



# OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter  
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Papal Missionary Intentions for October:

**For the business world, may all be assured of respect and protection of their rights;  
and may all the unemployed be given the opportunity to contribute  
to the construction of the common good.**

*(Intention of the Holy Father given through the Pope's World Network of Prayer)*

## *A Word from the Magisterium*

### *Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day*

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we were able to read Pope Francis' message for World Mission Day, titled "The Mission in the Heart of the Christian Faith". Here we present you with a short passage, which can also be found on the Vatican's website at: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Once again this year, World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, "the very first and greatest evangelizer" (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 7), who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. This Day invites us to reflect anew on the *mission at the heart of the Christian faith*. The Church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the Church of Christ, but one group among many others that soon end up serving their purpose and passing away. So it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. What is the *basis* of our mission? What is the *heart* of our mission? What are the *essential approaches* we need to take in carrying out



our mission?

The Church's mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. *Jn 14:6*). He is the *Way* who invites us to follow him with confidence and courage. In following Jesus as our *Way*, we experience *Truth* and receive his *Life*, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love.

## *News from the Church*

*“The Church is missionary.  
The world needs the Gospel.”*

In the message written for World Mission Day (known as DOMUND), which will be celebrated on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pope Francis insisted on the importance of the transforming power of the Gospel. On the same day that the message was being published (as is customary, it coincided with the Solemnity of Pentecost), from the balcony at St. Peter's Square and before praying the 'Regina Caeli', the Pontiff expressed to the crowd gathered there, his desire that:

*...the Holy Spirit support the mission of the Church throughout the world and strengthen all men and women missionaries of the Gospel.*

In the Pope's message, highlighted among many other topics, was the important role of young people as the hope for the mission Church. This reference to young people gave the Pontiff the opportunity to mention the next Synod, which is scheduled for October 2018, and will be addressed especially to young people. Indeed, it reads:

*The next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in 2018 on the theme Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, represents a providential opportunity to involve young people in the shared missionary responsibility that needs their rich imagination and creativity.*

The preparatory document for this Assembly dedicates the third paragraph to vocation paths and mission, proposing that the whole Church turn its attention to the following enlightening words:

*Accepting the mission implies the willingness to risk one's life and to travel the way of the cross, in the footsteps of Jesus, who firmly set out on his journey to Jerusalem (cf. Lk 9:51) to offer his life for humanity. Only by giving up being selfishly occupied with one's needs does a person become open to accommodate God's plan in family life, the ordained ministry or consecrated life and seriously to carry out one's profession as well as sincerely to seek the common good. Particularly in places where the culture is more deeply marked by individualism, choices need to be examined to see whether the pursuit of self-fulfilment might be the result of narcissism or instead includes a willingness to live one's life logically in compliance with the generosity of the gift of self. Consequently, contact with poverty, vulnerability and need are of great importance on the road to vocational discernment.*

We hope that during this year, 'the contact with poverty' will help the young people willing to come to Cusco for a year's experience, so that they may be generous in the discernment of God's will, without opposing the plan of God for themselves with 'the search for their own narcissistic self-realization'.

More information about the Synod is available at [youth.synod2018.va](http://youth.synod2018.va). According to the General Secretary of the Synod, the purpose of this site is to promote a wider participation of young people from all over the world. They will be able to access all the information and ecclesiastic events, while at the same time interacting with and contributing to its realisation, for example, by answering a questionnaire.

## *The Light of our Charism*

*We continue with the presentation from last month, regarding a document from Fr. Giovanni Salerno from October 24, 1999.*

### **“Listen, child. Meekness, the Strength of the Servants of the Poor”**

XV. Never be on ‘bad terms’ with anyone, neither be ‘unhappy’ with any of the brothers, not even for a day. Human fragility always leads us to fall, but the important thing is to search all possibilities and choose the quickest solution available to be at peace with your brother, through the love of Christ. Every day, before the sun goes down, one must reconcile with his brother, and so be always ready to fly to the other side of life.

XVI. Never despair of the mercy of God: this is the attitude of greatest meekness, knowing how to wait for the mercy of God, which has no limits. Never despair, even if you have no reason to believe. Strive with all your energy to believe that the meekness of God, the compassion of God, and the patience of God, are really there for all and for each one of us. God has prepared Himself for us and it is worth persevering in this school of meekness.

Our continuous conversion demands that our work be done by using these methods with diligence. We are in big trouble if we give in! We must always exercise ourselves; otherwise, we will lose the conditioning of athletes of conversion.

We really need the meekness of the poor, who accept their struggles and humbly persevere, each day persisting in their efforts, without yielding or ever getting discouraged, because in their hearts is the light of hope.

