



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Papal Missionary Intention for August:

That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbour.

(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.

Papal Bull MISERICORDIAE VULTUS

... At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (*Eph 4:26*). Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (*Mt5:7*): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living. The mercy of

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God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

10. Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love. The Church "has an endless desire to show mercy".^[8] Perhaps we have long since forgotten how to show and live the way of mercy.

8. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 24

(Will continue)

News from the Church

National Eucharistic Congress in Belém do Pará (Brazil)

After the 11th National Eucharistic Congress that took place in June, in Tucumán (Argentina) to celebrate 200 years of independence (the Congress had as its theme *“Jesus Christ, Lord of history, we need you. Jesus Christ, Bread of Life, and Communion for our people”*), this August (from 15th - 21st) the 12th Eucharistic Congress will take place in Belém do Pará (Brazil) to celebrate 400 years of this city, as well as 400 years since the evangelization of the Amazon. The Congress’ activities begin on 15th August with the celebration of a Solemn Mass in the Stadium, followed by the reception of Pope Francis’ representative, Cardinal Claudio Hummes (82 years old), Archbishop emeritus of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy. The friendship between the Cardinal and Pope Francis is well known. The Pope mentioned that during the last conclave, “when the number of votes got higher than two thirds, there was the usual applause because I had been elected. And he embraced me, he kissed me, and he said: ‘Do not forget about the poor’”.

A Eucharistic Congress convened by the Pastors of the People of God, is always a gift from God, a moment to celebrate the Faith of the Church surrounding Jesus in the Eucharist, all together. There will be, of course, occasions that lead us to reflect on the problem of a lack of priestly vocations. In fact, in the final Document of the 5th General Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopate, (CELAM), the took place in Aparecida (Brazil) between 13th and 31st May 2007, we were reminded (n.100e) that

The insufficient number of priests and their uneven distribution make it impossible for many communities to be able to participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist. Remembering that the Eucharist makes the Church, we are concerned for the situation of thousands of these communities deprived of the Sunday Eucharist during long periods of time.

It is our great concern that the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World feel very alive, since we have to live, every day, with the problems related to the scarcity of vocations. Although the problem may not be as great as it is in Europe, it would be a mistake to think that there are enough priests to serve all the needs of the country.

The poor that we find in the High Cordillera are able to request bread and material help from many other organisations who work in the country, But it is only the Catholic Church who can satisfy their hunger for God, by preaching the Word and celebrating the sacraments (in first place, Confession and the Eucharist). Of course we believe that the conversion of people through the Bread of the Word and Bread of Life will also lead to material bread, thanks to so many generous hearts, enflamed by love. In the words of Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, cited in the CELAM document (no 128)

“Only from the Eucharist will the civilization of love come forth, which will transform Latin America and the Caribbean, so that, as well as being the continent of hope, it may also be the continent of love”.

We ask God that the Eucharistic Congresses, like the one that will be celebrated in Brazil, may be moments of grace so that not only the Love of Jesus in the Eucharist might grow, but also the number of consecrated ministers.

The Light of our Charism

In this issue, we continue with our presentation of a document by Father Giovanni Salerno, from 18 – 06 – 1994:

“Servants of God, Servants of the Church, Servants of the poor”

.... 2.2. Community

Several aspects of this second reality – community – have been broached on mentioning obedience, since one of the most important fruits of obedience is to allow that in its fecund bosom, it can grow the roots of, and mature with exuberant richness, an ecclesial community. It is enough to remember the legacy of Christ in His priestly prayer at the Last Supper to be convinced that the community of those who come together in the name and love of Christ is made real, and a sign of salvation, of those who *“have tasted that the Lord is good”* (1Pt 2, 3).

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (Jn 13, 34-35). And immediately He adds the essence and measure of this love: *“No one has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends”* (Jn 15, 13).

And St. John, in his first letter to the churches at the beginning of our era, underlines the importance of this fundamental legacy of Jesus:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

(...)Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(...)if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us” (1 Jn 4, 7-9; 4, 11-12).

