



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Papal Missionary Intention for November:

That young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.

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

A Word from the Magisterium

We continue with our presentation of a few passages of the exhortation, *EVANGELII GAUDIUM*.

(...)

While it is quite true that the essential vocation and mission of the lay faithful is to strive that earthly realities and all human activity may be transformed by the Gospel,[171] none of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice: “Spiritual conversion, the intensity of the love of God and neighbour, zeal for justice and peace, the Gospel meaning of the poor and of poverty, are required of everyone”.[172] I fear that these words too may give rise to commentary or discussion with no real practical effect. That being said, I trust in the openness and readiness of all Christians, and I ask you to seek, as a community, creative ways of accepting this renewed call.

Now that we have presented a few points from the Exhortation, *EVANGELII GAUDIUM*, that touch on the subject of poverty (from 186-201, on the “social inclusion of the poor”), from the next issue we will begin to present

171 Cf. *Propositio* 45.

172 Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,

Instruction *Libertatis Nuntius* (6 August 1984), XI, 18: AAS 76 (1984), 908.

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the parts in which the Holy Father wanted to reflect on another subject, more directly related to our charism and our work in Peru, Cuba, Mexico and Hungary: better said, about mission. Although the whole Exhortation, centred on the evangelisation of a Church who ‘goes out’, is mainly about evangelisation, we will concentrate on a few points that, from 262, are about ‘motivations for a renewed missionary surge’, in which Pope Francis underlines subjects like personal meeting with Christ as a driving force for any work of evangelisation, and also missionary strength of intercession, a form of prayer that has deep roots in the Sacred Scriptures and that, as we read in point 281, “moves us particularly to take up the task of evangelisation and to seek the good of others”. We hope with all our hearts that the words of the Holy Father help all the readers:

- To be more and more aware of their positions as disciples and missionaries.
- That through their prayers and holiness of life, they continue to support those privileged men and women who the Lord has called to a special consecration.

News from the Church

New Saints in the Church

On 23rd November 2014, on the feast of Christ the King (instituted on 11th December in 1925 by Pope Pius XI with his Encyclical *Quas Primas*, and which always closes the Liturgical Year), the canonisation of six 'Blesseds' will take place. Five men and one woman, who accepted Christ as the only King of their lives. These are:

- Giovanni Antonio Farina, Bishop of Vicenza (Italy), founder of the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Heart.
- Kuriakose Elias Chavara of Holy Family (India) priest and founder of the Congregation of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate.
- Ludovico de Casoria (Italy), professed priest the Order of Friars Minor, founder of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, known as "Bigie".
- Nicola da Longobardi (Italy), professed Oblate of the Order of Minims.
- Euphrasia Eluvathingal of the Sacred Heart (India), a professed sister of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Mother of Carmel.
- Amato Ronconi (Italy) from the Third Order of St. Francis, Founder of the Hospice of the Pilgrims of Saludecio, currently Rest House/Opera Pia 'Beato Amato Ronconi'.

Every time that the Church is enriched by the canonisation of new saints, each one of us is enriched too, since we have new examples that are able to illuminate our life, and sure intercessors in Heaven. St. John Bosco, whose education method we have adopted in the Movement for the education of our children, wrote the lives of many saints, seeing in that a pedagogical instrument of great value. At the beginning of his "The life of Dominic Savio" (that he wrote for the first time in 1859, re-editing it a few times until the 1978 edition), he writes to the readers (particularly to the

youths of the Oratory "St. Francis of Sales", who had known the young Dominic) with these words, which we can obviously read as though they were directed at ourselves:

"I would ask you to try to draw profit from what I am going to describe; say with St. Augustine: *If he can, why can't I?* If one of my friends, the same age as me, from the same school, exposed to similar dangers, and maybe greater dangers than me, knew how to be a faithful disciple of Christ, why wouldn't I be able to do the same? But remember that *true religion does not consist only in words*; it is necessary to carry out acts as well. Therefore, discovering things worthy of admiration, don't be content saying: *Bravo! I like that!* - rather, say: *I am going to do that which I read in others and stimulates my admiration so much, and what I find so marvellous*".

He himself was the way by which God wanted to lead St. Ignatius of Loyola and many others to the peak of sanctity. This is the way that we propose to our children, offering them many models to imitate (very different ones from the bad models that the world offers them and which divert them from the right path).

This is also the model by which all of us decided to live our vocation to sanctity, accepting Jesus Christ as King of our lives. By instituting this feast that is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, Pius XI wanted to motivate every single catholic to recognise the lordship of Christ over the universe and over their lives, in public (faith is not private act).

