Incarnate Word, 
in whom all nature lives.
Cast fire upon the earth:
raise up contemplatives
Among us, men* who
walk within the fire
of ceaseless prayer,
impetuous desire.
Set pools of silence
In this thirsty land.

*And women

James McAuley
incarnate Word: in whom all nature lives.

Cast flame upon the earth; raise up contemplatives.

Among us, men who walk within the fire

Of ceaseless prayer, impetuous desire.

Set pools of silence in this thirsty land:

- James McAuley (1917 - 1976)
  Australian Poet

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Rejoice and be glad!

Gaudete et Exsultate:
Apostolic Exhoration on the Call to Holiness
In today’s world
A brief overview of “Rejoice and Be Glad”, *Gaudium et Exsultate*

SEEING

TOGETHER WHAT POPE FRANCIS HAS WRITTEN
Chapter One

THE CALL TO HOLINESS

Responsibility

GIFT
Holiness in everyday ordinary life

“The Inner History of a Day”

We seldom notice how each day is a holy place
Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens,
Transforming our broken fragments
Into an eternal continuity that keeps us.

James O’Donohue
Chapter Two:
TWO SUBTLE ENEMIES OF HOLINESS

PALAGIANISM

GNOSTICISM
CHAPTER THREE: IN THE LIGHT OF THE MASTER
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt 5:5-11)
THE GREAT CRITERION

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me” (Matt 25: 35-36).

“Whatever you did to the least of these brothers and sisters, you did to me.”
CHAPTER FOUR: SIGNS OF HOLINESS IN TODAY’S WORLD

(1) perseverance, patience and meekness;
(2) joy in faith and a sense of humour;
(3) boldness and courage in witnessing to Jesus,
(4) communal joy;
(5) constant prayer.
ON COMMUNAL JOY

in *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis writes of the “mingling and encounter, embrace and supporting one another, of stepping into the flood tide which while, chaotic, can become a genuine experience of fraternity, a caravan of solidarity, a sacred pilgrimage.” (EG 87)
The final chapter, “Spiritual Combat, Vigilance and Discernment” acknowledges that the pursuit of holiness includes a spiritual battle where we find ourselves fighting both forces outside ourselves like the cultures of individualism and materialism and forces within.
What might Pope Francis be saying to WUCWO today through *Gaudete et Exsultate*?

A POSSIBLE SUGGESTION

(judging\discerning)
"DON'T BE AFRAID OF BEING HOLY!"

Pope Francis
What are we to “do”

What actions can we take?
SOME ADVICE FROM ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

(WHAT SHE HEARD THE LORD SAY TO HER)
True, your Son is not about to come again except in majesty to judge . . .
But, as I see it, you are calling your servants christs,
and by means of them you want to relieve the world of death and restore it to life.
How?
You want these servants of yours to walk courageously along the Word’s way,
with concern and blazing desire working for your honor and the salvation of souls, ...
Oh best of remedy-givers!
Give us then these christs who will live in continual watching
and tears and prayers for the world’s salvation.
You call them your christs because they are conformed with your only-begotten Son.
A CLOSING PRAYER

Incarnate Word, in whom all nature lives.
Cast fire upon the earth: raise up contemplatives
Among us, women who walk within the fire
Of ceaseless prayer, impetuous desire
Set pools of silence in this thirsty land.