*The same document by Fr. Giovanni follows with a very broad section where he develops the 12 Degrees of Humility found in the regal of San Benito, as they apply to the life of the Missionary Servant of the Poor. This is what we present here below.*

### **THE MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD: A STRAIN OF THE MEEK AND HUMBLE OF HEART**

#### **The ladder of humility: go up ‘by going down’**

This chapter is of paramount importance; from it must be moulded a type of Servant of the Poor, in no way self-absorbed in an attitude of sullen timidity or false modesty. Humility makes the Servant of the Poor a true Christian strain, characterized by a sharp and vigorous personality, tempered in the harsh battles of faith and long fatigue in returning to God by the way of obedience; a type of servant trained in overcoming selfishness and yet always conscious of being simply a servant, and – like all others, also a sinner.

*(To be continued...)*

## *News from our Homes*

### *Stories of our children: Mateo*

Mateo (the name is fictitious) was born on September 24, 2007 in the district of Santiago in the city of Cusco. He is currently nine years old and has four brothers. His older brother Francisco (the name is fictitious) also lives in the City of Boys, while his sister is a resident in the home of our Sisters.

The life of Mateo's parents is very unstable; in fact, both of them lead lives that are very disorderly. His parents are separated, and his father has another partner with whom he already has two children.

Mateo entered our home on January 26, 2015. The main reason he came to our home was because he came from a completely broken family. His father has several admissions to prison for stealing, while his mother is addicted to alcohol and other prohibited substances.

His brother Francisco came to our home with serious behavioural problems. He was sometimes aggressive, very stubborn, and also had the bad habit of taking things that were not his. This very negative behaviour, exhibited by Francisco at the time of his arrival, was surely due to the deep wounds that he had been carrying all his life; the product of the violence he had seen at home and the bad examples given by the adults around him.

Currently, Mateo is attending the 4th year of primary school and hasn't had any big problems with his studies. He likes to study, and enjoys reading and mathematical operations. We can safely say that he is a studious child.

Also, he is often visited by his grandmother and maternal aunt, in addition to his seven year old sister.



Unfortunately, there have not been many positive changes in Mateo's family environment since last year. His father continues to devote himself to robbery, and his mother, despite making efforts to leave behind her disorderly life, does not have the necessary support of the judicial authorities due to her inconsistency in attending the psychological therapies in which she must participate.

On the positive side, Mateo has improved his behaviour since last year. He is more responsible, studies well, and no longer bothers his friends. He enjoys sports, especially football and swimming. Mateo also likes following the prayers we pray in the home. Hopefully, with the help of God, this child will continue to improve.

*Fr. Raúl Gonzales de Olazábal, msp*

## OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

*In response to our readers, this page is meant to be a guide for the meetings of our support groups. In these meetings, we have the participation of the oblates, collaborators, and friends. At the same time, this is an invitation for other people and groups to participate in this time of prayer.*

During the meeting, participants form a circle; in the centre is placed a lit candle that represents the light of Christ, the light of the people (*Lumen Gentium*), and also our Faith, received at Baptism, which we are called to make present every moment of our lives.

1. The meeting begins with the invocation to the Holy Spirit:

***Holy Spirit of Love, receive the complete consecration of my whole being, so that from now on, in all my thoughts, in my desires and my works, You will be my light and my guide, as well as the strength of my prayer. I abandon myself to You and your divine inspirations. Holy Spirit, form me in Mary and with Mary, as the model of all perfection, that is, Jesus Christ. Glory be...***

2. Following is the recitation of Psalms 1, 2, & 3 in alternating choruses, which can also be substituted by those of the eve of the day.
3. After the Psalms is the reading of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Next, there should be at least five minutes of silence when each person then repeats aloud the words of the text that stood out in their minds, sharing aloud the personal message that through these words and the entire passage of the Gospel has reached their hearts. Each reflection may be concluded with this or a similar sentence: "Glory and honour to You, Lord Jesus!", to which each one present responds by repeating the same sentence.
4. Then prayers of praise are given by each and everyone's heart; praises from the Holy Spirit itself are prayed, as well as spontaneous prayers and petitions: for the necessities of the Church, universal or local, for the Missionary Servants of the Poor, for the poor of the third world, etc.
5. As the *Imitation of Christ* is our spiritual rule, serving all men in silence, we read part of the daily *Imitation of Christ*. If there is a priest present, this may be a moment of reflection.
6. Before the time of prayer is finished, we should encourage ourselves to have some concrete commitments to assist the poor, so that our whole life is oriented to their service. Particularly, we may consider, in addition to the monthly commitment proposed below, a commitment to offer.....hours per week of Adoration and/or the Rosary for .....(intention), and.....hours per week of charitable engagement in the parish, and.....hours per week for the spreading of the charism of the MSP.
7. We finish the meeting, commissioned by Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor, with the prayer from Fr. De Grandmaison, for God's help in walking behind His Son, Jesus Christ.
8. If there is a priest, the meeting is concluded with a blessing, otherwise with the sign of the cross.
9. One may take advantage of the meeting to plan and organize the next missionary initiatives.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

**As this month is dedicated to the missions, I offer some small sacrifices for the increase of missionary vocations in the Church and in the Movement, and also for the perseverance of missionaries, especially those called to serve and live in difficult situations.**