



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
Year 5 (2017)
Issue 8
August 2017

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Papal Missionary Intentions for October:

**For all the artists of our time, that through their work and creativity,
they may help us all discover the beauty of creation.**

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

A Word from the Magisterium

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary

As we approach the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven on August 15th, we present two points from the Apostolic Constitution Munificentissimus Deus, published on November 1st, 1950, when Pope Pius XII defined this last dogma of our Faith. These two points, which the Holy Father presents to us, along with many others, are the testimonies of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Albert the Great.

Testimony of Saint Anthony of Padua

29. Among the holy writers who at that time employed statements and various images and analogies of Sacred Scripture to illustrate and to confirm the doctrine of the Assumption, which was piously believed, the Evangelical Doctor, St. Anthony of Padua, holds a special place. On the feast day of the Assumption, while explaining the prophet's words: "I will glorify the place of my feet,"(27) he stated it as certain that the divine Redeemer had bedecked with supreme glory his most beloved Mother from whom he had received human flesh. He asserts that "you have here a clear statement that the Blessed Virgin has been assumed in her body, where was the place of the Lord's feet. Hence it is that the holy Psalmist writes: 'Arise, O Lord, into your resting place: you and the ark which you have sanctified.'" And he asserts that, just as Jesus Christ has risen from the death over which he

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triumphed and has ascended to the right hand of the Father, so likewise the ark of his sanctification "has risen up, since on this day the Virgin Mother has been taken up to her heavenly dwelling."

Testimony of Saint Albert the Great

30. When, during the Middle Ages, scholastic theology was especially flourishing, St. Albert the Great who, to establish this teaching, had gathered together many proofs from Sacred Scripture, from the statements of older writers, and finally from the liturgy and from what is known as theological reasoning, concluded in this way: "From these proofs and authorities and from many others, it is manifest that the most blessed Mother of God has been assumed above the choirs of angels. And this we believe in every way to be true."(29) And, in a sermon which he delivered on the sacred day of the Blessed Virgin Mary's annunciation, explained the words "Hail, full of grace"- words used by the angel who addressed her-the Universal Doctor, comparing the Blessed Virgin with Eve, stated clearly and incisively that she was exempted from the fourfold curse that had been laid upon Eve.

News from the Church

Apostolic Nuncio in Peru

On June 16th, Pope Francis appointed Msgr. Nicola Girasoli as the new Apostolic Nuncio in Peru. He replaces Msgr. James Patrick Green, the Apostolic Nuncio in Peru since October 2011. Msgr. Girasoli was born in Ruvo di Puglia (Bari – Italy) on July 21st. 1957. He was ordained a priest in 1980 and a bishop in 2006; he is a Doctor in Canon Law and worked as the Apostolic Nuncio in Trinidad and Tobago, and other countries in Central America.

As he said himself, he learned Spanish ‘with a southern accent’ in Buenos Aires, where he stayed six years, from 2000 until 2006, working in the Nunciature as counsellor.

Pope Francis’ visit to Peru

On June 19th, in a press conference at the Headquarters of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference (CEP) in Lima, it was confirmed that – to the great joy of all the Peruvian people – the Holy Father will visit Peru from January 18th. until January 21st. 2018. Pope Francis is going to visit Lima, the capital of Peru, Puerto Maldonado, the capital of the Madre de Dios region within the Peruvian jungle, and Trujillo, the capital of the region Libertad in the northern part of the country.

For Msgr. David Martinez de Aguirre Guinea, Bishop of the Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado, ‘the capital of biodiversity’ in Peru with great natural reserves and many indigenous populations, the Pope’s visit is:

“...a unique opportunity to awaken and reactivate our lives as Christ’s followers, and a great incentive to assume our Amazonian identity, and in this way respond with the Gospel to the cries from the earth and the cries from the

poor, just like the Pope tells us in the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si.”

Trujillo, the north coast, and the center of the country, which have almost one million inhabitants, was harshly affected by rain and flooding during the first few months of the year. Many people were affected and some lost everything.

Msgr. Jose Antonio Eguren, Metropolitan Archbishop of Piura and Tumbes, in the northern region of the country, said this area was also affected by the coastal phenomenon ‘El Niño’. He assured us that the news about the Pope’s visit fills the hearts of all Peruvian Catholics with joy, adding:

“Without any doubt, the presence of the Holy Father with us will lead us in the task of the New Evangelization and the hope to build a more just Peru, reconciled and merciful toward its people.”

At the same time, Msgr. Eguren encouraged the faithful ‘to pray for the fruits of the next visit of our dear Pope Francis to Peru’.

Let us unite ourselves to these prayers, remembering Pope St. John Paul II during his first visit to Peru, when he met the poor at the Villa El Salvador, on February 5th. 1985:

“Although the Church feels the duty to be loyal to its primary mission of developing spiritual character, she does not forget her commitment in favour of the physical man and his necessities, since this is a form, and an inseparable part, of her fidelity to the Gospel. Pastors and members of the Church must adopt Jesus’ compassion for the man in need, when – like here in Villa el Salvador – they can see the sores of misery and infirmity, unemployment and hunger, discrimination and marginalisation. In all of these cases, we cannot ignore the suffering traits of Christ, our Lord, who asks and commissions us.” (Puebla, 31).

