



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
Year 3
Issue 9,
September 2015

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for September:

That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith that they proclaim.

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

A Word from the Magisterium

Message from *Populorum Progressio*

THE CHURCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The work of the Missionaries

12. True to the teaching and example of her divine Founder, who cited the preaching of the Gospel to the poor as a sign of His mission, the Church has never failed to foster the human progress of the nations to which she brings faith in Christ. Besides erecting sacred edifices, her missionaries have also promoted construction of hospitals, sanitariums, schools and universities. By teaching the native population how to take full advantage of natural resources, the missionaries often protected them from the greed of foreigners.

We would certainly admit that this work was sometimes far from perfect, since it was the work of men. The missionaries sometimes intermingled the thought patterns and behaviour patterns of their native land with the authentic message of Christ. Yet, for all this, they did protect and promote indigenous institutions; and many of them pioneered in promoting the country's material and cultural progress.

We need only mention the efforts of Pere Charles de Foucauld: he compiled a valuable dictionary of the

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Tuareg language, and his charity won him the title, "everyone's brother." So We deem it fitting to praise those oft forgotten pioneers who were motivated by love for Christ, just as We honour their imitators and successors who today continue to put themselves at the generous and unselfish service of those to whom they preach the Gospel.

13. In the present day, however, individual and group effort within these countries is no longer enough. The world situation requires the concerted effort of everyone, a thorough examination of every facet of the problem—social, economic, cultural and spiritual.

The Church, which has long experience in human affairs and has no desire to be involved in the political activities of any nation, "seeks but one goal: to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth; to save, not to judge; to serve, not to be served." (Gaudium et Spes n. 3). (Encíclical Letter *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul VI, nn. 12-13, 1967).

News from the Church

THE POPE'S TRIP TO CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

From 19th – 28th September, Pope Francis will be travelling in Cuba and the United States of America visiting the United Nations Organisation on the occasion of his participation in the VIII World Meeting of Families, in St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, in Philadelphia. The visit to both countries is significant, since the pope contributed to the improvement in their relationship over the last few months. The Cuban president, Raul Castro, who already met with the Pope, in Rome, on 10th May, publically thanked the Holy Father for his involvement in the process of the restoration of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, announced on 17th December, last year. This will be his tenth international apostolic travel, the fourth of 2015, after his travels to Sri Lanka and the Philippines (January 2015), Sarajevo (June 2015), Latin America – Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay – (July 2015).

During his visit to Cuba, the Pope will visit the cities of Holguin, La Habana, and Santiago de Cuba, in the West of the country, from where he will then travel to the United States. Cardinal Jaime Ortega, Archbishop of San Cristóbal de La Habana (Cuba) has expressed the great expectancy with which all the people of Cuba await the visit of Pope Francis, "Missionary of Mercy" (this is the theme chosen by the Cuban Episcopal Conference to prepare for the event, with a clear reference to the Jubilee of Mercy, requested by Pope Bergoglio, and which will take place between 8th December 2015 and 20th November 2016). The Pope will also visit the Sanctuary of Cobre, situated 20km from the city of

Santiago, where the Virgin of charity of Cobre, Patron of Cuba, will be venerated.

With regards to his travel to the United states, we wish to underline, above all, the High Pontiff's participation in the World Meeting of Families, which will take place in Philadelphia from 22nd -27th September, under the motto: "Love is our mission: the family fully alive". The meeting, in which the Holy Father will participate, will take place a few weeks before the Bishops' Ordinary Assembly of the Synod, on the same topic: the family. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Council for Family, on presenting the Philadelphia meeting on 25th June, reminded us that: "the family co-constructs the Church, and sustains society. And during these days of conference, the results of some international scientific studies, which have looked at the positive influence of the family, will be presented". "The family", emphasised Archbishop Paglia, "unceasingly requests help and support from the whole ecclesial community, and over the next few days I will be writing to the monasteries of the world to ask that they accompany these very important days with their prayers – and to the civil society, who cannot remain indifferent before such beauty and goodness, effective and vital".

This universality will be reflected in the final act of the meeting, when Pope Francis, at the end of the Sunday Mass, on 27th September, will hand over Luke's Gospel, "the Good News of the Mercy of God, which Is Jesus" to the families of big cities of five continents: Kinshasa (Africa), La Habana (America), Hanoi (Asia), Sydney (Australia) and Marseille (Europe).

"It is a symbolic gesture by which a million copies of this book will be sent to these cities. We wish for the Gospel of Mercy to be announced in the big cities of the world, especially in the poorest areas and in the outskirts. We wish to distribute the nourishment of the Gospel to the families of the world, to construct bonds of love among them, in the Church and in society".

The Light of our Charism

In this issue, we begin the presentation of a document written by Father Giovanni Salerno on 21/05/2007, on “symbols of the Movement”.

SYMBOLS OF THE MOVEMENT

Missionary Servants of the Poor of the T.W.

“OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI”

1. Why are you called Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World, and why do you also add “Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi” to this name?

