

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PREPARING FOR THE X CONVENTION OF THE APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT

"Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people! Entering this hall to talk about young people, one already feels the strength of their presence that emanates positivity and enthusiasm, capable of invading and rejoicing not only this hall, but the whole Church and the whole world."

Strength, positivity and enthusiasm... three words, three invitations that the Holy Father addressed to all of us on the occasion of the opening of the XV General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Youth. And it is precisely in this perspective that the Apostolic Movement, in this next month of November, will dedicate its X International Convention, entitled "I listen to you", to the needs of young people, our expectations, even our difficulties and our fears. The interventions of two speakers who have always been in contact with the world of young people, according to the specifics of their journeys and their missions: H.E. Monsignor Domenico Battaglia, today Bishop of the diocese of Cerreto Sannita-Telesina-Sant'Agata de' Goti, and Prof. Antonio Cerasa, Neuroscientist and university professor.

There are various activities carried out

by the Apostolic Movement in view of this great event. The starting point was the meeting of August 10 with Pope Francis in Rome along with many other young people from all the dioceses of Italy, who has reloaded and made us even more understand how much the Church needs us, our freshness and our ideas. But not just Rome! There were several meetings for dialogue and discussion on youth issues led by priests who gave an answer of hope and faith to our doubts.

We will experience a more immediate moment of preparation for the convention on November 10th, when a large group of young people from the Catanzaro central seat and surrounding area will visit the Monte Stella Sanctuary, in the diocese of Locri-Gerace, for a day of formation, prayer and fraternity.

In preparation for the convention, a collection of ideas and reflections among young people was also carried out, as repeatedly requested by Pope Francis himself. Some specific responses, collected anonymously, have been requested in particular by the prof. Cerasa himself, in view of the speech he will hold at the convention. They concern our relationship with the Church and society, our idea of the future and the family, of work and relationships.

In short, moments of aggregation, spiritual retreats, personal reflections shared with each other... all this to prepare our heart and our soul to welcome the Word that saves... to seek the "I like it" of Christ and not the "I like it" of the world!

Antonio Afeltra and Daniela Tassoni



Everything she had to live

It is right to ask: why does the public life of Jesus end in the synoptic Gospels with the narration of the poor widow praised by the Lord for her great faith in her God, a faith so great as to make her give everything she had to live? The answer can only be one. This woman is a figure of Christ Jesus. Jesus is the poorest man on earth. He was born in a grotto, he lived always assisted by the Providence of the Father, he died crucified and stripped of his garments. He gave his Father everything he had to live. He kept nothing for himself. He gave everything. In the Gospel according to John we also witness the gift of the Mother and of the Holy Spirit. Before he died he gave his mother to John. After his death he had the Holy Spirit flow from his heart so that he could be poured out on every person for his salvation. Christ Jesus truly held nothing for himself. He gave all of himself to men. He has given and gives even his body and his blood to us until the consummation of time, until the advent of the new heavens and new earth.

Is there anything that Jesus has kept for himself? He gave all his will, his heart, his soul and his spirit to the Father, so that the Father could serve himself of him as a true sacrament of salvation, for the gift of grace, truth, light, justice and his great infinite eternal charity. If Christ Jesus had not said to the Father: "Behold, I come to do your will, make of me according to your heart, your eternal wisdom and your Holy Spirit", no salvation would have been accomplished on our earth. Today in the Church of God we live on a subtle and invisible temptation. First we give ourselves to the Lord

and then we withdraw the offer made. First we hand ourselves over to him and then we tell him that the delivery was not a true delivery. In doing so, we reveal ourselves to be not persons before God. We do not treat Him with the seriousness that is due to him and neither do we treat ourselves with the seriousness that is appropriate for the human person. But we must know that when we give ourselves to the Lord, He takes us seriously. Only that moment is worth for him and it is like his eternity. At that moment He gives himself according to the sacrament that is celebrated, he creates us according to that sacrament and we remain created and transformed for eternity. Then we can also escape from Him. He never withdraws what he has given. We prove to be liars. He will prove true forever.

The widow is also the figure of every disciple of Jesus. What she gave, she gave it once and for all. She did not regret then and went back to ask back for her offer. She gives herself. She goes on and lives in poverty. The Christian gives to God the little of his life for the glory of his temple which is Christ Jesus. Having made the gift, it must be a gift for eternity. Today, the Christian is lacking in this faith. He does not respect his God, he does not honour his Saviour, he does not listen to the Holy Spirit, given to him by Lord Jesus so that he always remains a gift and every day grows in giving all of himself to his God and Lord. Mother of the Redemption, ensure that the yes given for the edification of the body of Christ today is an eternal yes for us, for all the days of our life.

Father Costantino Di Bruno

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To the young: listening, meeting and hope

Reflections from the Speech of H.H. Francis to the youth in the 25th anniversary of Blessed Fr Puglisi's death (Palermo 15.09.2018)

Urged by young people, the Pope addressed three topics in Palermo.