The Light of Our Charism

We continue with a 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”

We briefly present the main instruments and tools that the Servants of the Poor of the Third World use to make the meekness of Christ present in their communities among the poor:

- I. First of all, one must fully comply especially with God's Commandments, which can be summarized in the Greatest Commandment of loving God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and strength; and loving your neighbour as you love yourself. Additionally, we must love as Jesus Himself has loved us, as the Gospel teaches us in Mt. 12:28-34; including respecting the lives of everyone and the rights of others, which are the tools for the edification of an authentic Christian civilization and a truly peaceful society.
- II. To honour all people as the image of God and the living presence of Christ; and to not consider oneself as superior to others. This is the minimum expectation for a path of truth and justice.
- III. To surrender oneself completely, in order to follow Christ. To maintain an inner and outward attitude of humility and submission to follow Christ, the obedient servant, until the death on a cross.
- IV. To fulfil the spiritual and corporal works of

mercy, which are works of meekness. If we serve the poor, it is with greater reason that we must use works of mercy primarily with our community or fraternity brothers.

- V. Detach oneself from the ways of the world: traps, subterfuges, and social climbing. The Servants of the Poor are trained; they seek God and not themselves.
- VI. Do not engage the impulses of anger.
- VII. Do not reserve any time to vent complaints; neither the breeding of anything poisonous in your heart, but continuously inspect and carefully check your subconscious, to prevent the evil old serpent from building nests in your heart.
- VIII. Do not have any deceit in your heart, keeping it always transparent for the kingdom of Heaven.
- IX. Do not be pretentious about anything that does not exist, especially when giving 'peace' to someone. It would be like giving a 'false peace' to Christ Himself, repeating then the kiss of Judas... for it is Christ who lives in our brothers. Therefore, we should cultivate sincere feelings of peace and destroy any kind of hypocrisy.
- X. Never abandon the works of charity, which are the source of virtue. The one who abandons the works of charity, falls into the chaos of passions. The lack of charity makes cold the meaning of life, and gradually introduces itself into the spiral of violence, generating endless violence.

(To be continued...)

News from our Homes

A great gift from God: the relics of Saint Rose visit the Sisters' home

Among the activities for observing the 400th anniversary of the death of Saint Rose of Lima (1586 – 1617), the people of Cusco had the enormous joy of being able to host the relics of this Peruvian saint, from the morning of June 9th until June 17th. The relics were received on the 9th in the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows in San Sebastian, and then moved to Saint Antonio Abad Temple, where the reliquary was received by Bishop Richard Daniel Alarcon Urrutia, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cusco, and priests of the Archdiocesan clergy.

Later, the relics were taken in procession to Saint Domingo Temple, where the Dominican Congregation received them and allowed the faithful to venerate the saint's reliquary. The itinerary organized for the relics included a number of cities in the country, during which they visited the facilities of the VII Macro Region Police in Cuzco – Apurimac, as St. Rose is the Patroness of this military institution. This was a beautiful surprise for all of us and a true gift from God.

In fact, on Thursday, June 15th, when the Solemnity of Corpus Christi was being celebrated in Cuzco at 5 p.m., the relics arrived at the home of the Missionary Servants of the Poor. They were received by our Sisters, and the infirm girls and boys, while joyfully singing – as they could hardly believe their eyes at

receiving such a great grace. Once the urn was placed

in the Chapel, everyone prayed the Holy Rosary as a community, in honour of the relics. There the holy relics remained until 9 a.m. the following day, among joyful songs while the students of the Saint Maria Goretti school also had the opportunity to venerate them.

To conclude the visit of the reliquary of Saint Rose of Lima to our city, on Saturday, June 17th, a Holy Mass of farewell was celebrated in her honor.

It should be noted that the beautiful urn that protects the reliquary of Saint Rose of Lima was created by artisans from Cusco, who carefully designed every detail and ornament.

Being a model of all virtues, Saint Rose is always characterized by her deep joy, a joy that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, often speaks of to us, and which also Fr. Giovanni reminds us that the Servant of the Poor must be a joyful person. Just as Saint Teresa of Jesus, our Patroness, used to say, "A saint that is sad, is a sad saint." How many times our seminarians heard these words from Fr. Felipe Gonzales, the spiritual director of our seminary in Ajofrin, may he rest in peace.

Recalling the words of Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church, Pope Francis revisited this theme in a speech to novice seminarians last July. "There is no holiness in sadness," said the Holy Father. Surely, many Missionary Servants of the Poor, as they heard these words from the Holy Father, have remembered similar exhortations from Fr. Giovanni on the same subject.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

During this month, that for many is a period of rest and travel, I will offer my prayers for all those missionaries who will return to their communities of origin for a period of rest; calling on the Lord to transform these visits into a renewed missionary enthusiasm for all.