2.3 Eucharist

They are familiar, the suggestive images of the two tables of which speaks the *“imitation of Christ”*: the table of the Eucharist and the table of the Word of God: *“One is the table of the sacred altar, the place of the sanctified bread, that is the precious Body of Christ. The other is that of the Divine Law, which contains the sacred doctrine, teaches the true faith, and leads us with safety to (...) the innermost of the Holy of Holies”* (Book IV, Chap. 11).

These two tables are prepared for the whole community of the faithful of Christ in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which, as the Second Vatican Council teaches us, *“is the source and the apex of the whole work of preaching the Gospel.”* (*Decree “Presbyterorum Ordinis”*, n. 5). And also, *“No Christian community, however, is built up unless it has its basis and centre in the celebration of the most Holy Eucharist; from this, therefore, all education to the spirit of community must take its origin. This celebration, if it is to be genuine and complete, should lead to various works of charity and mutual help, as well as to missionary activity and to different forms of Christian witness.*

The Servants of the Poor of the Third World, who completely accept this teaching of the Council, are convinced that the lack of material bread on the tables of millions of our brothers is a consequence of the lack of Eucharistic Bread in so many regions of the world, destroyed by the by selfishness and discord. And so, the Servants of the Poor of the Third World aspire, with all their strength, to increase the presence of Christ in the Eucharist among the poorest, which is the majority of humanity, increasing, even in the furthest places, the Table of the Eucharistic Banquet, and at the same time, transforming themselves into broken bread for the most needy. Their Eucharistic celebration makes no sense if they do not transform themselves into the Eucharist for others.

(Will continue)

News from our Homes

Bro. Bruno Caron

On 18th June, French seminarian, Bruno Caron (23 years old), finished his missionary experience in the City of Boys. After having spent a year with us, he has returned to his diocese of Valence. Bruno, the second of four children, arrived in Cusco on 25th June last year, after studying for three years in the International Seminary of Ars, and spent a pastoral year in a poor area in the centre of the “City of Kings” (the name by which Lima, the Capital of Peru, is known, because it was founded on the feast of the Epiphany).

During his year of experience, he dedicated himself, essentially, to working with the youngest children in our Home (the group known as “San Luis Gonzaga”), which is currently made up of 7 boys, from the ages of 5 to 8, helping Father Raúl González msp. He also assisted in different missions in the villages of the High Cordillera (at Christmas 2015 and every Wednesday throughout the year) , mostly helping Father Luis Marie Sallé msp. Although he always showed his particular interest in the missions, he dedicated himself with great endeavour to the work with the children, proving in this way that he had great humility. The young men who come to the City of Boys do not always willingly accept the idea that our principal mission here is to work with the children.

In April, the whole community was pleased to

receive a visit from the parents of Bro. Bruno, Regis and Monique, who during their stay with us, were able to get to know more about the different communities of the Movement, and also the mission villages, those that are tended to by the male branch of the Movement, and those that are tended to by our Sisters. The witness of his parents has reminded us of the great importance of growing up in a Catholic family, who educate their children in Christian values.

Very grateful for his experience, Bro. Bruno recognised that this experience – above all the experience that he received in the mission villages – *“will certainly be very useful to me in my country for the mission that awaits me in the diocese of Valence, where also there are many small communities who await the presence of Christ and His Gospel, and who, for that reason, require the presence of holy priests”.*

This is not the first time that a French seminarian has interrupted his studies to spend a missionary year with us. It has always been something very enriching, as much for the us as for the seminarians. In Brother Bruno’s case, the whole community has been enormously edified by his spirit of prayer, always being one of the first in the Chapel each morning. His example has been very important to us, above all, because having a lot of work and only a few people, it is easy to fall into activism (the tendency to put work first, and prayer second, that personal contact with the Father, who can give us the light and the strength to speak of Him, to work for Him and His Kingdom).

We commend to God the path of Brother Bruno, so that he may be a holy priest of the Church.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

World Youth 2016, in Krakow, has just come to an end: we wish, therefore, to commit ourselves during this month, to offering our prayers, our sacrifices, and our daily commitments, that the young people who participated in the event, directly or indirectly, may be docile and generous in responding to the demands that the Lord will make of them.