

The Apostolic Movement and the pastoral care of the sick

The adhering members of the Apostolic Movement, wishing to live their charisma of remembrance and proclamation of the Gospel, are trained continuously, with the help of catechesis and specific formation meetings. In order to be given to the brother, the gospel must be personally known and lived, first. There are different areas of ecclesial and social life in which they are involved. Among these, always following the example and the loving exhortations of the Inspirer and Founder, Mrs. Maria Marino, there is a particular attention to the pastoral care of the sick person.

There has been for quite some time, a need to form stable groups of adhering members who volunteer in retirement homes, clinics, hospitals or families. In these places, faithful laity and consecrated sisters led by Fr Francesco Cristofaro, coordinator of the pastoral care of the sick of the Apostolic Movement, animate the Holy Mass, the Holy Rosary, with songs and mimes but also with entertaining and recreational activities.

In the Catanzaro-Squillace diocese we are present in different places: nursing homes, homes for the elderly, with the aim of animating and comforting the sick and hospitalized: Casa Mater Amabilis in Upper Guardavalle, the House of the Gerardine Sisters in Inland Soverato, the Father Pius Oasis

in Giovino in Catanzaro, The Sacred Heart House of Catanzaro, The "Hope" Community in Simeri Crichi.

Let us remain human and start weaving again the world of shared bread, of the given tunic and of a story that sprouts justice. Let us remain prophets, even though small, and let us start telling again of a God who dances around every creature saying: "You make me happy". And of happiness are imbued the hours we spend with the elderly. They welcome us with open arms and big smiles.

Led by a priest we are always in the habit of opening the meeting with a prayer which is then followed by many popular songs and, in this period, traditional Christmas carols. Hearts soon begin to melt in the presence of unexpected and disinterested signs. At the sound of a guitar and of an accordion, some start dancing others singing; the atmosphere created removes the many hard thoughts and gives way to joy and light-heartedness. The farewell is always accompanied by the thoughtful recommendation of the elderly: when are we going to see each other again?

And so, we go away and leave behind us some more or less sick, more or less elderly men, some that can walk, others that lean on a stick, some that need to be pushed on a wheelchair, others that shout and some others that shut their ears not to hear the screaming that goes on; but they are all marked by a common destiny: long hours sitting on a chair, an armchair and a sofa, waiting for lunch time, for the afternoon snack or dinner and then they go back to bed with the hope that insomnia does not dominate them; and that is the cyclical repetition of each day.

As soon as we get in the car to go back home we say to each other: "we must return soon to our grannies".

Anna Consoli and Gregorio Sia



You are my son, the beloved

Every man is a child of God. However, not every man is a child of God with the same approach or in the same way. If we are all by creation, because we have been made by Him in his image and after his likeness, we are not all due to obedience to our nature. With sin we have renounced our creatural childhood and have handed ourselves over to Satan, who is the father of lie and falsehood. But God has not ceased to be the Father of his creature and has always gone to meet him to call him to return to his obedience. Childhood by vocation is born. Every man is called to place himself under obedience to the Lord, listening to his voice and living according to his Word. Every man who lives as a son of God in obedience must call every other man to live also as a son of God in obedience.

But there is an entirely special, unique and unrepeatable childhood of no one else. It is the childhood by eternal generation. This childhood by generation is only of the Eternal Word, of the Only Son, of Christ the Lord. Only Jesus in his divine Person is the son by eternal generation by the Father. He alone is Light from Light, true God from true God, generated and not created, of the same substance of the Father. This eternal generation makes the substantial difference with every other man. By generation all men are born from Adam and Eve and they are born with the heavy inheritance of sin. Jesus also, as a man, has no father according to the flesh. He is born of the Virgin Mary, by the work of the Holy Spirit. Even

as a true man, the eternal Son of the Father is born of Mary, but for a great, unrepeatable and divine intervention, which is a mystery to every mind. The eternal Word which is born of the Virgin Mary is only one Person, the divine Person of the Eternal Word, and he subsists in the two natures, the true divine nature and the true human nature. This truth, this divine and human essence, is only of Jesus and nobody else's. Every other man is by generation only son of Adam.

Every son of Adam is called to become, in the eternal Son of the Father, being born from water and Holy Spirit, true son of adoption of God. It is not a juridical adoption, but one of nature. In the Holy Spirit we are generated by God as his true sons and through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Father makes us sharers in his divine nature. This too is a mystery beyond our mind and our very heart. As children of Adam through baptism we become children of God, in his Son Jesus Christ and we are made heirs of every grace, truth, justice, holiness, eternal life and paradise. But today many children of the Church are denying both the eternal generation of the Word of God, his incarnation and the mystery of redemption. Christ is said to be equal to every other man. But the generation of water and Holy Spirit is also denied. Baptized and not baptized are the same thing. For many, baptism is a useless ritual. Mother of God, bring us back to the sources of the purest and most holy truth and faith.

