



# OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter  
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

*Missionary Intention for June:*

**That seminarians and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the Gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.**

*(Intention entrusted to us by the Holy Father at the Apostolate 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

8..... The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favour of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.

Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realized that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (cf. Mt 9:36). On the basis of this compassionate love he healed the sick who were presented to him (cf. Mt 14:14), and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd (cf. Mt 15:37). What moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need. When he came upon the widow of Nain taking her son out for burial, he felt great compassion for the immense suffering of this grieving mother, and

### 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

he gave back her son by raising him from the dead (cf. Lk 7:15). After freeing the demoniac in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus entrusted him with this mission: “Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you” (Mk 5:19). The calling of Matthew is also presented within the context of mercy. Passing by the tax collector’s booth, Jesus looked intently at Matthew. It was a look full of mercy that forgave the sins of that man, a sinner and a tax collector, whom Jesus chose – against the hesitation of the disciples – to become one of the Twelve. Saint Bede the Venerable, commenting on this Gospel passage, wrote that Jesus looked upon Matthew with merciful love and chose him: *miserando atque eligendo*.<sup>[7]</sup> This expression impressed me so much that I chose it for my episcopal motto.

7. Cfr. Hom. 21

*(Will continue)*

## *News from the Church*

### *The Pope's Travel to Armenia*

The Holy See's Press Office informed us, on 9<sup>th</sup> April, of the Pope's apostolic travels for this year. He will visit Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The Vatican has indicated that, after having received the invitations of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and *Catholicos* of all the Armenians, and the civil authorities of the Catholic Church, His Holiness Pope Francis will travel to Armenia on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, and will leave on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Karekin II was born in Voskehat (Armenia) on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1951, and received the name Krtich Nersessian at baptism. In 1999 he was elected *Catholicos* of the Armenian Church and of all the Armenians, following His Holiness Karekin I. This is the oldest national church in the world, with more than six million faithful in various countries around the world. Karekin II maintained good relations with Saint Pope John Paul II, who visited Armenia in 2001, invited the year before by the same Supreme Patriarch.

During the emotive ecumenical meeting, after the homily given by the *Catholicos* Karekin II, the Pope preached, in the Armenian language, a homily that began with the words from psalm 133: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" and in which he rated the opportunity to pray with his Armenian brothers as "a source of great personal joy".

It is everybody's duty to accompany the Holy Father along this ecumenical route, to make inroads into Christian unity. In Peru, we realise that because of these difficulties, in the villages of the High Andes, the people become confused when they find different churches, different cults and customs. It is a problem to which we must not be indifferent.

### *Amoris Laetitia*

On 8<sup>th</sup> April Pope Francis' postsynodal exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (the joy of love) was published, about love in families. This exhortation has been long awaited since, among other things, it is the fruit of two synodal assemblies: the extraordinary assembly of 2014 and the ordinary assembly of 2015. As the Pope expresses in number 5:

*This Exhortation is especially timely in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. First, because it represents an invitation to Christian families to value the gifts of marriage and the family, and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience. Second, because it seeks to encourage everyone to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy.*

This document tackles different issues, and many of those issues are very close to us. For example, in point number 55, citing the final speech of the Synod, we are reminded that "The absence of a father gravely affects family life and the upbringing of children and their integration into society. This absence, which may be physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual, deprives children of a suitable father figure".

There is so much truth in those words. So many children who arrive at our homes have never known the affection of a father and the absence of said "suitable father figure" influences them not just for a few years, but for life.

For that reason the Pope insists on the "most serious obligation" of fathers to dedicate themselves to the education of their children (n.84) so that it might be an integral education. All of chapter 7 is dedicated to education, and, for that reason, is for all of us (like the whole of this splendid document that the Holy Father has given to us) an essential read.

## *The Light of our Charism*

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

### **“Servants of God, Servants of the Church, Servants of the Poor”**

....

In reality, what entity, even in the secular world itself, currently exists and develops in an anarchic way? None! Every entity – from the governing bodies governing nations to insignificant companies or organizations – is structured in accordance to a hierarchy. Everything requires an order and a law that must be respected. This is not, therefore, something unique and extravagant established by the Church. It is easy to see how obedience is required and practised in every society, whatever it might be.

Therefore, only one thing must concern the servant of the poor: to obey in silence, in order to shine like a bright star in the firmament of the Church. He must not fear denying himself and leaving everything for the Kingdom of God.

