

APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT: FINAL REPORT ON THE SERVICE DONE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CATANZARO-SQUILLACE YEAR XXXIX - 2017/18 (PART 4 OF 4)

(...) The Apostolic Movement has participated in the various liturgical and pastoral events organized by the Diocese. Among others, we mention in particular:

- Biblical Course held at Roccelletta in Borgia from 11 to 13 September;

- Diocesan convention held at the Politeama theater on October 19, 2017, on the theme: "Catholics and politics: diaspora, irrelevance, recomposition?";

- The missionary vigil of October 21; the vigil of young people on 25 November, the diocesan Peace March, 27 January 2018; the Pentecost Vigil;

- The opening of the pastoral visit, January 28, 2018, Basilica of the Immaculate;

- Meeting on "Institution and charisma in the Church in the light of *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*", 18 April 2018, at Petri Room;

- Diocesan pilgrimages with all the Laical Aggregations at the Shrine of Porto, April 25, and at the Sanctuary of Torre di Ruggiero, on Ascension Sunday.

- Convention "The moral question in Aldo Moro and Enrico Berlinguer: an interrupted dialogue", on April 26, 2018, Auditorium S. Pius X Seminary;

- Meeting "Where is the Church with Pope Francis going", May 9, 2018, Mater Domini Church;

- Meetings of Catechists and pastoral workers, in June, in four separate meetings for each area of the diocese;

- Celebration dedicated to movements during the St. Vitalian novena;

- Processions through the streets of the city of Catanzaro of the "Naca", of the "Corpus Domini" and of "St. Vitalian".

The members of A.M. have been present in the various parish pastoral sectors: evangelization, catechism, liturgy and sacraments, pastoral councils, caritas, voluntary and missionary service, pastoral care of the sick and youth ministry...

The Consecrated Lay members of the Secular Institute "Mary Mother of the Redemption", for the whole pastoral year, offered the animation of the Eucharistic Adoration, held in the Rectory of Montecorvino and in the St. Ianni parish, led by the spiritual assistant Fr. Domenico Concolico.

The eight evenings organized by fr. Domenico Concolino with the collaboration of the Apostolic Movement as a part of the Ekklesia project ("Life and mission of the first Christians") and the meetings held on the 4 Sundays of May on "Christian holiness" from the Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father "Gaudete et exsultate" have been particularly attended.

The catechesis, spirituality meetings, conferences, the Apostolic Movement periodical and the website www.movimentoapostolico.it, are some of the tools used by A.M. to transmit the faith. We have made use of modern means of diffusion such as Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, YouTube and Instagram, also using foreign languages (English and French).

The Dioc. Eccl. Assistant fr. Francesco Brancaccio

The Diocesan Secretary, Prof. Concetta Silipo

The Diocesan Responsible,

Dr. Luigi Bigagnoli- Prof. Adele Pelaggi



The Father, God, has placed his seal on him

The Letter to the Hebrews reveals who Jesus the Lord is. He is not only the Word of God that gives fulfilment to every other Word of God previously announced. Of God Jesus is also the irradiation of his glory and imprint of his substance and eternal seal of the divine nature: "God, who many times and in different ways in ancient times had spoken to the fathers through the prophets, lately, in these days, has spoken to us through the Son, that he established heir to all things and through whom he also made the world. He is the irradiation of his glory and the imprint of his substance and sustains everything with his powerful word. After having accomplished the purification of sins, he sat at the right hand of the majesty in the highest heavens, having become so much superior to the angels as much more excellent than theirs is the name he inherited" (Hebrews 1: 1-4). The seal is authenticity. The Father authenticated Christ Jesus as his true eternal Son. The eternal Son, having come in the flesh, authenticates the truth of every Word of the Father. If the ancient Word becomes flesh, history, event and truth in Christ, it is true Word of the Father. If it does not become all this in Christ, it is not the Word of the Father.

The seal placed by the Father on Christ the Lord does not concern only the ancient words, those of yesterday, but every Word that Jesus will say until the advent of the new heavens and the new earth. Today Jesus says that He is the Bread that the Father gives from heaven for the whole world and He will be Bread for the whole world. As every Word of the Father is sealed by Jesus in his truth, so

every Word of the Son is sealed by the Father through its fulfilment. The Word of the Son is always fulfilled. The Word that is not of the Son might never be fulfilled. This also applies to us. We have deprived Christ Jesus in his being the seal of truth, authenticity, light, wisdom, intelligence and purity of every Word of the Father. We are saying that every other word is the word of salvation. History infallibly denies our affirmation. Since it is only governed by the Word of God, it will never let itself be governed by the word of man. Every day it turns against us and shows us all our foolishness, idiocy, deception, lie and idolatry of man and his words.

It is right to make another passage. As the Father placed his seal on the Son, so Christ Jesus placed his seal on the disciples. Christ never denied, betrayed and disobeyed the Father. He did everything from his will and his heart. If the disciple wants to be the seal of Christ, he too must work and say everything from the heart of Christ and his Holy Spirit. As Christ dwells in the bosom of the Father, so too does the disciple must dwell in the bosom of Christ. He lives in the bosom of Christ if he imitates Christ. Jesus sealed the Word of the Father first for his person and then for others. He became obedient up to death by Cross. Even the first disciple must seal for himself the whole Word of Christ and only later for others. But a disciple that no longer believes in the Word of his Master and does not seal it for himself, as the only Word of eternal life, might he ever seal it for others? Mother of God, help the disciples of Jesus so that they seal the Word for themselves. They might seal it for others.

Father Costantino Di Bruno

Movimento Apostolico

Non-profit Apostolic Movement Weekly.
Free distribution. Publisher: Apostolic Movement
Responsible Director: Costantino Di Bruno.