A lordship of love, peace, justice, and sanctity, lived by the innumerable saints celebrated in our Church. By reading, learning about and meditating on their lives (and telling our friends and relatives about them), let's allow ourselves to be guided by their light, asking ourselves, as Don Bosco invited us to do: *If they can, why can't I?*

The Light of our Charism

Today we finish our presentation of the document written by Fr. Giovanni Salerno, "Contemplate His Face and you will be Radiant", from 14-09-1986, which is about the charism of the contemplative branch of the Servants of the Poor. We started this presentation in September of 2013 and our hope is that throughout these last few months, our readers have understood how our missionary work, which is very demanding, means to flee from what has been defined as the "heresy of the XX century", activism.

The presence of our contemplative community constantly reminds the priests, brothers, sisters and missionary families that we are all called to be "contemplatives in action", with that gaze of faith that permits us to recognise what Fr. Giovanni often reminds us: in all of our Centres, we are assisting only one child, and this child is Jesus Himself, who says: "Whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers, that you do unto me" (Mt. 25,40).

Contemplate His Face and you will be Radiant!

(...)

Enclosed communities are an invitation to man to open his humanity like a ray of light into a world of shadows. Open! Leave the land of your gazes, of your attitudes, of your voice and of your heart. Give up what is selfish and earthly, that which encloses you, and the mercy of God will shine in your eyes, and His forgiveness and kindness will come out in your actions, His gentle invitation will

echo in your voice, His Love will flow out into your heart. Leave the earth and get together all of your humanity in a gesture of adoration and of love, of sweet intimacy: recollect yourself like a corolla around its living centre. Your living centre is God.

The witness of the enclosed monasteries: the voice of eloquent silence, light of the Kingdom of God that appears and is revealed present and working in the world.

The monastic enclosure must be the transparency of God in humanity.

Finally, the Contemplative Servants must shine like the sun. They must be the transparency of the Sun that has visited us from on High. Sanctity must be a decoration in the house; and living in the house of the Lord, contemplating His Holy Face, must be preferred to all human consolation, though they may be great, because the Contemplative Servants prefer to be in the threshold of the house of God, tasting and seeing how good the Lord is to live among humans.

These are my deepest longings; this is something that my heart has hoped for and desired for a long time: Contemplatives swallowed up by the Mercy of God, overflowing with sanctity, totally estranged from the world before the wonders of the Most High, burning their lives like incense before the altar of the Great Lord, like a silent candle, radiating the Light that knows no end, the Light of Jesus Christ, the Lord, the Son of God, the Lamb Crucified for love, Living, Shepherd... We have to respond with urgency to this Love, because the Love isn't loved... We have to be love Jesus crazily.

Father Giovanni Salerno, msp

Cusco, 14th September 1986

News from our Homes

Priestly Ordination in Ajofrin

It is with great joy that I tell you all that on Saturday 29th November, Deacon Paolo Giandinoto (Italian) will be ordained priest in our House of Priestly Formation “Santa Maria, Madre de los Pobres”, in Ajofrin, (Toledo) by the auxiliary Bishop Mons. Angel Fernandez Collado. Since been ordained deacon on 8th December last year, he has accompanied Fr. Giovanni on various apostolic journeys, and for a few months now, he has supported Fr. Mathias Brand in our Minor Seminary “San Luis Gonzaga”. From the beginning, his kindness and dedication have been a fount of profound joy, so much for our children as for the other seminarians, who have always found in him, a friend and a great help, also for his undoubted academic skills. We commend him and his vocation to your prayers.

Stories of our children:

Little Michael.

The story of little Michael is very exciting. He is a child of six years old who arrived at the city of boys in March 2014. After a complaint from his neighbours, who saw that Michael was a victim of domestic violence and constant abuse from his

parents, the Foster Care Investigation Unit asked us to take in this little boy, and we did. Michael had a very sad and also hard face for his young age of only six, and to everybody who came near him, he sent them away with a threatening fist, as if to say “I’m going to hit you”. He gave the impression that he was always angry, until another little boy named Rolando went over to him and said, “You’re going to be my best friend”. At this moment, Michael, who in his whole life had only known abuse, surprisingly started to cry inconsolably. All his annoyance, his anger, his sadness and the hardness of his face disappeared when faced with the innocence of the other child like him, Rolando.

Now Michael has not only Rolando as a friend, but all of the children at the City of Boys and all the Missionary Priests and Brothers Servants of the Poor. He is the youngest boy who has joined the “Company of the Sacred Heart” group, who every Saturday, during the Oratory, organise “boy-scout” type activities. Not only that, but it was with great enthusiasm that he participated in the theatrical production of the story of our patron “St. Tarcisius”, prepared by Bro. Jesus of Nazareth which we spoke about in the last issue of this newsletter.

This is how God acts and transmits His Love through the innocence of children. Michael’s family have recently disappeared, but now he has a new family – ours!

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

I will pray a Novena for the souls of Purgatory, especially for those who never learned about the Gospel during their earthly life.