



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
Year 3
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for October:

That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

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

A Word from the Magisterium

Message from *Populorum Progressio*

APPEAL TO THE YOUTH

74. We are fully aware of the fact that many young people have already responded wholeheartedly to the invitation of Our predecessor Pius XII, summoning the laity to take part in missionary work. (60) We also know that other young people have offered their services to public and private organizations that seek to aid developing nations. We are delighted to learn that in some nations their requirement of military duty can be fulfilled, in part at least, by social service or, simply, service. We commend such undertakings and the men of good will who take part in them. Would that all those who profess to be followers of Christ might heed His plea: "*I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.*" (61)

No one is permitted to disregard the plight of his brothers living in dire poverty, enmeshed in ignorance and tormented by insecurity. The Christian, moved by this sad state of affairs, should echo the words of Christ: "*I have compassion on the crowd.*" (62)

75. Let everyone implore God the Father Almighty that the human race, which is certainly aware of these evils, will bend every effort of mind and spirit to their eradication. To this prayer

Contents:

- 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

should be added the resolute commitment of every individual. Each should do as much as he can, as best he can, to counteract the slow pace of progress in some nations. And it is to be hoped that individuals, social organizations and nations will join hands in brotherly fashion—the strong aiding the weak—all contributing their knowledge, their enthusiasm and their love to the task, without thinking of their own convenience.

It is the person who is motivated by genuine love, more than anyone else, who pits his intelligence against the problems of poverty, trying to uncover the causes and looking for effective ways of combatting and overcoming them. As a promoter of peace, "*he goes on his way, holding aloft the torch of joy and shedding light and grace on the hearts of men all over the world; he helps them to cross the barriers of geographical frontiers, to acknowledge every man as a friend and brother.*" (63) (*Encíclica Populorum Progressio del Papa Pablo VI, nn. 74-75, 1967*).

[61] Cf. Enc. *Fidei Donum* l. c. 246.

[62] *Mat.* 25, 35-36.

[63] *Mark* 8, 2.

[64] Cf. Alocución de Juan XXIII en la entrega del premio Balzan, el 10 de mayo de 1963.

News from the Church

BISHOPS' SYNOD

From 4th-25th of October, the 14th Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will take place, and will focus on "*The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world*".

Instrumentum Laboris, the basic text for the work of the Synod (conducted through a synthesis of the various contributions of the Church around the world) that was presented in the Holy See's Press Office on 23rd June, indicates, as an objective of said assembly, the "art of accompanying", with mercy and patience, the families who are distanced from the Church. For the Church, who is like a Mother, these families are "her most fragile children, marked by injured and lost love, and she gives them new confidence and hope, like the light of a lighthouse or a port or a torch carried among the people, to light up those who have lost their way, or who find themselves in a storm. Conscious that the greatest mercy is to say to truth with love, let us go beyond compassion".

The text analyses the reality of the families of the whole world, and is meant to give the message that God never abandons anybody; more specifically, among other cases, people who live together before marrying (in n. 57, the document says: even in cases where the decision of persons living together or those civilly married to proceed to a sacramental marriage is still in a virtual state or in its initial stage or not yet specifically defined, the Church is asked not shy away from the task of encouraging and supporting such a development. At the same time, something good can be done by showing, in a friendly manner, an appreciation for the commitment

already made and acknowledging adherence to those elements proper to the divine plan arising from the relation of the person created by God and God the Creator"), the divorced who have re-married, nor people with homosexual tendencies. Regarding this last case, *Instrumentum Laboris* (n. 130-131) reminds us what the 'Church teaching: "There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family." Nevertheless, men and women with a homosexual tendency ought to be received with respect and sensitivity. "Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided" (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*, 4).

The following point needs to be reiterated: every person, regardless of his/her sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his/her human dignity and received with sensitivity and great care in both the Church and society'.

Although the most controversial subjects are indeed homosexuals and communion for the divorced and civilly re-married – a subject that has roused different positions from the bishops since the Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of the Bishops celebrated in October of last year – there will be ample subjects to deal with, as you will appreciate if you just glance at *Instrumentum Laboris*: the challenges of poverty, social exclusion, the widowed, the elderly, the role of the family in the documents of the Church, the family and evangelization, preparation for marriage, the procreative function of the family...

We are all the Church and we are called to accompany the Bishops' work with our prayer, that they may be docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, and that their decisions – approaching the Year of Mercy – may be an expression of Divine Mercy.

The Light of our Charism

In this issue, we continue with our presentation of a document by Father Giovanni Salerno from 21/05/2007 about "Symbols of the Movement".

SYMBOLS OF THE MOVEMENT

Missionary Servants of the Poor TW

Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi

7. Why do you have the title and image of Our Lady, Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor of the Third World, and at the same, many images of Our Lady of Guadalupe in your homes?

