



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for October:

That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

(Intention entrusted to us by the Holy Father at the Apostleship 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

... 15. In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates. How many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today!... It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the *corporal and spiritual works of mercy*. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy.

... We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged... (cfr Mt 25,31-45).

16. In the Gospel of Luke, we find another important element that will help us live the Jubilee with faith. Luke writes that Jesus, on the Sabbath, went back to Nazareth and, as was his custom, entered the synagogue. They called upon him to read the Scripture and to comment on it. The passage was from the Book

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of Isaiah where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those in captivity; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (*Is 61:1-2*). A "year of the Lord's favour" or "mercy": this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now... "He who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness" (cf. *Rom 12:8*). 17. ... So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace. I will never tire of insisting that confessors be authentic signs of the Father's mercy.

...

(Will continue)

News from the Church

DOMUND 2016

This October, which begins with the liturgical memory of Saint Teresa of Liseux, patron of the missions (together with St. Francis Xavier), is traditionally a month of mission for the whole Church. This year, on Sunday 23rd October, we will celebrate the 90th anniversary of World Mission Day (also known as Domund).

It is an annual day on which the Church promotes missionary spirit. It was instituted on 14th April 1926 by Pope Pius XI, a Pope who, without doubt, was characterised by his missionary zeal. In the Encyclical *Rerum Ecclesiae* (from 28th February 1926), he underlined the Church's interest for the missions, since:

The Church has no other reason for existence than, by developing the Kingdom of Christ on earth, to make mankind participate in the effects of His saving Redemption
(n.1)

This year, DOMUND will have as its motto, "Salt of the earth". More information can be found on this website: www.domund.org. On this website, we read that *man is relation: he cannot live for himself. God has made him capable of giving himself, and his deepest reality flourishes and is consolidated only when in the measure in which he goes out towards others. The false security that we receive by staying in our environment in order to avoid unforeseen difficulties, or ruin our peace, leads only to immobility. Contrarily, coming out from oneself can lead to risks and even failures and mistakes, but it will always be better than the "mould" that grows when we remain in our comfort zones. This is what, in terms of the Church, and before the temptations look only inside of ourselves, Pope Francis expressed: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a*

Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security"

(*Evangelii Gaudium*, 49).

In his message for World Mission Day 2016 – published, significantly, on 15th May, the Solemnity of Pentecost (it is, in fact, the Holy Spirit who guides the Church towards mission) – The Holy Father tells us that:

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the missio ad gentes as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love.

In this message, whose title is "Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy", the relationship between mercy and mission is insisted upon. Since one of the spiritual works of mercy is "teach those who do not know", we must not forget that:

All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation, which is God's gift to every person. This is all the more necessary when we consider how many injustices, wars, and humanitarian crises still need resolution.

We ask God for an increase in missionary vocations, for the whole Church, for our Movement, and for so many poor people who await the presence of Christ.

The Light of our Charism

In this issue we continue with our presentation of a document by Father Giovanni Salerno, from 18 – 06 – 1994:

“Servants of God, Servants of the Church, Servants of the poor”

....

3.2 Service to the most poor

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us where the true greatness of his disciples lies: *“The greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”*²⁷ *For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”* (Lk 22, 27). And also, *“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,”*⁴⁴ *and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”*⁴⁵ *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* (Mk 10, 43-45).

And Jesus clarifies by explaining to whom this service should be directed, when, taking a baby in his arms, he puts him in the midst of the disciples, and he says to them: *“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me”* (Mk 9,37).

The service of this Movement began, and always begins, with the weakest and most needy. This is the whole point of its charism. When a Servant holds in his arms one of the many children, who have been rejected by the hospitals, or by their parents because of grave disability, or for having some other serious limitation, he hears in his heart the voice of Jesus, which fills him with

joy and gives him encouragement: *“I am with you until the end of time”* (Mt 28, 20).

In the faces of the poor, the Servant discovers the Face of the Lord: *“Truly I say to you that whatever you did unto one the least of these brothers of mine, you did unto me”* (Mt 25, 40).

The Servants of the Poor must reach where nobody else reaches, beyond the beaten track, to search for the weak, to cure the sick, to free the oppressed. To synthesise this section, we could say that the Movement of the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World is an ecclesial family who is inspired by the continuous conversion that Saint Augustine speaks of, who seek God and try to serve him, who strive to help the Church by serving the poor of the Third World completely selflessly.

It is a family who, detached from everything, offers everything – even their own lives – for the poorest, because in them they see the face of God. The poor of the Third World (this is an easily verifiable fact) are full of welfarism, of interventions run by powerful organisations who are concerned only for the health of their bodies, and not of their souls, or what is worse, they offer them immoral options (sterilisation, contraception or abortion methods, etc.), not respecting them or loving them in their integrity as human people, The only thing that is achieved through this, is, sadly, making the poor even poorer. Only Jesus, the Servant of God, truly loves; only Jesus serves in an authentic and complete way; only Jesus redeems every person in their whole reality of body and soul.

And so, the poor await servants who might be a reflection of this saving presence of Christ in His totality, like faithful instruments of His. The commitment of the members of this Movement is to accept this continuous conversion, which implies; obedience to the Holy Father, the Magisterium and the superiors of the fraternities; chastity according to the state of each member (single, married, contemplative); and commitment to the poorest, according to their own requirements.

(Will continue)

News from our Homes

News from Cuba, from Father Mathías Brand msp

As you know, on 6th April, Father Mathias Brand msp, German, travelled to Cuba, accompanying Father Giovanni Salerno, msp. For him, it was a new stage in his missionary life, after having been, since his ordination, the superior of our Minor Seminary “San Luis Gonzaga”. He left Peru – leaving the responsibility of the Seminary to Father Rafael Santillán Rodríguez, msp – with much enthusiasm, and now, after a few months, he has sent us some news about his apostolate in the diocese of Cienfuegos.

For the celebration of the sacraments, he helps Father Urs Zaroni, msp (superior of the community in Cuba) in different places: Pepito Tey, Guabairo, San Antón and La Sierrita. Aside from the usual missions, they have begun the formation of all the catechists from the different villages.

Instead of giving catechesis to the children – writes Father Mathias – we try to form the catechists who give, once a week, classes to the children. In this way we try to reach the villages that are far from Pepito Tey. There are two formation meetings: one in the north (Guaos) and another in the south (Camilo). I have begun a three-year programme.

During the holidays, he also started a small Oratory in Pepito Tey, which lasts for half a day, with football, games, refreshments, a film... In this way, Father Mathias has been able to continue his apostolate that he began very busily in the City of Boys. You know how the method of education that we try to follow is the “Preventive Method” of Saint John Bosco, and so we always give an important place to the activities that he loved, like reading books about saints, doing theatrical productions with our children, and, of course, the Oratory. A festive Oratory, like that of Saint Francis of Sales, is always an occasion on which the children and young people can get closer to the priests, to the Church, and to God.

Now – concludes Father Mathías – my aim is to keep these activities going, and organise them better, but as they say in Cuba... “it isn’t easy”.

We commend Father Mathias to our prayers, giving thanks to God that he is well – as he writes – with the climate, the people, the food, and... the plants (which as we all know, are one of his passions). We ask for the gift of perseverance for him.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

In this missionary month, I commit myself to getting more people involved in the daily praying of the Holy Rosary for the missions, and I will try to participate more actively in the missionary initiatives of the parish.