



# OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter  
Year 4  
Issue 4  
April 2016

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for April:

**That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.**

(Intention entrusted to us by the Holy Father at the Apostleship of prayer)

## *A Word from the Magisterium*

*We continue with our presentation of the Papal Bull MISERICORDIAE VULTUS (The Face of Mercy) with which the Pope has convened the Year of Mercy.*

### MISERICORDIAE VULTUS

.... 6. "It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and he manifests his omnipotence particularly in this way".<sup>[5]</sup> Saint Thomas Aquinas' words show that God's mercy, rather than a sign of weakness, is the mark of his omnipotence. For this reason the liturgy, in one of its most ancient collects, has us pray: "O God, who reveal your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness ..."<sup>[6]</sup> Throughout the history of humanity, God will always be the One who is present, close, provident, holy, and merciful.

"Patient and merciful." These words often go together in the Old Testament to describe God's nature. His being merciful is concretely demonstrated in his many actions throughout the history of salvation where his goodness prevails over punishment and destruction. In a special way the Psalms bring to the fore the grandeur of his merciful action: "He forgives all your iniquity, he heals all your diseases, he redeems your life from the pit, he crowns you with steadfast love and mercy" (Ps 103:3-4). Another psalm, in an even more explicit way, attests to the concrete signs of his

### Summary:

- A Word from the Magisterium.....1
- News from the Church.....2
- The Light of our Charism.....3
- News from our Homes .....4
- Missionary Pledge of the Month .....4

mercy: "He executes justice for the oppressed; he gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin" (Ps 146:7-9). Here are some other expressions of the Psalmist: "He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds... The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, he casts the wicked to the ground" (Ps 147:3, 6). In short, the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as of that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a "visceral" love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.

*(Continues)*

[5] Saint Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, II-II, q. 30, a. 4.

[6] XXVI Sunday of Ordinary Time. This Collect already appears in the eighth century among the euchological texts of the Gelasian Sacramentary (1198).

## *News from the Church*

### *A "Jubilee" April*

This April, which will begin with the feast of Divine Mercy, which has its origins in Jesus' private revelations to the Polish religious, Sister Faustina Kowalska, and was established for the whole Church by Saint John Paul II (a feast that will certainly be relevant this "Jubilee Year of Mercy") will be characterised by a special event (in continuity with WYD in Krakow). There will be a meeting for youth between the ages of 13 and 16 that will take place in Rome from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of April. It is an event promoted by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, and will be organised in collaboration with the Italian Episcopal Conference's (CEI) National Service for youth ministry. We will have a path split into two stages: the first, connected to the world of youth, and the second, connected rather to the youth, at World Youth Day in Krakow (Poland).

One of the most important moments this month will be the "Pilgrimage of Mercy", on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Various groups of adolescents, accompanied by guides, will begin in Castel Sant'Angelo with the reading and meditation of the Word of God. It is important to begin the day this way, remembering what the Pope said in the Papal Bull *Misericordiae Vultus* (n.13):

*In order to be capable of mercy... we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God's mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle*

Afterwards they will walk the *Via de la Conciliazione*, a penitential path that will help them to

do a deep examination of conscience. Finally, having arrived at St. Peter's Square, they will be able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, making the most of the presence of the priests in the Square. As we underlined last month, citing the Pope's message for the next WYD, the sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the fundamental elements of the Year of Mercy:

*Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.*

*(Misericordiae vultus, n.17)*

After the confessions, the pilgrimage will continue to the Holy Door and the "Altar of Confession" to profess out faith close to the tomb of Saint Peter, the prince of the Apostles. The day will finish with a festive celebration in the Olympic Stadium.

The high point will be the Holy Mass celebrated by the Holy Father, which will take place in Saint Peter's on the morning of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. We await the Holy Father's words, knowing of his concern for the youth. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (n.64) on speaking of the phenomenon of secularisation, he wrote that

*completely rejecting the transcendent has produced a growing deterioration of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism. These have led to a general sense of disorientation, especially in the periods of adolescence and young adulthood which are so vulnerable to change.*

Over the course of these days, in the most significant places of the city, there will be stations dedicated to the different works of mercy, material and corporal, with witnesses who will offer their experiences to the youth.

## *The Light of our Charism*

*In this issue we continue with our presentation of  
one of Father Giovanni's documents from  
18 – 06 – 1994.*

### **Servants of God, Servants of the Church, Servants of the Poor.**

#### **1.2 Contemplation**

Continual conversion is the true path that leads to contemplation. At the same, contemplation inevitably drives us to a continual and profound conversion.

