



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
Year 3
Issue 1,
January 2015

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for January:

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

Intention entrusted to us by the Holy Father at the Apostolate of Prayer

A Word from the Magisterium

We continue with our presentation of a few parts of the Apostolic Exhortation, EVANGELII GAUDIUM.

REASONS FOR A RENEWED MISSIONARY IMPULSE

(...) 263. We do well to keep in mind the early Christians and our many brothers and sisters throughout history who were filled with joy, unflinching courage and zeal in proclaiming the Gospel. Some people nowadays console themselves by saying that things are not as easy as they used to be, yet we know that the Roman empire was not conducive to the Gospel message, the struggle for justice, or the defence of human dignity. Every period of history is marked by the presence of human weakness, self-absorption, complacency and selfishness, to say nothing of the concupiscence which preys upon us all. These things are ever present under one guise or another; they are due to our human limits rather than particular situations. Let us not say, then, that things are harder today; they are simply different. But let us learn also from the saints who have gone before us, who confronted the difficulties of their own day. So I propose that we pause to rediscover some of the reasons which can help us to imitate them today.[207]

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 Month4

Personal encounter with the saving love of Jesus

264. The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.

(Continues)

207 Cf. V. M. Fernández, « Espiritualidad para la esperanza activa ». Acto de apertura del I Congreso Nacional de Doctrina Social de la Iglesia, Rosario (Argentina), 2011: UC Actualidad 142 (2011), 16.

News from the Church

Pope Francis' visit to Sri Lanka, prepared in a climate of Adoration and Reparation.

From 13th to 15th of January 2015, Pope Francis will visit the island of Sri Lanka (also known as Ceylon, as this was the island's official name until 1972). Situated near the South East coast of India, because of its shape and its close proximity to the Indian coast, the island is also known as "India's tear". The Holy Father's visit will be based on the subject, "Remain in my love".

The Catholic community, which represents a minority on the island (the country is predominantly Buddhist – Buddhism arrived in the country at the beginning of the third century B.C. – followed by Hinduism, Islam and Christianity) is preparing to receive the Holy Father with great enthusiasm. During a Mass celebrated in the National Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka, the auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo, Bishop Emmanuel Fernando, said: "we need a profound preparation to receive the Holy Father, and for the canonisation of Blessed Joseph Vaz" (the canonisation of the apostle of Ceylon, announced by the Vatican on 17th September 2014, is planned to take place on 14th January: as had also happened with the canonisation of St. John XXIII, in this case as well, Pope Francis has dispensed with the second miracle attributed to his intercession).

So that this doesn't turn into something very abstract, a simple declaration of good intentions, the Catholic Church of Sri Lanka (represented by Bishop Fernando) began the initiative of using the 100 days before the arrival of the Holy Father as 100 days of preparation, with Masses, Vigils, works of charity. During these days, all the believers have been invited to carry out a penitential gesture of "reparation" by doing good deeds, for all sins committed. Among other things, an hour of

Eucharistic adoration with children has been organised, and will be prepared in the schools and in the catechesis groups of different parishes. It will be offered to the Holy Father on the occasion of the canonisation of Blessed Joseph Vaz.

In spite of the distance, there are different elements of those 100 days that permit us to feel closer to our Asian brothers:

- Love of the Holy Father, which is one of the three pillars of the Movement, together with Eucharistic and Marian devotion;
- The hour of Eucharistic Adoration with the participation of the children. This is a daily practice in all the communities of the Movement. As Fr. Giovanni Salerno says in his book *On Mission with God in the Andes*, from the beginning of the Movement of the Missionary Servants of the Poor TW "we have understood that you cannot be a servant of the poor if you do not continuously adore Christ in the Eucharist, who transforms the Servant like fire transforms iron";
- The subject of Reparation, so much linked to the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that we to foster in our children and collaborators. As Fr. Giovanni continues in this same book: "Eucharistic Adoration is not enough for us. We need Reparation. We must have the sense of responsibility for Reparation, to make reparation for the grave sins and the grave injustices committed against the poor... The job of service to the poor must be a consequence of Adoration and Reparation" (Pg.144).

It is a beautiful sign of the unity of the Church to see how the same forms of devotion are united beyond the differences of time, place and culture. And so we also invite all of our readers to unite themselves to our brothers of Asia through Adoration and Reparation, so that the Holy Father's trip might be a fount of grace, not only for the Church in Sri Lanka, but for the Universal Church.

The Light of our Charism

In this issue we continue with our presentation of a document written by Fr. Giovanni Salerno on 30 – 03 – 1996, about our Marian spirituality.