Listening to the Lord and the answer. «The Lord is not listened staying in an armchair. (...) Remaining seated creates interference with the Word of God, which is dynamic. (...) God is discovered by walking" (Homily). The path to which reference is made is personal history made of relationships with others, of the search for the meaning of life and its realization. It is the testimony of the disciples of Emmaus who, on their way, meet the Lord. Therefore, we must "put our heart on the road", be... "in Movement". Going out from physical and inner solitude of one's own thoughts to enter the Church, the earthly house of the Lord and meet him in the Word, in the Sacraments, in prayer, in the Priest, his minister and in Christians, his disciples and witnesses, to become just as much together with them, welcoming "the Lord's invitation to do either one thing or another...". It is God's particular plan for the life of each one: the vocation, adhering to which we place ourselves at the service of the Lord for the true good of our neighbour and we reach that full joy towards which every heart is tending.

The encounter. Starting from the historical tradition of Sicily as a crossroad of cultures and people, Francis urges young people to be promoters of a meeting among people in a world marked by clashes and wars, "with that work of integration, acceptance, respecting the dignity of others, of solidarity (...) distinctive traits of a Christian", considering that faith is basically the experience of the encounter with God, which be-

comes visible and credible in the love of neighbour, in obedience to the Word of Jesus. In this sense, the Pope presents the acceptance of the other as a form of witness of evangelical love and of human and spiritual maturity of the Christian, proposing some questions for a verification of the quality and level of the personal love: "Do I put my ability, my talents, all that I can do, at disposal? Do I have time for others? Am I welcoming with others? Do I activate a little of concrete love in my days?", along with the indication of an alarm bell: the sense of loneliness and sadness, a sign of closure in the selves and disengagement. Hence the invitation to young people to face life with commitment, seriousness and responsibility, to capitalize on the personal talents and thus be "builders of the future" and their own future.

The hope. In history young people are called to be "dawns of hope", builders of a better world than the current one, through two phases: overcoming the "logic of the irredeemable", that sense of pessimism and fatalism that considers impossible change in positive of reality and leads to an attitude of passive resignation; and the active commitment, the "capacity of a man, of a woman to carry on a fruit (...) to generate also a new civilization, a welcoming civilization, a fraternal civilization and a civilization of love", rediscovering the roots of belonging to a people and a family, together with the human and Christian values that build life. In this way the young will be "joyful bearers of the hope of Jesus who overcomes sin" and "overcomes death".

Father Raffaele Catizone

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

PUT IN MORE THAN ALL THE OTHER
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE TREASURY
(XXXII SUNDAY O.T. YEAR B)

WHEN WE HAVE EATEN IT, WE SHALL DIE (1Kings 17,10-16)

By command of Elijah in Israel the sky closed for three years and six months, causing an unprecedented famine. But Elijah too must nourish himself to live. Before, the Lord fed him by sending a crow in the morning and a crow in the evening that brought him bread and meat. He drew water from a stream. The stream no longer gives water and the Lord sends Elijah so that he lets himself be helped by the poorest widow in Sarepta in Sidon. In truth, it is not the widow who feeds Elijah. She had only the last handful of flour and the last drop of oil. It is Elijah who feeds the widow all the time of the famine. The woman is nourished by faith in the Word of Elijah. God also wants to feed his children. He asks them to let themselves be nourished on faith in the Word of his Son. But today who believes that the nourishment of man is drawn on God with the purest faith in the Gospel of Christ Jesus? The widow believed. She obeyed and saved her life from death.

BY HIS SACRIFICE (Heb 9: 24-29)

Jesus redeemed the world because he offered himself to the Father as a true sacrifice and holocaust of atonement for the forgiveness of sins. The sacrifice of Christ is perfect. But it concerns his body, the one received from the Virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit. But Christ today has taken on another body, which has become one body with his body. This body He will also have to offer to the Father. But the offering of this body needs the will of each disciple. The vocation of Jesus is the vocation of his body. Christ came to offer him-

self to God. His body exists to offer itself to God. The redemption of the world comes from this offering, from this sacrifice and holocaust. If the disciple does not offer his body to God, with full submission to his will, in obedience to each of his Commands, the offering does not take place and the redemption of the world is not accomplished. Without obedience to the Gospel, there is no salvation.

HAS CONTRIBUTED ALL SHE HAD (Mk 12: 38-44)

The truth of faith is in the truth of the gift. If the gift of ourselves to Christ Jesus is full and perfect, lasting in time, until death, our faith is true and perfect. If our gift is little, even our faith is little. If the gift is not made, our faith is false. But the gift must not be done from our will. Nothing is given to God from our will. Everything must be given by obedience to his will. The first obedience is to every Word of the Gospel, understood in the light of the Holy Spirit. The second obedience is to the grace that is received in each sacrament. If the grace is not put to good use there is no gift, because there is no obedience. The third obedience is to the mission given by the Holy Spirit. Who holds back his life for himself and does not hand it over to the Spirit that asks for it to entrust a particular mission, reveals either that he totally lacks in faith, or attests that he has very little of it. A mistake that must never be committed is to waste time and all of life doing things, thinking that they are pleasing to the Lord, while in truth they are only the fruit of our mind.

by the theologian,
Father Costantino Di Bruno