

## A friendly presence in the different situations of suffering

The Apostolic Movement, in the framework of the program activities that it conducts as a favourable occasion for witnessing charity, provides for the visit to the sick, to bring a friendly presence in the various situations of suffering. In particular, this year, in the Archdiocese of Catanzaro-Squillace, Fr Francesco Cristofaro has been tasked with coordinating the members of the Apostolic Movement who are made available for visiting the sick in various care facilities spread throughout the territory. Of course, visits are made in agreement with the managers of the respective structures, which are offered a totally voluntary service.

My personal experience concerns visits to the RSA "Our Lady of Porto" in Gimigliano (CZ). The visit is fortnightly; on Tuesday at 4 pm the meeting is held with the elderly guests, that the staff of the facility provides to arrange in a salon where they can easily receive us. On our arrival, we find them waiting for us, visibly expressing all their joy and desire to socialize. The visit time is inserted shortly before supper and the subsequent therapy.

### Movimento Apostolico

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### On Instagram "A Word for You"

From 1 October 2017, the Apostolic Movement launched on Instagram "a Word for You" (#unaParolaperTe). This is an address book, through which every Sunday a priest offers a one-minute video-reflection on the Gospel of the Day. It is part of the various initiatives promoted by the Apostolic Movement to accompany young people to the celebration of the next Synod of Bishops, which will be celebrated in Rome in October 2018 and will be dedicated to them. (Fr. Davide Marino)

The visit is awaited and welcomed both by the sick, who express love and much desire to be together, and by us who feed on this love that regenerates and gives meaning to our lives. In this experience lived and expressed giving a simple smile to those who seek it in a humble and unexpected way, we feel being mere instruments of fraternity and sharing. In the time we spend with the sick a few prayers are recited, then we sing some songs involving everyone in the elation moment and we exchange news and confidences of all kinds. The visit ends with the promise of a next meeting, for they are there waiting for us and we look forward to our return to bring them news of the outside world; we leave from them with unusual serenity and joy.

The adhering members who are committed in other structures go through similar occurrences as well. Occasional meetings, to exchange experiences and better coordinate this simple service, with Fr. Cristofaro, are very enriching.

"Lord, give us the grace of always recognising your face in our needy neighbour."

**Gregorio Sia**



## Take part in the joy of your master

Jesus sees our life as a talent given to us by our God, so that we, by putting it to fruition, not only make his creation more beautiful, but also acquire the right to be admitted tomorrow in his eternal joy. By using our lives well, God manifests in the world his omnipotence of grace and truth, justice and peace, mercy and love, holiness and light. Tomorrow God will show himself in the splendour of his light to those who today show him in the beauty of his grace of salvation, redemption and life.

Today, reading and understanding the Gospel has become an impossible work. It has been deprived of the only code we have been given to enter and discover every truth contained in it. A powerful virus was injected into it to give it a different meaning from the one revealed by God. This virus did not infect a single mind, but almost every believing mind. Read with this program that gives different, opposite and even meanings without any objective truth, everything is sublimated and the truth from the solid turns into a gaseous, elusive and no longer identifiable state.

The talent is given by God, the Lord of our body, spirit, soul, thoughts, desires, will and time. Everything must be employed to manifest Him, the light of his holiness, the splendour of his truth, the greatness of his loyalty and the power of his justice. With the powerful virus that by now has been installed in so many minds, from a servant, man made himself a lord

and uses everything according to his heart. There is nothing left of God anymore. He appropriated himself of all, even of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, grace, ministries, charismas, vocations and missions. What man decides upon is Truth and what he wants is good. The objective truth has been destroyed by the virus and the subjective truth has taken its place.

Image of the objective truth are the first two servants of the parable. They receive the talent and immediately they get to work to make it fructify. They know that from fructification is their future of good and joy. Image or figure of subjective truth is the lazy servant. This takes the talent and immediately digs a hole in the ground and hides it waiting for his master to return to. But the Lord does not want the talent, he wants its fruits. He does not want our life as it has been donated to us, he desires its fruits. Here is the objective truth. Every man will be judged according to his works when he passes to eternity. Having the virus transformed objective mercy into subjective mercy, everyone thinks of living as he wishes. Mercy will cover everything and will bring everyone to the eternal kingdom. Objectivity dies, the truth dies and the faith dies.

Mother of God, Woman that gave to the world the Blessed Fruit in which every blessing is, help us to give our lives to the Lord so that also from us he may bear fruit of blessing, truth and justice for the salvation of every other man.

**Mons. Costantino Di Bruno**

## Let us not love with words but with facts

*Reflections starting with the Message  
of H.H. Francis for the World Day  
of the Poor (19.11.2017)*

On Sunday, November 19th, the first World Day of the Poor, promoted by Pope Francis is celebrated. In the message set for this occasion, the Pontiff, quoting the apostle John, urges us: "Let us not love with words but with facts."

