

Apostolic Movement: Final report on the service carried out in the Catanzaro-Squillace Archdiocese Year XL - 2018/19 (Part 2 of 4)

Day 1st October 2018, in the parish church "Mary Mother of the Church" in Catanzaro, H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone, Metropolitan Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace, with a Eucharistic Co-celebration, inaugurated the catechesis programmed by the Apostolic Movement for the year 2018-19, which had as its theme: "The people of the New Covenant". The Bishop, after addressing a fatherly greeting to the founder Mrs. Maria Marino, to the central assistant Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno, to the priests, to the consecrated women and to everyone present, invited the Apostolic Movement to have courage and confidence to continue in its own work of mission and love for the neighbour.

In the same celebration, he accepted the profession of temporary and permanent vows of various consecrated persons in the Public association "Mary Mother of the Redemption".

During the year, the catecheses were held every Monday by the central assistant Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno. The formation and spirituality meetings were led by several priests in the respective areas, in particular at the Stella Maris Church in Sellia Marina,

the St. Francis of Paola Parish in Catanzaro, the parish of St. Mary of Peace in Satriano by the Sea, the Mater Domini parish in Catanzaro and the parish of S. Nicholas in Albi.

On 8 October 2018 we had the joy of welcoming H. E. Msgr. Markus Büchel, Bishop of the diocese of St. Gall in Switzerland, visiting our diocese. He presided over Mass with the adherents of the Apostolic Movement in the Mary Mother of the Church parish.

On January 4, 2019, in communion with the message of the Holy Father Francis for the 52nd World Peace Day, the young people of the A.M. presented, with two shows (6.00 pm and 9.00 pm), a "Concert of Peace" at the Auditorium "A. Casalinuovo" in Catanzaro. The show, conceived by Cettina Marraffa, saw the participation of musicians, young people, children who transmitted moments of joy and revived the Christmas spirit. Some associations and institutions concerned in following fragile persons were also involved, arousing so much emotion in those present.

The commitment of the Apostolic Movement, in the service of charity in the parishes and in the areas of daily life has always been a present and constant commitment. Several adherents have worked in canteens for the poor, in visits to the sick at home, in clinics, in hospitals, in nursing homes and in residences for the elderly and in distance adoptions (Madagascar, India, Cameroon). The group of volunteers who are involved in the service at the health residences is coordinated by Fr Francesco Cristofaro and lends its work consistently to various structures in the diocesan territory.

(it continues)



All that the Father possesses is mine

Christ Jesus is the universal Mediator between the Father and his creation. He is the light, truth, grace, mercy, compassion, justice, holiness, love, judgment, revelation, the Word, the Law, the Gospel, consolation, hope and eternal life of the Father. For Christ, in Christ and with Christ, the Father gives himself to every man. For Christ, in Christ and with Christ, every man enters into communion of salvation, redemption and eternal beatitude with the Father. We take Christ away, we separate ourselves from Him, we don't announce Him, we don't preach his Gospel, we don't give Him, we don't welcome Him, the fruit is inevitable. One is without the True Father, the true God and the true Lord. He remains without the true man, the man called to be redeemed and saved in Christ, for Christ and with Christ. There remains a man who is from the flesh and not from the Holy Spirit: "Verily, verily, I say to you, if one is not born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised if I told you: you must be born from above. The wind blows where it wants and you hear its voice, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes: so is anyone born of the Spirit" (Jn 3: 5-8). The fruits of these two men are not the same.

The Christian is called to always let himself be led by wisdom, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit, in turn a gift of Christ Jesus, which reaches every man through his body which is the Church and in the Church by the way of Christ's ministers and of the administrators of the mysteries of God. It is

proper to wisdom to know that without the tree a fruit might never ripen. Who wants the fruit, must plant the tree. Who wants the fruits of the Holy Spirit, he must plant the Holy Spirit in the hearts. But the Holy Spirit is planted in only one way: making every man the body of Christ and this happens through Baptism. We preach Christ, we get converted to his mystery, we believe in his Word, we let ourselves be baptized, we walk in his grace and truth, we can produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is the utmost foolishness to think of reaping the fruits of the Spirit of the Lord, leaving man in the flesh, because Christ is not preached, we do not get converted to him, we do not believe in him and Baptism is refused.

True faith is also an argument of wisdom and intelligence. Whoever declares Christ no longer useful to man, he also declares the Holy Spirit no longer useful. Without Christ, the Spirit is not given. Without the Spirit faith becomes human thought, consequently morality also becomes the thought of man and no longer obedience to an Eternal law that comes from the heart of the Father, through Christ and in the Holy Spirit. Then everything becomes liquid thought: God the Father, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Gospel, morality and the Church herself. Everything is deprived of its objective truth, to which every disciple of Jesus owes obedience and every other man is called to the same obedience. Mother of God, come to our rescue. Give each of your children the will to announce Christ in the fullness of the truth of the Holy Spirit.

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno

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LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

*Reflections starting from the Hearing of H.H. Francis
on the Our Father /14 (1.5.2019)*

"Lead us not into temptation" or "Do not abandon us into temptation"? What is the right formula to use in our Father? Bearing in mind that "all the modern translations are a bit limping" (Hearing) and therefore leaving aside exegetical questions that could confuse the simplest souls, it is opportune to grasp - together with the Holy Father - some truths present in all Scriptures that help us recite with the right attitude this wonderful prayer, that came out of the very heart of Christ Jesus.

