



OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Missionary Intention for September:

That Christians suffering persecution in many parts of the world may by their witness be prophets of Christ's love.

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*
For the Indiction of the year of faith

(...)

Confessing with the lips indicates in turn that faith implies public testimony and commitment. A Christian may never think of belief as a private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with him. This “standing with him” points towards an understanding of the reasons for believing. Faith, precisely because it is a free act, also demands social responsibility for what one believes. The Church on the day of Pentecost demonstrates with utter clarity this public dimension of believing and proclaiming one’s faith fearlessly to every person. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us fit for mission and strengthens our witness, making it frank and courageous.

Profession of faith is an act both personal and communitarian. It is the Church that is the primary subject of faith. In the faith of the Christian community, each individual receives baptism, an effective sign of entry into the people of believers in order to obtain salvation. As we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: “ ‘I believe’ is the faith of the Church professed personally by each

Summary:

- A Word from the Magisterium.....1
- News from the Church.....2
- The Light of our Charism3
- News from our Homes.....4
- Missionary Pledge of the Month.....4

believer, principally during baptism. ‘We believe’ is the faith of the Church confessed by the bishops assembled in council or more generally by the liturgical assembly of believers. ‘I believe’ is also the Church, our mother, responding to God by faith as she teaches us to say both ‘I believe’ and ‘we believe’.”^[17]

Evidently, knowledge of the content of faith is essential for giving one’s own *assent*, that is to say for adhering fully with intellect and will to what the Church proposes. Knowledge of faith opens a door into the fullness of the saving mystery revealed by God. The giving of assent implies that, when we believe, we freely accept the whole mystery of faith, because the guarantor of its truth is God who reveals himself and allows us to know his mystery of love.^[18]

^[17] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 167.

^[18] Cf. First Vatican Ecumenical Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Catholic Faith *Dei Filius*, chap. III: DS 3008-3009; Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation *Dei Verbum*, 5. (*Continued*).

News from the Church

Mary and the mission from the Sanctuary of Aparecida (Brazil)

On the 24th of June 2013, in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Aparecida, Pope Francis celebrated a Mass in which you could see – putting World Youth Day 2013 under his protection, that it had as a theme “Go and make disciples of all nations” – a desire to emphasize the missionary dimension of the Mother of God. In fact, actually in Aparecida, on the 13th of May 2007 the Fifth Conference of Latin American Bishops was opened, chaired by the then Cardinal Bergoglio, and whose final document emphasized the figure of Mary as “disciple and missionary”. In that document, the Latin American Bishops stressed that when “one wants to emphasize discipleship and mission, it is her who shines before our eyes as a complete and most faithful image of the following of Christ” (n.270). Moreover, “She who *treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart* (Lk 2, 19; cf. 2, 51), teaches us the primacy of listening to the Word in the life of the disciple and missionary. The Magnificat is entirely woven from the threads of the Sacred Scripture, the threads drawn from the Word of God. Like so, it is revealed that in Her, the Word of God is truly found in her home, where she freely comes and goes.” (n.271).

In the same Marian scene, the Holy Father emphasized three outlooks, which would characterise World Youth Day and the lives of those youths after returning to their homes. These

three outlooks – on which it is good to meditate and examine ourselves daily – were:

Keeping hope alive, since no matter how great the difficulties in every one of our lives seem, in our people, our communities, God never leaves us to sink. “Faced with the disappointment that there could be in life” – added the Pope – “to those who work in evangelization, or those who strive to live the faith as parents of families, I would like to say to you firmly: Always have this certainty in your heart: God walks by your side, he never abandons you”.

Let yourselves be surprised by God, knowing that God acts and that He surprises us as well, amid difficulties. He asks that we let ourselves be surprised by His love, that we welcome His surprises. Let us trust in God. When we move away from Him, the wine of happiness, the wine of hope, runs dry. If we grow closer to Him, if we remain with Him, what seems like cold water, difficulty, sin, transforms itself into the new wine of friendship with Him.”

Live with happiness. “Dear friends, if we walk in hope, letting ourselves be surprised by the new wine which Jesus offers to us, then there is already hope in our hearts, and we will not be able to stop ourselves being witnesses to this happiness. Christians are always happy, never sad. God is with us. We have a Mother who constantly intercedes for the lives of her children, for us”.

Putting ourselves under the protection of our Mother, model “disciple and missionary”, we ask of her the graces necessary to be witnesses of Christ at all times, happy men and women, full of hope and able to let themselves be surprised by God.

The Light of our Charism

Beginning with this issue, we will be presenting a document by Fr. Giovanni Salerno from 14-9-1986 (revised in 2004)

Contemplate his face and you will be radiant!

1. The Movement of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World

“The Movement of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World started and wants to spread in order to completely carry out the wishes of the Pope, of the Church. It wants to work with preferential love with the poorest and most humble of people, who are the “chosen ones of the Lord”.