Love does not allow alibis. Jesus loved for first; and he loved giving all of himself, even his life. This love moves the will and the affections of whoever welcomes it to further love. The mercy that flows from the heart of the Trinity puts life in motion and generates concrete works of mercy.

For this very reason, one of the first signs with which the Christian community presented itself on the world scene was the service to the poorest, as attested by the choice of deacons. The early Christians sold their properties and substances and shared them with everyone, according to each one's need, becoming a model for every other community of all time, "pro-voking" action in favour of the most needy. Therefore the Pontiff calls not to think of the poor only as recipients of a good volunteer practice to be done from time to time in order to appease the conscience.

When charity becomes a lifestyle, one touches Christ's flesh with his hands. If we really want to meet Jesus, we need to touch his body in the ones of the plagued poor. The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, lets itself be found in the faces and in the persons of the weakest.

Let us stretch our hands to them, let us meet them, let us look at them in their eyes, let us embrace them and let us make them feel the warmth of the love that breaks the circle of loneliness.

Poverty calls us every day with its thousands of faces marked by pain, exclusion, abuse, violence, torture and imprisonment, war, deprivation of freedom and dignity, ignorance and illiteracy, health care and lack of work, traits and slavery, exile and misery, forced migration. All of these poor people belong to the Church for "evangelical right" and they oblige the fundamental option for them.

Blessed are the hands that open to welcome and help them: they are hands that bring hope. Blessed are the hands that surpass all barriers of culture, religion and nationality by pouring oil of consolation on the plagues of humanity. Blessed are the hands that open without asking for anything in return, without "if" without "though" and without "perhaps": they are the hands that make the blessing of God descend onto the brethren.

Moreover, for us Christ's disciples, poverty is a vocation to walk behind Him and with Him. Thus, poverty means a humble heart; an attitude of the heart that prevents you from thinking of money, career and luxury as a goal of life and a condition for happiness.

**Father Michele Fontana**

*The Lord's Day  
XXXIII Sunday  
O.T. Year A*

## WENT OFF AND DUG A HOLE IN THE GROUND

**THE WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD IS TO BE PRAISED (Pr 31,10-13,19-20,30-31)**

The Book of Proverbs ends by presenting us the image of the true woman. She lives her days in the fear of God, that is, in the fulfilment of the divine will. The Lord also entrusted the custody of the house of the world to the woman and she puts all wisdom so that everything is done for the greater good. For the Christian image and reality of the perfect woman is the Mother of God. She has put all her life at the service of her Lord for the greatest good of every man and the whole universe. The house of God is not only the world, it is also the Church. Even in the Church, the woman was always committed with wisdom and love to give her prosperity, to increase her beauty and holiness. The woman, every woman, is placed by God at the care of the universe, the earth, the family and the Church. To do this, she needs only one thing: placing herself entirely in the fear of the Lord, that is, being always from the will of God.

**WE ARE NOT OF THE NIGHT (1Ts 5: 1-6)**

Saint Paul knows that the Lord's day is always close. Death could come at all times to lead us into eternity. At the same moment when the soul leaves the body, it is subject to the judgment of God, which is not only about absolution, forgiveness, mercy, welcome in his eternal realm. It is also of curse and condemnation to darkness and the unquenchable fire. If man does the works of darkness, he will end up into eternal darkness. On the contrary, if he produces the fruits of light, he will spend his eternity in

light and joy. The Christian no longer belongs to the realm of darkness. He is of the kingdom of light. As a son of light, he is asked to live to produce the fruits of light. Today, this eternal truth has been erased. It is said that God does not judge. If he does not judge, he makes no difference between good and bad. If God does not make a difference, what good is it for us to make it? A logical consequence of a false ad.

**ENTRUSTED HIS POSSESSIONS TO THEM (Mt 25,14-30)**

Life on Earth is a moment. The relationship with eternity is not even of one millionth of a second. Eternity is timeless. Therefore, there no is possible comparison. But the nothing of time produces the eternity of light or darkness, of joy or sadness and of blessing or of curse. The Lord's talent is time, but also the body, soul, spirit, thought and man's desire. This talent is used well, if with it we fructify our eternity of joy. Of course it is badly employed, if it produces the eternity of curse, darkness and fire. Jesus warns us. He does not care what we believe in. The talent must be used for light and not for darkness. If we use it for light, we will have light. But if we use it for darkness, we will receive darkness. This truth must always be remembered to every man, so that he does not forget it. Today, not only it is not reminded, it is even denied, cancelled and declared not existent. Everyone can live as he likes, he can even abandon himself to evil. In the end for him there will be only the kingdom of light.

by the theologian,  
**Monsignor Costantino Di Bruno**