

## 25° Anniversary of presence of the Apostolic Movement in Valtellina

The Apostolic Movement has been present in Valtellina since 1993, when the first nucleus was established in the parish "St. Charles" of St. Anne - Mossini. It was promoted by the spouses Mario and Maria Luisa Iezzi, who had already embraced its spirituality and in that period had moved to the area due to work in Valtellina.

They began their activity as Apostolic Movement offering their availability to the parish priest of the time father Giuseppe Acquistapace. In the community of St. Anne they also met the Comboni missionary Father Gianni Nobili with whom a deep relationship of trust and collaboration arose.

After the departure of father Giuseppe and for a closer approach to the workplace, the spouses with their son moved to Morbegno, collaborating in harmony and concord first with the archpriest father Alberto De Maron and currently with father Andrea Salandi, in the "St. John the Baptist" parish.

In these 25 years the diocesan responsible members and the adherents have been constantly engaged in the animation of the parish, as members of the ecclesiastical organs and in promoting cultural and religious events collaborating with the

administrative bodies of the territory.

So, this year is the anniversary of the inauguration of the Apostolic Movement in Valtellina and for this occasion cultural and artistic-religious activities have been held to celebrate the event.

Friday, June 1, 2018, at the Auditorium "St. Anthony" the charity show "The Memories of the heart" was performed in memory of Father Gianni Nobili in favour of the "Cut bread" association, aimed at schools and sponsored by the Municipality of Morbegno.

The Councilor for Culture, Education and Environmental Protection, Claudio D'Agata, in the initial greetings thanked the Apostolic Movement for all the commitment given to the community of Morbegno and appreciated the effort made to involve ages totally different ranging from the 5 years of maternal to the 16 years of high school and the commitment to transmit the spiritual values essential to acquire a culture with deep roots.

On Saturday 2 June, members of the Apostolic Movement from various parts of Italy were welcomed.

Sunday, June 3, in the morning the Co-celebration of the Holy Mass, and the community lunch.

In the afternoon the boys have performed some scenes from the musical "The Memories of the Heart", followed by touching testimonies offered by the president of the Movement Cesare Rotundo, by the priest Fr. Franco Bruno, the Ecclesiastical Assistant that takes care of the monthly formation meetings open to everyone, by the priest Fr. Massimo Cardamone and the diocesan secretary of Catanzaro Concetta Silipo, who focused on the vocational aspect of the secular institute Mary Mother of the Redemption.

**Maria Luisa Silipo**



## The child grew and strengthened in the spirit

John the Baptist is a particular fruit. He is thought from the heart of the Father, wanted by him and for his omnipotence conceived in the sterile womb of Elizabeth by the work of Zechariah. He is still in the mother's womb and the Holy Spirit dresses him of himself as a breastplate so that he is never of the earth or of any power of the underworld. He is born and the Spirit takes him under his care, helping him to grow in truth, in light, in wisdom and in strength, so as to be able to realize all the will that the Father will manifest to him tomorrow. He is the work of man and God's omnipotence according to the flesh. In the heart, in the mind and in the soul he is instead entirely the work of the Holy Spirit. He is not the son of any earthly, human school. His school is only that of the Spirit of the Lord.

John the Baptist reveals to the Church that if she wants to be a true instrument of God, if she wants to fulfil the mandate entrusted to her, she must place her every child under the custody, protection and care of the Holy Spirit. She must remove from her bosom, from her structure all those teachers who teach according to the flesh and drag her into the flesh, rather than elevate her in the Holy Spirit. Every teacher that is not under the care and protection of the Lord's Spirit might never be a teacher in the Church. He ruins the work of the Spirit of God, puts thoughts according to men in the hearts, removing all space to eternal thoughts that can only come from the Spirit. It is a choice that must be made. Every bad teacher in the

Church destroys her from within, pollutes her from her own breast and the damage is very serious. For the bad teachers today the Church is losing the face of Christ and the heart of the Spirit. It is no use to apply the parable of the weeds. The weeds are sown by the enemy. But here the very sons of the Church are doing it. It is urgent to watch carefully. Whoever does not watch is responsible for any damage caused by the bad sowing made not of words of God, but of men. We know how firmly Jesus took position with Peter, when this stood before Him, wanting to oblige him not to go to Jerusalem to be delivered to the pagans and placed on the cross.

The Church was also born from the heart of the Father and shrouded since it was in the womb of Christ Jesus by the Spirit. She too was immediately taken care of by the Spirit and led and guided by him. But it is also up to the Church to watch over herself. It is her mandate not to allow teachers who teach from their hearts and not according to the heart of the Spirit to be raised to masters of her children. She must know in every moment of her journey in history that her mandate is one: giving every man the healthy, true, right and pure Word of her Redeemer. Mother of God, you who are the Mother of the Church, come to her rescue. Grant that the Word that converts, redeems, saves and leads to the heart of Christ, through the Holy Spirit and through Christ to the Father, always echoes through her.

