L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

December 6th, 2006, Wednesday

Messina-Lipari-S. Lucia of the Mela: the catechesis of the Apostolic Movement

In the «Immaculate Heart of Mary» Parish in Messina, Paradise Village, Monsignor Francesco Montenegro, auxiliary Bishop of Messina-Lipari-S. Lucia del Mela and President of the national Caritas, recently inaugurated, the catecheses of the Apostolic Movement.

Many were the believers present, coming from the various parishes of the Archdiocese, accompanied by their respective parish priests. The ecclesiastical assistant of the Apostolic Movement, father Gesualdo De Luca, gave a filial greeting to the shepherd, illustrating the theme of the catecheses that will accompany the pastoral journey for the year 2006-2007: «The joy of the faith and the education of the young generations».

Father De Luca mentioned to the shepherd also the charisma that the Apostolic Movement lives in the Church, reminding the Word of the Lord under the example and witness of life of the Inspirer and Founder, Maria Marino; who for about 30 years, faithful to the Lord, has been answering to the mission that the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, entrusted her.

«Evangelisation – the Bishop said in the homily – is the first big sign of charity and charity is the central announcement of every evangelisation. Let every one feel called to stake the heart and not only his intelligence in the journey that the catechesis proposes. The word heard and announced completes its course only when it enters every one's life, but afterwards it moves his heart and therefore his arms».

To Monsignor Montenegro «the witness is not a simple communicating, it requires audacity because it is an epiphany in which one is at stake; and it indicates a message of life, reveals a truth, illustrates a road to follow in rigour and pastoral seriousness».