



Papal Missionary Intentions for November:

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

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

A Word from the Magisterium

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

On June 13, 2017 Pope Francis' message for the World Day of the Poor was published with the title: "Let us love, not with words but with deeds". We present you with the first of the nine points of his message, which can be found on the website www.vatican.va.

Let us love, not with words but with deeds.

1. "Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but indeed and in truth" (1 Jn 3:18). These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard. The seriousness with which the "beloved disciple" hands down Jesus' command to our own day is made even clearer by the contrast between the empty words so frequently on our lips and the concrete deeds against which we are called to measure ourselves. Love has no alibi. Whenever we set out to love as Jesus loved, we have to take the Lord as our example; especially when it comes to loving the poor. The Son of God's way of loving is well-known, and John spells it out clearly. It stands on two pillars: God loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:10.19),



and he loved us by giving completely of himself, even to laying down his life (cf. 1 Jn 3:16).

Such love cannot go unanswered. Even though offered unconditionally, asking nothing in return, it so sets hearts on fire that all who experience it are led to love back, despite their limitations and sins. Yet this can only happen if we welcome God's grace, his merciful charity, as fully as possible into our hearts, so that our will and even our emotions are drawn to love both God and neighbour. In this way, the mercy that wells up – as it were – from the heart of the Trinity can shape our lives and bring forth compassion and works of mercy for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in need.

News from the Church

A Church of the Poor

Since his election, Pope Francis has demonstrated a special concern for the poor; from his choice of the name Francis, which was inspired by the exhortation of Cardinal Hummes – “Do not forget the poor.” – to his desire for ‘a Church of the poor’, the gestures and words spoken by the Holy Father in this regard have not ceased in recent years.

The latest initiative on this theme has been the institution of the World Day of the Poor, which will be celebrated every year on the second last Sunday of Ordinary Time; this year it will fall on November 19th.

In point 7 of his message, the Pope made known his desire:

7. It is my wish that, in the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, which falls this year on 19 November, the Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance. They can invite the poor and volunteers to take part together in the Eucharist on this Sunday, in such a way that there be an even more authentic celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on the following Sunday. The kingship of Christ is most evident on Golgotha, when the Innocent One, nailed to the cross, poor, naked and stripped of everything, incarnates and reveals the fullness of God's love. Jesus' complete abandonment to the Father expresses his utter poverty and reveals the power of the Love that awakens him to new life on the day of the Resurrection.

This Sunday, if there are poor people where we live who seek protection and assistance, let us draw close to them: it will be a favourable moment to

encounter the God we seek. Following the teaching of Scripture (cf. Gen 18:3-5; Heb 13:2), let us welcome them as honoured guests at our table; they can be teachers who help us live the faith more consistently. With their trust and readiness to receive help, they show us in a quiet and often joyful way, how essential it is to live simply and to abandon ourselves to God's providence.

In fact, there is particular emphasis on the clearly articulated words that we already find in the title of the message: “*Let us love, not with words but with deeds*”. This requires consistency between the Gospel that we proclaim and the Gospel that we live, and can only spring from an encounter with Christ in prayer. We read in point 8 of the same message:

8. At the heart of all the many concrete initiatives carried out on this day should always be prayer. Let us not forget that the Our Father is the prayer of the poor. Our asking for bread expresses our entrustment to God for our basic needs in life. Everything that Jesus taught us in this prayer expresses and brings together the cry of all who suffer from life's uncertainties and the lack of what they need. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he answered in the words with which the poor speak to our one Father, in whom all acknowledge themselves as brothers and sisters. The Our Father is a prayer said in the plural: the bread for which we ask is “ours”, and that entails sharing, participation and joint responsibility. In this prayer, all of us recognize our need to overcome every form of selfishness, in order to enter into the joy of mutual acceptance.

The Light of our Charism

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

The ladder of humility: one can only climb up by 'going down'.

Authentic servants of the poor are those who do not look for 'big things' (Psalm 130), but on the contrary, they are the ones that look with a child's soul towards Him who is the greatest, and nevertheless became the least, in order to give an example for all to follow: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:29).

The fundamental teaching, experienced in the school of Divine service, is precisely that which makes one learn to walk humbly with God.

We should be able to characterize ourselves by it, however, we don't even know how much is needed to be at least somewhat recognizable as belonging to this strain of the meek and humble of heart.

The meek are not those who 'abdicate' but they are the 'strong' ones. They know how to humble themselves, with the help of our good God, by always focusing on Christ, who humbled himself completely.

Saint Cyprian said, "Nothing should overshadow the love of Christ, because He has not put anything else before His love for us." While we cannot find anything more worthy than Him, He on the contrary, has

given us the first place in His heart because of His magnitude and condescension. He has made Himself weak and wretched for us, in order to help us humbly accept the gift of salvation.

If we are really honest with ourselves, we must recognize that all our resentments are due to a lack of humility. All our disappointments, our melancholies, our sorrows, our dejections are all due to the lack of true humility, because we do not know how to accept as normal the path of the cross. We always want to walk comfortably, without any suffering or too much distress. Even in the commitment to holiness, we are always tempted to say, "Holy yes, but not at too high a price!"

"He who is exalted will be humbled...!"

There are so many ways to exalt oneself, to resist holiness, and to work in what is not in the pursuit of God!

A sure way to exalt oneself consists mainly in not knowing how to accept, with love and profound conviction of faith, many of the harsh and adverse situations thrown at us in our daily lives. However providential they might be, they impose upon us a detachment and sacrifice in our relationship with others, or even within our own inner path, of which we are not prepared to let go. There is a kind of pride that consists in not having a clear awareness of one's own reality, and not accepting the truth about oneself, and therefore, doing everything for others while shying away from all situations that could expose our limits.

(To be continued...)

News from our Homes

New young people for our 'Year of Saint Augustine'

In September, we welcomed four new young people to the City of Boys. All four young men are willing to stay for a whole year of experience with us. This is what we call the 'Year of Saint Augustine', where they remain in the service of the poorest and in listening to God's will for their lives.

They are: Louis-Marie Lemenager (20 years old, French), Willy Mauser (18 years old, German), Gabriel Braendle (21 years old, Swiss), and Fabian Caluori (23 years old, Swiss). Once again, God has seen the suffering of His people and heard their cry (cf. Ex. 3,7). Our Heavenly Father has seen the suffering of so many poor people in the Andean mountain range, crying not only because of their material needs, but also for the lack of generous young missionaries willing to leave all behind in order to share with the most needy the bread of life - the Gospel. Just like in the old times when God sent Moses, 'saved from the waters', in the same way he sends us today to all these young people, saved from 'the waters of the world' that always threaten to drown in the hearts of men, their desire for God and the flame of the Divine vocation.

As always, during their first few weeks, these young people have the opportunity to experience many different groups of children and apostolates, so that we get to know their skills and capabilities. Then we allocate them to some more fixed apostolate related to the two main works we have here, which are the education of children and the evangelization of the villages of the Andean mountain range. We speak of 'work' and not of 'mission', recalling how Saint Teresa of Calcutta was asked by someone regarding the greatness of her mission, that is, their work with the lepers, the dying, and the abandoned... and Mother Teresa answered, "But this is not my mission!



My mission is to love Jesus and to bring other people to love Him. My job is to help the lepers, the dying..." Therefore, also for our young people, we must not confuse the 'mission' of loving Jesus and bringing others to love Him, with the different jobs we do. That is why the young people who come to spend some time with us to have a mission experience are also called to live intense moments of prayer, including: Holy Mass and daily Eucharistic Adoration, the prayer of the Holy Rosary, Lectio Divina, some time for personal prayer, and the Saint Ignatius spiritual exercises at our contemplative community of Our Lady of Silence. Nobody can give what they do not have; we need to fill ourselves with Jesus and His love in order to be able to give it to others.

During the 'Year of Saint Augustine', the young people receive an adequate formation centred above all on the Charism of the Movement, through the study of the many documents written over the years by our founder Fr. Giovanni Salerno msp.

It would give us great joy to know that these new brothers can count on your prayerful support. "The harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few. Pray that the owner of the harvest will send more workers".

May God bless you.

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 4 & 5 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:

This month, I will offer the Holy Rosary as a daily prayer for all the souls in purgatory, and especially for those most forgotten. On my visits to the cemetery, I will pray especially for all those souls that died before being able to hear the Gospel, even though they were in a place blessed with missions.