With ecclesiastical approval of the
Archbishopric Curia of Catanzaro-Squillace.

Authorization no. 75 of 8-2-1990 of the Court of Lamezia Terme.
Directorate, Editorial, Administration: Via B. Musolino, 23/E, Catanzaro.

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Printed by the press office of the Apostolic Movement

EVERY BREATH OF LIFE IS A MYSTERY OF SALVATION ...

Reflections starting from the Speech of H.H. Francis to the Pontifical Academy for Life (25.6.2018)

In his address to the Pontifical Academy of Life, the Holy Father invites everyone to have a "global vision of bioethics", free from partiality that would inevitably lead to a trivialization of this very important science in our day. The word "bioethics" indicates the ethics of life, to be understood as the special gift of God that we are all called to preserve. But which life do we talk about? Of life in its entirety, which must always be loved and directed towards eternal life: "There is a conceived human life, a life in gestation, a life that has come to light, a child's life, a teenage life, an adult life, an aged and consummated life - and exists eternal life" (Speech). The Pope reminds us that from the moment of conception to the last natural breath one speaks of earthly life, but also that this must be lived as a function of eternal life.

As life exists in its phases of growth, there is a different life according to existential situations: "There is fragile and sick human life, wounded, offended, dejected, marginalized, discarded life. [But it] is always human life. It is the life of human persons" (Speech). There is a beautiful passage from the Gospel that helps us to reflect: "Be careful and keep away from all greed because, even if one is in abundance, his life does not depend on what he possesses" (Lk 12,15). This passage refers to material wealth, but the reference to "his life" which "does not depend on what he possesses" could be applied to the wealth of health, mobility and respect. Even if these things were to fail, life would maintain its highest value, because it does not depend on these things owned or not.

Every life is to be lived, every life is useful, it is an instrument of God to save the world, and the love of God envelops all life (see Psalm 63.4).

Continuing, the Pope has indicated sin as the only enemy of life: "When we hand over children to deprivation, the poor to hunger, the persecuted to war, the old to abandonment, are not we the ones that do, instead, the "dirty" work of death? Where does, in fact, the dirty work of death come from? It comes from sin" (Speech). But what is sin? It is simply disobedience to the laws of the Lord, it is "loving" in a manner different from what the One who is Love has indicated to us in his Commandments, it is "serving" man according to the personal will and not according to the will of God.

The words of Jesus are eloquent: "If you want to enter into life, keep the Commandments" (Mt 19,17). Every disobedience to the laws of the Lord is a sin against life, it is an impediment to the attainment of that eternal life which is the ultimate goal of every man: "The culture of life must look more seriously at the "serious question" of its ultimate destination. [...] The Church teaches that eschatological hope does not diminish the importance of earthly commitments, but on the contrary gives new reasons to support their implementation" (Speech).

Virgin Mary, Angels and Saints, help us to understand that every breath of life that the Lord grants us is a mystery of salvation, of purification, of redemption and of eternal life.

Father Antonio Severino

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

SIR, GIVE US THIS BREAD ALWAYS
(XVIII SUNDAY O.T. YEAR B)

In the morning you shall have your fill of bread (Exodus 16.2-4.12-15)

The sons of Israel came out of Egypt bringing supplies for their livelihood. Supplies end. The journey to the Promised Land is a long, very long one. Either one is fed or he dies. But we are in a desert. The people, remembering what the Lord had already done for it, he had also divided the Red Sea into two, could have humbly asked the Lord to provide for its bread, its flesh and its water. Instead it does it with anger, contempt and denial of liberation from slavery. It murmurs against God and Moses saying foolish and insipid words. The Lord listens, intervenes and shows them his omnipotence, gives them quails by changing the direction of the wind, makes water gush from the rock and makes bread come down from the sky, not for a day, but for forty years. But, though living every day with this miracle, the people have always doubted their God.

Put on the new self (Eph 4.17.20-24)

The Christian is obliged to show with history the great difference of a life lived in faith, in charity and in hope that are in Christ Jesus and that work in him through the power of the Holy Spirit and of the one lived before, without Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. If faith in Christ, baptism and the Holy Spirit do not make a substantial difference in him, his faith is vain. Not only is it vain but also a great scandal operator. The pagan does not see any difference between his life according to the thought of the world and that of Christians lived according to the thought of Christ, manifested in his Word and he never will be

converted. If you are an adulterer and I am an adulterer, why should I be converted? But if you are chaste, loyal, pure and you overcome every concupiscence of the flesh, then I a pagan, must reflect. I no longer have any justification for my immorality. It can be overcome. Being clothed with Christ is living like Christ.

I am the bread of life (Jn 6,24-35)

Jesus makes a substantial distinction between the manna given by God at the time of Moses in the desert and the true Bread that He is and that the Father gives from heaven. The bread given in the desert was a bread that did not save from death. Death is the fruit of disobedience, rebellion, murmuring and insipid words against the Lord. That bread did not immediately lead the children of Israel to the land of Canaan. It did not prevent their rebellion against the Lord and the refusal to go and conquer the land. For this rejection everyone died in the desert. The bread that gives life, that is gives perfect obedience, is Christ Jesus. It is his Word that is of eternal life. But not even his Word might be lived. Even against it one can sin of non faith. Then, Jesus also gives himself as flesh to be eaten and blood to be drunk. By eating Him we will live for Him. By drinking His blood, divine life will flow in man and it will be possible to obey the Word so as not to die forever. Jesus gives himself as the Word of light and truth. He gives himself as flesh and blood so that his Word may become our flesh and our blood.

by the theologian,
Father Costantino Di Bruno