**Father Costantino Di Bruno**

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# CALLED TO DISCERN IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Reflections from the 5th chapter of the Apostolic Exhortation

### "Gaudete et Exsultate" of H.H. Francis

**The** Christian is always placed in the situation of having to choose whether to remain in the truth of his being from God or let himself be conquered by the prince of this world and his mortal seductions. In essence, Pope Francis asks us all to always give a reason of joy to Jesus the Lord, an assumption of evangelical celebration, which is born of our fidelity to his Word, fleeing evil and doing only good according to God. For this to happen he exhorted us to take special weapons: meditation of the Word of God, prayer, sacramental life, works of charity, communion, as well as missionary work.

Under these conditions, the disciple of the Lord can progress on that path which presents itself as "the development of good, spiritual maturation and growth in love" (GE 163), which will enable him to always choose Jesus and his Word and reject temptations. and sin.

This expression represents a heartfelt solicitation for all of us to come out of the shallows of spiritual mediocrity and open ourselves to the practice of sound discernment, without which an authentic Christian experience is not possible. Originally, discernment indicated the gift of the Holy Spirit that made it possible to distinguish between the words pronounced in the assemblies, those that came from the Spirit of Christ from those that came from other spirits (man, the world or the devil). Nevertheless, I would like to highlight how the first and fundamental discernment is that which makes it possible to distinguish

the Spirit of God and his works, from the spirit of the world (see 1 Cor 2:12). Paul offers the same criterion of discernment that Jesus gave even before: the one of the fruits. But also the discernment between the works of the flesh and those of the Spirit, indicate whether the heart is still old and sinful or new of the action of the Holy Spirit, since the flesh has desires contrary to the Spirit and vice versa.

Nevertheless, Pope Francis reveals that the criterion of the choice between good and evil is not sufficient for the Christian life, since it is also necessary to make discernment between one good and another, to see what the Lord wants, at a certain time and in a precise circumstance. Thus, if listening to the Word of God and prayer are necessary to be able "to recognize the times of God and his grace, so as not to waste the Lord's inspirations, in order not to let his invitation to grow fall" (GE 169), to exercise a good discernment it is also necessary to practice personal examination of conscience, as a constant ability to place oneself under the light of the Spirit, to let yourself be enlightened and scrutinized by Him, to recognize and grasp also the concrete means that the Lord predisposes on our path in order to better accomplish God's will. Discernment is a grace; practicing it means being docile to the Spirit, letting oneself be guided by Him. This allows us to "glimpse the mystery of the unique and unrepeatable project that God has for each one and which is realized in the most varied contexts and limits" (GE 170).

**Father Flavio Placida**

**The Lord's Day** FOR SURELY THE HAND OF THE LORD WAS WITH HIM  
(NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST - SOLEMNITY)  
ROMAN RITE

**FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB HE GAVE ME MY NAME (Is 49.1-6)**

The Lord wants every man to come to the knowledge of the truth. This is why he needs men who, in his name and with his authority, announce the Word and carry out his works. The call in the heart of the Father is from eternity. Some of these people have to fulfil a particular, special, unique mission in history and they are said to have been called from the mother's womb. In truth, the Scriptures certify that they are called even before being in the mother's womb. This is to reveal that the instruments of God are not for their merit, but for the most pure grace of the Lord. Merit is not in the vocation, but in the answer. The more one is faithful to the Lord in obedience, the greater will be our reward in heaven. The vocation, the ministry, the grace that is given is not our merit. It is the sole benevolence of our God. No one can boast before the Lord. In man everything is through his gift.

**AS JOHN WAS COMPLETING HIS COURSE, HE WOULD SAY (Acts 13, 12-26)**

The mission of John the Baptist is unique in the history of salvation. He was sent by God to bear witness to the truth, to the light. He will have to proclaim to the children of Israel that the Messiah they are waiting for is in the world, is among them, even if he has not yet manifested himself. We must attest that John was very faithful to the mandate received. Of Jesus he said: that He is not worthy to untie the lace of his sandals; that Jesus is before him and the before is an eternal before; that he will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire; that He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

And finally, before being put in prison, he attested to his disciples that Jesus is the Bridegroom, while he is only the friend of the Bridegroom, the friend who must lead the bride to the Bridegroom. He ended his mission by saying that Jesus must grow while he must decrease. A really perfect testimony.

**WHAT, THEN, WILL THIS CHILD BE? (Lk 1,57-66.80)**

Every invisible and mysterious action of God becomes visible because it is always transformed into history. If history were not there, God's action would not exist either, because outside God, his omnipotence produces and generates history and history is always visible. There is no invisible history. Even the most secret thought suggested by the Holy Spirit does not remain invisible, at the moment of its implementation, it is immediately transformed into visible history. John was filled with the Holy Spirit in the mother's womb. This action becomes immediately visible. The child winces in Elizabeth's womb. John is born and comes to the world. His father gives him the name and his tongue is immediately loosened. He sings his hymn of thanksgiving to our God. The people present and neighbours notice everything and know that God is in John and in the house of Zechariah. They know that in this child God manifested himself with his omnipotence. The child retires to deserted places. The mysterious action of the Spirit is not seen. The fruits are seen. The fruits are the ones that reveal and manifest that the Spirit is in us.

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