telling me to let you know that He has been waiting for you because He loves you. I invite you to come to mass". She thought about what I said until one day in the afternoon, she came to mass and felt at peace in her life. She went for confession, I guided her and since then, she has been attending our daily mass. Before she left the hospital, she said, "Thank you Fr. Joe for allowing me to see God's love in my life and this makes me hold on to Hope and now, I have faith and will move on with Love".

This was a powerful and deep experience for me as a witness of God's presence in all things. In *Voluntas Dei*, doing the Will of God in the present moment is the key for joy, peace, and happiness in life. This story, as well as my experiences in my own life have humbled me and have made me appreciate God's graces and abundance in my life. I end this sharing by saying, "It is all yours, Lord, thank you"

Live the present moment

We will never fully understand the value of living the present moment. Let us just say that this is the attitude that experienced spiritual teachers recommend to people who are dying. If I live in the present, God is with me in his will, present to me with his grace.

Learning to live in the grace of God

There is one important lesson I learned and I remember it today; the shortest phrase is: Don't let me rule my day by judging any situation, whatever it maybe, but let me live every moment always in the grace of God.

This morning I was called for the death of a 6 months baby and it was a shock; I was late at our seminar, I got late for mass; but it is nice to feel assured that there is no judgment against myself but only Love... only peace... only living the present moment without thinking of approval or acceptance of what I do, because what matters most is... I live my life to the full since God is with me.