Although sometimes, for the servant, this path might mean suffering, cross, pain, and might make him feel alone and helpless, he must carry on ahead, and not stop. Jesus has never abandoned the Movement when it seemed that everything was lost. He comes out to meet us, renewing our strength. And then a song of praise flows from the heart, sure of His presence: *“I am with you until the end of time”* (Mt 28, 20)

And so, obedience is fundamental for the servant: it is a pillar of the Movement. It is not just about obedience to the Holy Father, in his position of

Supreme Pastor of the Universal Church, and to the bishops, pastors of the local churches, but also to the superiors of the Movement, because they have been appointed by God to fulfil their mission of responsibility and are responsible for introducing the other servants to the path of holiness.

Their obedience must be humble and silent like that of the Servant of Yahweh (cfr. Is 53,7). They are many today who, even within the Church itself, experience fear, distrust, or at least reservation, before the word ‘obedience’. But the servants must remain firm, supported by the solid doctrine that Jesus gave to His Apostles, and especially to Peter, as head of all of them: *“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church”* (Mt 16, 18).

Jesus Christ founded the Church. Knowing the roughness of Peter, his failings and deficiencies, he did not doubt in constituting him as head of the other Apostles: *“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me”* (Lk 10, 16). All those who turn from obedience and turn from commitment, do not accept Christ in their lives, because they know that to be Christian is truly hard, it is a serious demand, and they close the path to holiness.

In the Movement of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World, obedience to the superiors of every fraternity is fundamental. For that reason, it is possible that some friends are lost, that people might hate the Servants and get angry with them, that even important economical help directed towards the poor of the Third World might be lost... All these things can happen, but what is important is to remain faithful to the Lord, with the surety that it is Him who will help them. And none of this is new, because the Lord Himself announced it (cfr. Jn 15, 18-20).

Furthermore, the Movement's experience demonstrates that nothing has been lost in any aspect because mercy and Divine Providence have always gone beyond foresight and measure. Those who have believed and persevered in this spirit of holiness incarnated through obedience are evident proof of that.

*(Will be continued)*

## *News from our Homes*

### *Food Hall "Our Lady of Peace"*

The food hall "Our Lady of Peace" is so called because it is dedicated to Our Lady. It is She who brings the children to rescue them from a world in which the virtue of purity is being lost. We accept children between the ages of 7 and 17, and there are 25 at the moment. Here, they learn manual labour that will be useful to them in the future (baking, sewing, embroidery...) and above all they learn to pray the Holy Rosary. They are taught catechism that will help them to be supportive to each other.

One young girl, who had learnt how to bake, decided to make cakes and to sell them during the holidays. The money that she made, she invested it in her further studies. She is very thankful for what she has learnt and she continues to specialise in baking. The girls have commented that if they did not come to the food hall, they would be wasting time on the internet or going out with their friends doing nothing.

In this Year of Mercy, many girls are preparing for Baptism, which, God willing, they will receive on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Sara, for example is a girl of 11 years old who is not baptised, but now that she comes to the food hall, she wishes to be baptised. When we visited her house, her mother was very friendly to us (the sisters) and she left her daughter to decide freely whether or not she wished to be baptised. She is an intelligent child, and she works hard to learn the bases of religion. The girls of the food hall share

her happiness and encourage her so that not only does she learn the truths of our faith, but also how to practise it. We commend her to the Virgin Mary, knowing that whatever we are lacking, She will supply.

### *Consecration to the Virgin Mary*

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, was a very special day for the whole Movement: it was the day of Consecration to the Virgin Mary. It was a consecration for the whole Movement, for every one of its members, with the 33 day preparation proposed by St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort (the author of "Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin"). If it requires so many days of preparation, this is due to the fact that St Louis Marie's formula of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary should not be taken lightly.

The preparation consists of 12 preliminary days in which the soul tries to empty itself of the spirit of the world, which is completely opposite to the spirit of Jesus Christ. Following those days are three weeks of prayer and meditation, during which one seeks a better understanding of themselves (first week), of Mary (second week) and of Jesus Christ (third week).

Devotion to our Lady is a pillar of our Movement, and in order to strengthen it, we have made recourse to this practice of Consecration, which is a true treasure of the Tradition of the church. It is a treasure that we recommend to all the faithful who wish to grow in devotion to Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, Mother of Mercy.

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

**In this month, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I promise to become an apostle of these devotions, additionally through the distribution of the leaflets prepared by the Movement.**

*(You can request these freely from the Movement's centres of each country)*