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THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE DIOCESAN CLERGY

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SPEECH OF H.H. FRANCIS

TO THE SEMINARIANS OF THE AGRIGENTO ARCHDIOCESE (11.24.2018)

Addressing the seminarians, the Holy Father Francis intended to exhort the future clergy to live the diocesan life as a spirituality on which to focus his own priestly path, through three particular relationships: "The first is the relationship with the Bishop, (...) one cannot be a good diocesan priest without the relationship with the Bishop. Second: the relationship in the presbytery. Friendship among you. (...) Being harmonious, in harmony. This is a grace that you must ask the Holy Spirit. (...) He is harmony. The Holy Spirit seems a little strange, because with the charismas - because all of you are different - he creates, so to speak, like a disorder: all different. But then he has the power to make out of that disorder a richer order, with many different charismas that do not nullify each person's personality. The Holy Spirit is the one that makes unity: unity in the presbytery. (...) And third: the relationship with the people of God. We are called by the Lord to serve the Lord in the people of God" (Speech).

Referring to the image of the potter present in the book of prophet Jeremiah - "Oracle of the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the hands of the potter, so you are in my hands, house of Israel" (Jer 18, 6) -, the Holy Father stresses the importance of the formation of the future presbyter, who must draw the grace of God to be a shepherd of the people, and not a State cleric (cf. Speech).

In the seminary, the good formation of the presbyter, who learns to identify the ministry in the sound and filial relationship with his Bishop, begins. The Bishop is constituted to constantly generate in the prie-

sts, in their soul and in their spirit, the love of the Father, the communion of the Spirit and the grace of Christ. He supports the human and spiritual growth of priests. Being constantly in contact with them, the Bishop prepares them and generates them for the mission to sanctify the people by bringing it Christ. He is the father in the faith that helps the establishment of unity.

The priest must always remain connected to this source of life. By drawing his truth from the bishop, he becomes, in the presbytery, a gift of grace for all his brethren. A gift of true salvation that is realized through the fulfilment of the ministry according to the laws of Christ and of the Church, and thanks to the fructification of personal charismas.

Every priest is called by the Lord to fulfil His divine will with a daily spiritual service, offering his life for the salvation of every man. Having become one single life, one single will and one heart in Christ, the priest, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, is constituted an instrument of grace and divine truth, in order to lead every soul into the kingdom of heaven. He is the shepherd who must imbue with the perfume of his holiness and of his truth - with a perfect obedience to the will of the heavenly Father -, all the flock entrusted to him.

Virgin Mother of the Redemption, ensure that every priest, on the model of your Son Jesus, is an ascending ladder to Heaven for every man met by him; in his teaching and in his life, he is a true teacher, able to show clearly, the light of perfect faith and authentic evangelical morality.

Father Massimo Amelio

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED UPON HIM
(Baptism of the Lord - Year C)

HERE IS YOUR GOD! (Is 40.1-5.9-11)

There is a substantial difference between the coming of the Lord in the Old Testament and the one in the New. Before the coming of our God was of salvation, liberation, protection, custody from enemies external to man. The Lord came and freed his people from the slavery of other peoples and also guarded it so that no one could harm it. Today the coming of God is in the flesh. He comes in His Only Son to free man from invisible enemies, such as sin, eternal death, all evil and the prince of this world. He also comes to work, through faith, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the generation of every man as a true child of adoption, but in Christ, with Christ and through Christ, making him a son of God, in his Son Jesus Christ. Today the Lord comes in the flesh, he comes to redeem every flesh, he comes to make us one body in Christ, in whom our true salvation is. But who believes in this coming anymore?

HEIRS OF ETERNAL LIFE (Tt 2,11-14)

In his Letters, St. Paul first announces the mystery that is accomplished for the faith and baptism in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit and then he reveals what the fruits that the baptism must produce, as true obedience to the new nature received, are. With baptism we are made sons in the Son of God. In the Son we become heirs of eternal life. But who has the right to receive the inheritance of Jesus? Who, like Jesus, lives as a true son of God, true new creature, true member of the body of Christ and true disciple of Jesus. Who denies his childhood, his new being and returns to live according to his old na-

ture, plunging into sin and idolatry, renounces the right to inherit eternal life. He possesses it forever for his regeneration; he cannot take advantage of this right for abdication. If he does not return to true childhood and does not obey his new nature, exclusion from the kingdom of God is eternal.

**WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED
(Lk 3,15-16.21-22).**

The Lord places his satisfaction in the one who chooses and sends to fulfil the mission entrusted by him. Jesus, the Eternal Son of the Father, generated by Him before all centuries, who became flesh and came to dwell among us full of grace and truth, is sent by the Father to work the salvation of every man. He is the only Son given by the Father to the world so that whoever believes in him does not die, but has life in his name. Today the Father not only declares him his Christ, his Messiah, he also fills him with the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Spirit is placed on him in a visible form as a dove. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled. From this moment on man has his Saviour and his Redeemer. Since salvation and redemption are accomplished in those who believe in the Only Son of the Father and accept his Word as the one and only Word of eternal life, from today until the moment of his death Jesus will not only announce the Word of eternal life, but will also attest with signs, miracles and wonders that He really is the Christ and the Messiah. He will give the last proof of his truth on the day of his glorious resurrection.

*by the theologian,
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