Listening to the voice of the Lord and contemplating His face in silence are our principal activities. Our vocation, in this line, is the highest sanctity, which is realised through a continual conversion in our way of thinking and of programming our lives, renouncing all human security, trusting in God, guided by faith, open to His grace, like Jesus (cf. Php. 2,6-11)

*"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord" (Ex 34, 29). And St. Paul the Apostle comments: "Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?" (2 Cor 3, 7-8).*

Contemplate Christ in order to become radiant (cf. Psalm 33, 6) and irradiate happiness all around. Imitate Christ to realise "*Opus Christi*" in us and save souls with the power of the Cross, planted on the horizon of the glorious Resurrection. The rule of life contained in the "*Imitation of Christ*" must be the chisel that models

our souls from that of Christ, in whose face shines the glory of God. (cf. 2 Cor 4, 6).

"Many there are who desire contemplation, but who do not care to do the things which contemplation requires. It is also a great obstacle to be satisfied with externals and sensible things, and to have so little of perfect mortification" (*Imitation of Christ*, Book III, Chap. 31).

And so those who opt for a life in the Movement of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World, before thinking of the poor, must concern themselves with being Servants of God. And we must not have any fear of presenting to those who wish to share our life, a shocking and dramatic ideal, affronting, which is the reviled and despised Face of the Servant of Yahweh, Christ crucified, the way bound towards the glory of the Risen One.

The Servants of the Poor, therefore, must be true contemplatives in action. Hence the importance, for them, of prayer and silence in their lives of Serving Christ in the poor.

This characteristic of contemplation that everybody lives in their own family, work, and social environments, the Servants of the Poor transmit to those who wish to live in imitation of Christ: "*If you want to be perfect, go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; then come, follow me*" (Mt 19, 21).

The Servant of the Poor has contemplation as a characteristic mission: "*Contemplate the Lord and you will be radiant*" (Psalm 33, 6), or, as another translation puts it: "*Those who look towards Him will shine*". To be radiant means to communicate to others the splendour of this new life that is health and salvation – that is to say, the profound realisation of the human being and of the Christian, leaving behind the wounds and sadness of sin. To be radiant is the solution to all internal and therefore external problems of life.

*(Continues)*

## *News from our Homes*

*“At all times and in every race God has given welcome to whosoever fears Him and does what is right (Acts 10, 35). God, however, does not make men holy and save them merely as individuals, without bond or link between one another. Rather has it pleased Him to bring men together as one people, a people which acknowledges Him in truth and serves Him in holiness” (Lumen Gentium, 9). Conscious of this, as Missionary Servants of the Poor, we wish to propose numerous opportunities to live our faith in community, according to the plan of God:*

### **International Missionary Camp for Boys**

If you are a boy between the ages of 16 and 25, and you would like to participate with us in WYD-2016 in Krakow, we await you in July 2016 for our INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY CAMP that will begin on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July in our house in Budapest (Hungary), from where, after two weeks, we will leave for Krakow (Poland) to participate in the World Youth Day week with Pope Francis.

Contact us:

[serviteursfr@gmail.com](mailto:serviteursfr@gmail.com)  
[missionaricuzco@gmail.com](mailto:missionaricuzco@gmail.com)

*Limited places.*

*Deadline for applications: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016*

### **2016 Missionary Camp for Girls**

If you are a young girl and you wish to spend some time in service, in community, and meeting with the poor of the High Andean Cordillera, we invite you to participate in our MISSIONARY CAMPUS 2016 with the Missionary Sisters of the Poor TW, which will take place in Cuzco, Peru, in the Mother House and in the missions of MSPTW, in July 2016.

For more information:

[hermanasm.s.p.peru@gmail.com](mailto:hermanasm.s.p.peru@gmail.com)

### **International Camp for Families**

Dear families, from 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016, in the stupendous setting of the Valley of Aosta (Italian Alps), we will hold a week-long camp for families. Between relaxing, fun, Christian formation and prayer for the old and the young, we will share and deepen the marvellous call to be a “domestic church”.

For more information:

[missionaricuzco@gmail.com](mailto:missionaricuzco@gmail.com)

Tel.: +39 3351823251 (P. Walter, msp)

*This camp will have a base language of Italian.*

*Limited places.*

### **Missionary Pledge of the Month:**

This month I commit myself to spreading MSPTW's initiatives for this summer to anybody who might be interested in them, especially the camps; I will also try to live the Work of Mercy, “welcoming the travellers”, examining the ways in which I can help with realities in my parish and community, directly at the service of the “pilgrims” of our time.