Why we invoke Holy Mary as Mother of the Poor of the Third World

The words of the Magnificat – as Pope John Paul II says very well in his Encyclical "*Redemptoris Mater*" – "are simultaneously very simple and wholly inspired by the sacred texts of the people of Israel" (num. 36), especially the words that, with great happiness of heart, Hannah, the barren wife of Elkanah spoke for having conceived and given birth to their son, Samuel, who would become a great prophet, through a special gift of the Lord. (cfr. 1 Sam 2, 1-10).

And so "The Church, which from the beginning has modelled her earthly journey on that of the Mother of God, constantly repeats after her the words of the *Magnificat*. (...)The Church's love of preference for the poor is wonderfully inscribed in Mary's *Magnificat*. (...)Mary is deeply imbued with the spirit of the "poor of Yahweh," who in the prayer of the Psalms awaited from God their salvation, placing all their trust in him (cf. Pss. 21; 31; 35; 55). (...) Drawing from Mary's heart, from the depth of her faith expressed in the words of the *Magnificat*, the Church renews ever more effectively in herself the awareness that the truth about God who saves, the truth about God who is the source of every gift, cannot be separated from the manifestation of his love of preference for the poor and humble, that love which, celebrated in the *Magnificat*, is later expressed in the words and works of Jesus."

(Redemptoris Mater, num. 37).

All of this tells us that the invocation of "Mother of the Poor of the Third World" with which we invoke the Most Holy Virgin Mary, is not an invocation for use exclusively by the poor of the Third World. Moreover, it would be a serious mistake to considerate as something 'second

rate'. On the contrary, all members of the Movement (priests, seminarians, single lay people, married couples, contemplatives, etc.) invoke Mary as Mother of the Poor, because we are aware that we are poor, because every day we feel poorer, sure that only Merciful God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of Jesus, enriches us with His gifts.

Woe to us if we do not feel poor! Poor to act, poor to think, to judge, to pray, poor above all to obey, because God gives His Spirit to those who obey (cf. Acts 5, 29).

God's predilection for the poor

In the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament, God demonstrates that He has a predilection for the poor:

*"The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
He brings low and he exalts.
He raises up the poor from the dust;
He lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour." (1 Sam 2, 7-8).*

"LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things,
(...)You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their distress," (Is 25, 1. 4).

"For this is what the high and exalted One says—
He who lives forever, whose name is Holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite." (Is 57, 15).

News from our Homes

New Archbishop in Cusco

On 3rd January, the diocese of Cusco will welcome its new Bishop, Bishop Richard Daniel Alarcón Urrutia, after having been governed for ten years by Bishop Juan Antonio Ugarte Pérez, to whom the Missionary Servants of the Poor TW owe a lot for his closeness and support that he has always shown us. With our presence at the inauguration, we wish to show our closeness and support to the new Bishop.

Stories of our children: little Cristo Frank

The main objective of our home “St. Tarcisius”, in the City of Boys (Andahuaylillas, Cuzco), is to form our children and young men in wisdom, grace and sanctity, preparing them so that they can discern and face a challenging world, which mainly offers what leads us away from the love of God.

For that reason, in our home, we use the preventive method of St. John Bosco, which is founded on three strong pillars: love, reason and religion. But, is it possible to follow this method founded on patience, when a little “devil” arrives in our home? Of course it is. This is what happened with Cristo Frank, who arrived with us when he was just five years old, with some very difficult behavioural problems. Of course, we understood very well

because like the majority of our children, he came from a very difficult family situation, from serious poverty, and other grave problems, which meant that this little man arrived at our home.

The first few years were very difficult, above all for the brother in charge of the group of small boys of which Cristo was part, because he was very restless and mischievous (getting into quite serious trouble that was not normal for his age, he would fight with his friends from the home and from school, and he would always be distracted during lessons, losing himself in his own thoughts). In short, people might have thought that he was a hopeless case.

Cristo Frank’s life was very difficult because he didn’t allow us to help him, but little by little, the preventive method began to have an effect on him. As he grew, he began to reason more, he began to understand what was good and what was bad.

The brother currently in charge of him, says: “On one occasion, I went over to him to talk, and I asked him, ‘Do you think I am very strict with you?’ and he responded; ‘a bit, Brother, but I don’t mind because I know you do it so that I can be saved and enter into Heaven’. Those words, continues the brother, shook me, I was amazed by that thought and such transcendent judgement of this child”.

With determination, love and patience, Cristo Frank has been maturing over time, and now, at nine years old, his behaviour has improved. He is still a child, but we can see he has advanced positively in his life. He has always achieved very good attainment grades in his studies, as he is very intelligent. In the next few months, he will make his First Holy Communion.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

During this month I will pray a Rosary every week for the perseverance of the Missionaries across the whole world.