The first truth that must be affirmed with all clarity, is that the Heavenly Father loves us with an eternal love, he never deceives us and never induces us to sin or gives us permission to do so (see Sir 16,11-20). On the contrary, he likes our perfect obedience to his will and ardently desires that each of us be saved. Therefore, "we must exclude that God is the protagonist of the temptations that hang over man's path. [...] Let us not forget: "Our Father" begins with "Father". And a father does not make pitfalls for his children. Christians are not dealing with an envious God, in competition with man, or that enjoys putting him to the test. [...] Rather, when evil makes itself be felt in the life of a man, the Father fights at his side, so that he can be freed from it "(Audience).

The temptation does not come from God. It has as its author and director Satan, who, far from being an invention of the Church, is a rebellious angel who works to lead every man with him to Hell. He is the father of lies, the false prophet par excellence, a wicked and cunning being who knows how to make an army of collaborators, among men and women of all times, to devour his prey without mercy. The existence of Satan is the

Church's faith and a historical truth that must never be overlooked, let alone denying it. Whoever were to do it, let him know that he is in grave error and does not believe either in Sacred Scripture or in the Tradition of the Church: "Many people say:" But why speak of the devil which is an ancient thing? The devil does not exist". But look at what the Gospel teaches you: Jesus confronted himself with the devil, he was tempted by Satan. But Jesus rejects every temptation and comes out victorious" (Audience). What is revealed in the Bible is not a fairy tale. It is eternal truth that never sets.

The heavenly Father allows us to be tempted, but always supports us with his grace in the battle against the evil that is consumed "on the ground of the confrontation between our freedom and the snares of the evil one" (Audience). But each of us must choose, moment by moment, to serve the Lord and invoke him with confidence day and night, in the awareness that without his help and knowledge of his will it is not possible to recognize and overcome temptations. Jesus himself warned us and it is up to us to believe in his words: «Watch and pray, so as not to enter into temptation. The spirit is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mt 26:41).

In our faith, which becomes prayer and availability of the heart to perfect obedience to God, the Lord will always triumph and we will with him. The Father loves us and will not allow us to fall into the jaws of the enemy.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, who crushed the head of the ancient serpent, help us and support us with her powerful intercession.

Father Lucio Bellantoni

**The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE**

**HE WILL TAKE FROM WHAT IS MINE
(MOST HOLY TRINITY - Year C)**

FROM OF OLD I WAS Poured FORTH
(Pr 8,22-31)

The Holy Spirit is Uncreated Wisdom in God, from eternity for eternity. The Only Begotten Son of the Father is the Uncreated Truth in God, from eternity for eternity. Through the Wisdom of the Spirit we know who the Father is. Through the Truth of the Son, the truth of the Father is being shared to us by creation. The Father accomplishes nothing except by the Holy Spirit and by the Son. All that was done was done for the Son, for his truth, for the Holy Spirit and for his Wisdom. Since God made man in his image and likeness, no man can live according to this truth, except by the Holy Spirit and by Christ. We are detached from Christ, we are without the Holy Spirit. One is without the Holy Spirit, he does not possess the truth of the Father. The Father is not known. Every man by creation is from the mystery of the Trinity God. By redemption he must necessarily be from the Trinity God. He must be from the Father, through the Incarnate Word and in the Holy Spirit.

THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Rom 5: 1-5)

Christ is everything of the Father: eternal life, charity, justice, salvation, redemption, mercy, piety, compassion, forgiveness and holiness. The Church announces Christ. Christ is welcomed in the fullness of his truth. One is baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit generates us as true children of the Father, making us children of God, in his Son Jesus Christ. We are poured into Christ, Christ is poured into us. Through the Holy Spirit, moved by him, supported and guided by him, we can realize Christ in his mystery of death and resurrection. When Christ

dwells with the fullness of his love and truth in us, we produce fruits of truth and love and with them we can nourish many hearts, many minds and many souls. Everything depends on the extent of our conformation to Christ Jesus, the perennial work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. If we separate ourselves from Christ, we are without the Spirit. We are dry trees.

HE WILL GUIDE YOU TO ALL THE TRUTH (Jn 16: 12-15)

Until the moment of the glorious ascension into heaven it was Jesus the one who guided the Apostles to the mystery of his truth. After the Holy Spirit was the one who took them into his custody and reminded them of all that Jesus had done and taught. As in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit had inspired hagiographers to put on the scroll all the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, that is all the work of the Lord in favour of his people, so now the Holy Spirit inspires Apostles and Evangelists to fix on the papyrus or on the parchment the whole mystery of Christ Jesus and its first understandings. The Holy Scripture ends with the death of the last Apostle. The whole journey of its understanding that will never end, begins. The mystery of Christ the Lord is not only eternal, divine, infinite, celestial and human, since He is true God and true man, it is also the mystery from which we know every other mystery. Without Christ it is the darkness on God and on man, on the present and the future, on life and on death. The Spirit comes and illuminates the body of Christ so that the mystery may become ever clearer, plainer, more shining and without shadows.

by the theologian,

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno