



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for March:

**That bishops, priests and deacons are tireless heralds of the Gospel
to the ends of the earth.**

Intention entrusted to us by the Holy Father at the Apostolate of Prayer.

A Word from the Magisterium

Apostolic Letter *PORTA FIDEI*

From Pope

BENEDICT XVI

With which he announces the year of faith

(....)4. In the light of all this, I have decided to announce a Year of Faith. It will begin on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and it will end on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on 24 November 2013. The starting date of 11 October 2012 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a text promulgated by my Predecessor, Blessed John Paul II,^[3] with a view to illustrating for all the faithful the power and beauty of the faith. This document, an authentic fruit of the Second Vatican Council, was requested by the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 1985 as an instrument at the service of catechesis^[4] and it was produced in collaboration with all the bishops of the Catholic Church. Moreover, the theme of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops that I have convoked for October 2012 is "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith". This will be a good

Summary:

- A word from the Magisterium.....1
- News from the Church2
- The Light of our Charism3
- News from our Homes..... 4
- Missionary pledge of the Month.....4

opportunity to usher the whole Church into a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith. It is not the first time that the Church has been called to celebrate a Year of Faith. My venerable Predecessor the Servant of God Paul VI announced one in 1967, to commemorate the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul on the 19th centenary of their supreme act of witness. He thought of it as a solemn moment for the whole Church to make "an authentic and sincere profession of the same faith"; moreover, he wanted this to be confirmed in a way that was "individual and collective, free and conscious, inward and outward, humble and frank"^[5]. (*continued*).

[3] Cf. John Paul II, Const. ap. *Fidei depositum* (11th October 1992): AAS 86 (1994), 113-118.

[4] Cf. Final relation of the Extraordinary Sinod of Bishops (7th December 1985), II, B, a, 4, in *L'Osservatore Romano* ed. In English Language (22nd December 1985), pag. 12.

[5] Paul VI, Exhort. ap. *Petrum et Paulum Apostolos*, in the XIX centenary of the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul (22nd February 1967): AAS 59 (1967), 196.

News from the Church

Since the 10th of October 2012, during the Wednesday audiences, the Holy Father has been doing a cycle of catechesis about Faith. It is comprised of very rich texts, real food to nourish our spiritual life. All of these catecheses can be found at www.vatican.va. We present here, a summary of the catechesis from Wednesday 23rd January 2013, with which the Holy Father started a series of catecheses on the Creed.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this Year of Faith, today I would like to begin to reflect with you on the "Creed"... the solemn profession of faith that accompanies our life as believers. The opening words of the "Creed" are: "I believe in God". It is a fundamental affirmation... Faith is a personal act — the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself" (n. 166). The ability to say one believes in God is therefore both a gift and a commitment. Where can we listen to God and to his word? Sacred Scripture, in which the word of God becomes audible to us and nourishes our life as "friends" of God, is fundamental... Chapter 11 of the Letter to the Hebrews that we have just heard is very beautiful in this regard. Here faith is discussed and light is shed on the great biblical figures who lived it, becoming models for all believers... And it is on Abraham himself that I wish to reflect and to focus our attention, since he is the first great figure and reference for speaking of faith in God: Abraham the great patriarch, an exemplary model, father of all believers (cf. Rom 4:11-12).

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews is referring (Hb 11:8-10) to the call of Abraham, recounted in the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. What did God ask of this patriarch?

He asked him to set out, leave his own country to journey to the land that he would show him...

In fact it meant setting out with no directions, no knowledge of where God would lead him... Yet the dark unknown — to which Abraham had to go — was lit by the light of a promise; God added to his order a reassuring word that unfolded to Abraham a future, life in fullness... Therefore in the divine plan Abraham was destined to become "the father of a multitude of nations" (Gen 17:5; cf. Rom 4:17-18), and to enter a new land in which to dwell. Yet Sarah, his wife, was barren... and the land to which God was leading him was far from the land of his birth, it was already inhabited by other peoples and would never really belong to him... Abraham was blessed because in faith he was able to discern the divine blessing, going beyond appearances and trusting in God's presence...

What does this mean to us? When we affirm "I believe in God", we are saying, like Abraham, "I trust in you, I entrust myself to you, O Lord", but not as to Someone to turn to solely in times of difficulty or to whom to devote a few moments of the day or week. Saying "I believe in God" means founding my life on him, letting his Word guide it every day, in practical decisions, without fear of losing some part of myself. When, in the Rite of Baptism, the question is asked three times: "Do you believe?" — in God, in Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit — the holy Catholic Church and the other truths of the faith, the triple response is in the singular: "I do", because it is my own life that with the gift of faith must be given a turning point, it is my life that must change, that must be converted. Every time we take part in a Baptism we should ask ourselves how we ourselves live daily the great gift of faith... Believing in God thus makes us harbingers of values that often do not coincide with the fashion and opinion of the moment. It requires us to adopt criteria and assume forms of conduct that are not part of the common mindset. Christians must not be afraid to go "against the current" in order to live their faith, resisting the temptation to "conform"...