R – The name “Servants of the Poor”, we have taken from the name that the prophet Isaiah gives to the “Servant of Yahweh”, who would come to bear all types of suffering to free the poor, and also to free them, not with a dominating attitude, but with the attitude of a servant. This is how Jesus lived, He who, on coming to earth and becoming man, said to His Father: “I have come to do thy will, oh God” (Hb. 10,7), and expressly declared to “not have come to be served, but to serve” (Mt. 20,28).

The additional name of “Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi” is owed to a meeting between Father Giovanni Salerno and Pope John Paul II, in the Vatican in 1986. When shown the rule of the Movement, the “Imitation of Christ”, the Holy Father exclaimed: “This really is ‘Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi’. With this rule, many children will be saved”.

2. Why are you called “Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World”, even though you don’t work exclusively in the Third World?

R.- The reference to the Third World is a constant reminder to us to work for the good of the poorest among us. We have Retirement Centres and Houses of Formation in Europe and the United States, but our work for the poor is focused primarily in countries where the governments do little or nothing to help them.

3. Why do you always have a cross without Christ crucified in the entrance to your homes as well as in the rooms? And why do you always have the words “Ut unum sint” in various places around your homes?

R.- The cross without Christ crucified is a constant reminder that to serve the poor, we have to accept our own cross, like Christ, and that each one of us should be crucified upon it. It isn’t easy to serve the poor! To serve the poor is to accept the same *Via Crucis* that Jesus did. In answer to the other question, the phrase “*Ut unum sint*” (that they may be one) is the expression with which Jesus showed His immense pain at seeing the Church divided in the future. Our main concern has to be that we are always united within the Church. We obtain this unity first of all by loving and respecting the unity of our own community, and by praying and working together for the unity of the universal Church.

4. Why, in every one of your Centres, as well as the main church, is there always an oratory or chapel with the Blessed Sacrament exposed?

R.- The existence of this oratory or chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is solemnly exposed is due to the fact that we should be in continuous adoration of Jesus, because He is the one true Lord and He merits all of our love and adoration.

5. Why, on the doors to the tabernacle in all of your chapels, is there an image of broken bread?

R.- The purpose of the image of the broken bread is to remind each Missionary Servant of the Poor TW that they have to do for others what Jesus did: silently sharing out themselves as broken bread. They themselves have to be consumed so that the rest of mankind can grow spiritually.

6. Why, in every one of your chapels, as well as the Crucifix and the image of Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor, are there always three angels in adoration?

R.- The reason for the presence of these three angels is to help the children remember that even though they are orphans, or have been abandoned, they always have a friend who will never abandon them; their Guardian Angel. It is also a reminder that in our Centres they should be doing what the Angels, represented in our chapels, do; be in continuous Eucharistic adoration.

News from our Homes

New Seminarians in Ajofrín

This year, three new seminarians have joined our House of Priestly Formation, “Holy Mary Mother of the Poor”, in Ajofrín, (Toledo):

Facundo Morales (Mexican);
Pedro Andrés Schelstraete (French);
Leonardo Castillo Luna (Mexican);

In this issue we will speak only of the first young man. Brother Facundo Morales, 34 years old, is originally from a small and humble village called Huimilpan, in the South of the state of Queretaro (Mexico). As he himself says:

“I was always fortunate to have my parents’ protection, education, and care, since, for me and my seven brothers and sisters, even though we were very poor, they managed to instil in us the values of humanity, respect, honour, love, and above all they taught us to put our hope in God and to remain under the care of our Mother, the Virgin of Guadalupe”.

How important the witness of parents is, through a life consistent with their own faith, so that the seed of vocation does not become frustrated!! He found

out about the *Missionary Servants of the Poor*, from a television programme, *Maria Vision*, in October 2013, and by February 2014, he was already in Cuzco. For almost all of this time, he has been in charge of the group “St. John Bosco”, which is the group of senior boys. They are the eldest boys who live in the home, and with them, brother Facundo has established a good relationship. He participated, with great enthusiasm, in various missions that we organised in the Cordillera, returning from them more and more resolved each time, and he organised several First Aid courses for the members of our community (in Mexico he had experience as a voluntary paramedic).

His own words tell us a lot about his journey of discernment and the human and spiritual maturity with which he will begin his new journey:

Throughout this year, during which I have served God through the children of the Andes, I have realised that everything that I left behind for God, is very little; it is not enough. And so, the only thing that I had left, and that I thought was mine, I gave to Him; my life. From now on, He will guide me to where I must be one day in the future. I know that the journey is not easy, but what merit would I gain, arriving in Heaven, without having fought in this life, without having felt weary, without having suffered? My path is already marked, Jesus Himself traced it through His Passion and His death. And when I trip and fall, I will not fear because my Mother in Heaven, who with warmth and maternal tenderness will help me and help me up, is always at my side.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

From 22nd September, during the Novena to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Patron of the Missions, I will try to find places (parishes, schools, friends...) where I can spread the Movement’s information in the month of October.