R.- The title for Our Lady, "Holy Mary Mother of the Poor", stems from the Virgin of Guadalupe, because, on December 9, 1531, when she appeared to Juan Diego for the first time, she said to him:

*"Know this for certain, my child,
I am the perfect ever Virgin Holy
Mary, Mother of the true God for
whom all men live (...). Truly I am
your compassionate Mother, yours
and that of all men on earth, of one
and all races of men, those who
love me, those who cry out to me,
those who search for me, those who
confide in me. Because I will hear
their cry, their sorrow, and I will
remedy, I will cure all their different
hardships, their misery, their pain".*

And when she appeared to him again on December 12 of that same year, while he was poor, in distress, and crying because his Uncle was sick, she said to him: "Am I not here because I am your Mother? Are you not under my shelter and

protection? Am I not the fount of your happiness? Is there anything else that you need? May nothing else afflict or perturb you..."

As we can see, the Holy Virgin, appearing to Juan Diego, has showed that she is Mother of the Poor. That's why, in our homes, as well as the image of Holy Mary Mother of the Poor, we have many images of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

8. Why do you take a statue of the Virgin of Fatima on procession on the first Saturday of every month, showing devotion to Our Lady of Fatima as well?

R.- This devotion to the Virgin of Fatima and her procession on the first Saturday of every month, are due to the fact that we consider the message of Fatima to be incredibly important. It invites us to continual conversion and it is a message which humanity cannot silence. It is our duty to spread this message for the conversion of sinners.

9. Why do the seminarians of the Movement make an annual pilgrimage to Fatima?

R.- In 1992, the superiors and seminarians of our seminary in Ajofrin, had to struggle to keep our seminary in existence. The struggle was so tremendous that we feared it would have to close. But that would have meant putting the rest of the Movement in danger too... This fight ended on the eve of the feast of St. Joseph in 1992. That day, all of us, priests and seminarians from our seminary, found peace again. So much that, in that moment, in the heart of every one of us, gushed spontaneously the desire to go on pilgrimage to Fatima in order to give thanks to the Virgin Mary, for having renewed our devotion to her, and our loyalty to the charism of the Movement. 15 years have passed since then, and this annual pilgrimage still helps us to be faithful to Our Lady and to the Movement.

News from our Homes

Stories of our Children: Edú.

This year, our Home has been blessed with true angels that Divine Providence has willed to commend to us. One of those is Edwar Paniura Mayta (who in the home, we know as Edú), born into a very poor family from the department of Apurimac. He arrived with us when he was 11, and has just turned 12. Actually, Apurimac is the department in which Father Giovanni Salerno began his work and founded various medical clinics when he arrived in Peru in 1968, before going to Cusco. Those of you who have read Fr. Giovanni's book *On Mission with God in the Andes* will be familiar with the names of some of the localities of that region of the country (Tambobamba, Antabamba...) as well as the great poverty vividly described by Father Giovanni in his book. This bleak picture is what our new little angel had got used to, and where he grew up, from when he was very little.

After the death of his mother, Asunta, Edwar, sad and confused, spent a lot of time alone in the house since his older brothers and his father left the house to work. Without support (his father and his brothers either weren't at home, or when they arrived they had often drunk too much, as is the custom among the people who live in the Cordillera) and affected by the death of his mother, he began to experience problems in school.

For that reason, when he arrived in our home in February of 2015, even though he was already very

responsible in his studies, we noted that he would have to work hard to overcome educational difficulties. In fact he is only in his third year of primary education, while for his age, he should be in sixth year. But due to his efforts and the help that he has received (every afternoon our children study with the teachers from our school "Francisco y Jacinta Marto"), he is able to face this new challenge, since he certainly isn't lacking in capability.

Edú is a happy and sociable child, if a little shy. What has probably helped him to settle down in this new environment, is the presence of his three nephews; Nicolás, Lucio y Jesús (their mother is Edú's sister). Lucio is actually in the same group of interns as Edú, the group "St. John Bosco" (every one of the four groups of our interns, separated into age groups, has its holy patron), whose superior is currently Father Salvatore Piredda (Italian). For Edú, and for his nephews, it is a great joy when they receive visits from their relatives on the first Saturday of every month.

He likes to do sport very much (especially football) and he is also learning to play the guitar. But most importantly, he is getting to know God. In Apurimac, not only was he lacking in intellectual formation, but also in any religious formation whatsoever. Now he often serves at Mass, he is very devout, and with much enthusiasm he is preparing himself to receive his first Holy Communion.

Let us pray for Edwar, that God may always bless him, and that he may grow – like his peers - in all the virtues.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

During this month dedicated to the missions, I will acquire material from the Movement (magazines, prayers, leaflets...) and give them out among parishes, schools, friends...