The light of our Charism

*We continue with our presentation of a document by
Father Giovanni Salerno, from 2 - 2 - 1996*

Why did the Movement of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World (“Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi”) begin? (.....)

"Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi" started to increase the sanctity in the Church. It started so as to not let the Church become distracted from what has to be its path in this world. And that is because our God is God of the poor. Our God loves the poor; he loves them madly.

"Set aside part of your goods for almsgiving. Never turn your face away from any poor man, and God will never turn His from you. Measure your alms by what you have; if you have much, give more; if you have little, give less, but do not be mean in giving alms. By doing so, you will lay up for yourself a great treasure for the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers from death and saves men from passing down to darkness. Alms is a most effective offering for all those who give it in the presence of the Most High. (...) Give your bread to those who are hungry and your clothes to those who are naked. Whatever you have in plenty, devote a portion to almsgiving" (Tb 4, 7-11. 16).

The prophets Elijah and Elisha demonstrated with prodigious acts, the merciful attitude of God towards the poor. The prophet Elijah, multiplied oil and flour for the benefit of a widow from Sarepta of Sidon in times of famine, and raised her only son when she died, and he also made it rain on the entire region devastated by a terrible drought (See 1K 17, 7-24; 1K 18, 41-46).

Following closely in the footsteps of his teacher, Elisha the prophet also worked wonders to help the poor on his way: he multiplied oil in the home of a poor widow

(whose money lender threatened to make slaves of her two children, to make up for the debt) and afterwards he said to her: "Go and sell the oil and redeem your pledge; you and your children can live on the remainder" (2K 4, 1-7); he raised to life the son of the couple who let him stay in their home in Shunem (2K

4, 8-36); he saved numerous people who had eaten from the same pan of soup, made with a type of wild gourd which turned out to be poisonous, from dying by poisoning (2K 4, 38-41); he multiplied twenty barley loaves to satisfy the hunger of more than one hundred people, and plenty of bread still remained afterwards (2K 4, 42-44); he cured Namaan, army commander to the king of Aram of an incurable skin disease (2K 5, 1-14). Neither did the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah tire of defending the poor (See. Is.1,11-17; Is 25, 1.4; Is. 41,17-20; Is. 49,13-15).

To the Hebrews, who complain to God, saying: - "Why do we fast if you never see it? Why do penance if you never notice?"- God replies: "- Look, you do business on your fastdays /you oppress all your workmen. /

(...) Is that the sort of fast that pleases me, / a truly penitential day for men? / Hanging your head like a reed, / lying down on sackcloth and ashes? / Is that what you call fasting, / a day acceptable to Yahweh? / Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me / - it is the Lord Yahweh who speaks - / to break unjust fetters / and undo the thongs of the yoke, / to let the oppressed go free, / and break every yoke, / to share your bread with the hungry, / and shelter the homeless poor, / to clothe the man you see to be naked / and not turn from your own kin?" (Is 58, 3-7).

(continued)

News from our Homes

Travel to Cuba

From the 9th to the 16th of January, Fr. Giovanni and Fr. Alvaro travelled to Cuba, invited by the Bishop of Cienfuegos, Mgr. Domingo Oropesa. The priests were impressed by the enthusiasm and the living desire of the Cuban people to welcome Missionaries who can carry forward the work of evangelization. There was also a meeting with the Apostolic Nuncio, Bruno Musaró, who some years ago, being Nuncio in Peru, had visited the "City of the Boys" and consecrated the altar of our Monastery "Our Lady of Silence". Considering the general enthusiasm of the people and of the local Church, God willing, at the end of the year, we will be able to send some Missionaries to start a foundation of the Movement over there.

Our Sisters

The Sisters have decided to improve their workshops in sewing, cooking, baking and gardening, which will also make for useful holiday periods in which the time won't be spent just relaxing and playing, but also in a healthy concern for the future of the children. All of this is framed in an atmosphere of prayer and thanksgiving to God, for all of the benefits that we receive from Him. They are also thinking about giving them the opportunity to learn about the history of Peru and Cusco by going to visit archaeological and historical sites in the region.

The City of the Boys

In the Community of the City of the Boys in Andahuaylillas, as in every year during the school holidays (in January and February), our children stay in the home, and as such require greater attention from their superiors

This year they have spent their time playing, studying, doing useful jobs round the house, and there has been no shortage of trips out... During this time, the youths who are doing a year of experience and discernment in the City of Boys have been able to do a week of Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, directed by Fr. José Carlos in our Monastery "Our Lady of Silence"

Our Centre in Budapest

There is still a great sense of joy in our Budapest Centre from the visit of the Vicar general, Fr. László Sülle, representative of the Cardinal of Hungary, Mgr. Péter Erdő, who came to the Centre not long ago to learn about the work and spirituality of the Movement. He blessed the families, the lay people and the contributors to the Centre, as Missionaries of the Gospel. He expressed the Hungarian Church's respect for the work of Movement in the poorest part of the city, which, if it weren't for them, the Church would not be able to go to.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

During this month I will try harder to let people know about the Movement and its Charism, giving out leaflets, and talking to people who don't know⁴ about it