Today, as members of the Church, we cannot forget about the poor. This Movement strives to be like the renewal of the Church, so that people can recognise the face of the Lord Jesus in the poor. Today, if the Church is passing through great difficulties, it is owed to the fact that some of its members do not have the same feelings that spring from the sweet Heart of Christ.

1.1 “Cor Iesu” (Heart of Jesus)

The Lord couldn’t bear to see the suffering of the homeless people and the beggars of Israel. His Heart melted on hearing the pleas of some of them:

“What do you want me to do for you? –

He said: - Lord, I want to see!-

Jesus said: - Go. Your faith has saved you” (Lk 18, 41a).

The Heart of Christ, sensitive and deeply loving, can’t bear the hunger of children, the injustices, the situation of the abandonment of the poor. He demands attention and service in order to end the appalling suffering of your brothers, mankind. Furthermore, the

Heart of Jesus really loves those people who are not appreciated by men. These people are forgotten by everybody apart from the Lord Jesus. He came to bring the Good News to the poor and to heal the afflicted: “Come to me all you who are weak and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11, 28).

The Contemplative Fraternity needs to repair and console the Heart of Christ who sees the suffering of His chosen ones; and at the same time, the Fraternity has to try to continually have the same feelings as Christ. Its members must have hearts similar to that of Jesus; sensitive, burning with love, desiring to save men. Their hearts must beat the same rhythm as the Heart of Christ. In this way they will be sensitive to the needs of men, of the Church and of the poor.

We believe that one of the major difficulties of today is due to not living in poverty, forgetting about the poor who are the majority, and who today, continue the same Passion of Christ who separated Himself from His divine nature in order to take the condition of a Slave, and made Himself similar to us in everything except sin.

1.2 “Operatio Dei”

But this humiliation of the Lord was the cause of His triumph. For that reason, I am convinced that one cannot do this “work of God” –*operatio Dei*- among the poor by shouting, nor by holding protest marches, but rather by imitating the Servant of Yahweh. Thus, the Servants of the Poor of the Third world make two commitments: to humble and silent evangelization and to the poor, so that they reach the dignity that belongs to them as human beings and children of God.

This aim can be achieved mainly by humble and silent contemplation, renouncing every type of activity, sacrificing oneself in silence and adoration, pleading for the development of the poor by the sacrifice of one’s life. One doesn’t preach the Gospel, but rather one lives it, and this can only be done by imitating Jesus, who in His life fully realised the ideal contemplation and activity. For that reason, the Movement of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World, using as its only rule, the “*Imitation of Christ*”, places great importance on the Fraternities of the Contemplative life.

(Continued).

News from our Homes

Easter in the Mission of our Sisters (Second Part)

We will finish the relation of events, which the Missionary Sisters sent to the Mother house in Cusco – after celebrating Easter in the mission, Santa Escolástica - so that everybody can share in their happiness. It is a beautiful testimony of the unity, which characterises in a very special way, the community of our Sisters.

On Holy Saturday, we accompanied Our Lady on her path of sorrow, praying the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, while Fr. Sebastien was blessing the houses of the village, starting from the top of the village, where the road to Ccasacunca begins, and finishing at the bottom, at the first house in the entrance to the village. At night time we celebrated the Easter vigil. On this holy night, Jesus breaks the chains of death, and becomes a light in the darkness, clarity which lights up our way, light which tells us that we should also be light to those who need it. A lot of people participated. When in the church, which was initially lit up with candles, the lights were turned on and everybody began to happily sing while the bells were rung. Some of the parents read the readings in their native tongue, and it was so emotional that one of them began to cry. When we saw him, we almost started to cry as well, in accordance with the words of Jesus: "Cry with those who cry"... When the vigil finished, we all came together for a hot

chocolate with biscuits and sweets.

On Easter Sunday, such a great day of triumph and happiness, we celebrated the Holy Mass very early, after Solemn Adoration, and afterwards we ate a nice roast lamb dinner with all the people. The Sisters made the day merry with games, dances and competitions, so everybody felt that it was a very happy day.

After our priest, Fr. Sebastien, had thanked everybody for their participation, especially the altar boys to whom he gave small presents and chocolate, one of the dads thanked him for having accompanied them in these special days, making it possible for many of them to go to confession and to receive Jesus.

Happy Easter! May the inexhaustible echo of this new and ever happy Easter reach every one of you. We part with a hug and pray that the Holy Family bless you all.

Seminary in Ajofrín (Spain)

After a course of Ignatian Exercises that will be run by Fr. Pierfilippo Giovanetti from 1st – 7th of September in our House of Formation in Ajofrín, our Seminarians will return to their studies of Philosophy and Theology at the end of the month. This year there will be seventeen of them, taking into account the new arrivals, Johann Eder (Austrian), Deyvid Vargas (Columbian), Alejandro Barajas (Mexican), Brian Killackey (American) and Eduardo Pardo (Spanish). We ask for your prayers for all of them, that they persevere and that they lead holy lives.

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

On the 22nd of September I will begin a Novena to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Patron of the Missions, that she obtains from God, all the material and spiritual graces for the missionaries that they most need.