

Switzerland - Life of the Apostolic Movement (2018/19)

In a context where socialization is neither immediate nor easy due to historical and social contingencies, we have seen the proliferation of participation in all the activities promoted by the Apostolic Movement in parishes and missions. Thanks to the ecclesiastical assistance of Fr Piero Corea, the AM has offered organic and systematic catechesis open to all in all the seats; all the adherents and interested persons were able to attend monthly training meetings: in Rorschach and St. Gallen - for the Diocese of St. Gall and for those arriving from neighboring Austria - and Schaffhausen - for the Diocese of Basel and for those who come from neighboring Germany. To do the catechesis or attend formation meetings they travel dozens, often hundreds of kilometers, but it is done with love. Enthusiasm is a driving force with which messages are conveyed, but then it gives way to personal training, spiritual guidance, inclusion in the parish and/or mission.

Thanks to the untiring missionary zeal of the adherents, the AM offers liturgical animation and welcoming in many places; the children's catechism in the Mission of St. Gall and Rorschach; visits to the sick and elderly in hospices. Missionary activity is the sine qua non condition of the Movement: in communion and in constant contact with the Central Seat of Catanzaro we have applied the programmatic lines respecting the habits and uses of the place and of people.

The AM has always been present and alongside its Bishop, whenever its presence has been requested. The AM enjoyed the pa-

ternal attention of the Bishop of the Diocese of San Gallen, H.E. Msgr. Markus Büchel, who traveled to meet the AM at the Central Seat in October: "Now I believe not what you told me but what I saw myself," he said encouraging us on this journey.

A further great moment was the participation in the AM Convention in Catanzaro: a group of Swiss, German and Austrian responsible adherents accepted the invitation of the President to be present, giving testimony of an awake, lively faith in precisely "movement".

A moment full of grace was also the meeting with the Auxiliary Bishop of Basel H.E. Msgr. Denis Theurillat - responsible among others of the Groups, Movements and Associations in the diocese - to whom we turned to ask for authorization to hold training meetings in a parish hall in Schaffhausen; he also blessed us after having listened to us and invited us to continue.

Among the adherents there are many people: male and female professionals, workers, mothers and fathers of families, girls and boys who put their time, their talents at disposal. And often these talents, such as welcoming, singing or dancing, soften the heart and an unhardened heart lets itself be approached by the Word of the Gospel. In a land of "free churches", where it is easy for the individual to make himself a god in his own way, to call himself Catholic Christians is almost "madness". Going to Mass is outdated. And yet since the AM operates in our Dioceses, so many people fill the churches and missions. People thirst for God, for that God who speaks through the Gospel, for that God who truly loves as a merciful and just Father. And we all feel being responsible for the immense love that God has poured over us through the Apostolic Movement. That is why we walk and live, striving to be little tools in the hands of God, who entrust themselves to the Mother of the Redemption, to the Angels and to the Saints to remind the world of the Word of Jesus.

Caterina Corea



The workers are few!

The Mission of Christ Jesus is not only towards a tribe or a single people, but towards the whole world and throughout history, that is until the time of his Parusia, or return on the clouds of heaven. It is evident that Jesus the Lord, limited in time and space by his humanity, cannot be simultaneously in every place and with every man. Having to be the missionary of the father towards all, He first associates the Twelve Apostles and then another seventy two disciples to his mission. With twelve Apostles as the foundation of his church and with seventy two disciples, many men can already be reached and the Gospel of Grace, of life and of eternal salvation can be announced to them. Are these workers enough? No. The harvest is very, very abundant. The workers are few. Without harvesters the grain is lost. Without shepherds the flocks are dispersed. Without binders the sycamores decay. The whole harvest rots.

Jesus prays and the Father, in the Holy Spirit, gets Twelve Apostles and seventy two disciples involved in his mission. Each apostle must pray so that the father gets also involved twelve other apostles and seventy two disciples with him. And so also every disciple must pray so that the Lord also gives him another seventy two missionaries for the diffusion of the gospel, the gift of grace and the care of the father's flock. Why is this prayer necessary? For as Christ is responsible for the salvation of the whole world and not only of a part of it, so also every apostle and disciple is responsible for the salvation of every man in the time in which he lives and also for the future until the end of history. You are re-

sponsible for the present and the future. All the mystery of salvation is in our hands, in our hearts and in our prayer. If we do not pray so that the Lord sends new workers, apostles and disciples, for every soul that is lost, we are responsible before the Lord on judgment day. Today we can also waste time in unnecessary, vain, foolish and insipid diatribes. Even these diatribes will have to be accountable to God. The Lord will always ask us, "Where are my sheep? Why did you let them skid? Why have you deprived them of my nourishment? "

Every decision that the disciple of Jesus takes must always be directed to the end to be pursued which is only one: "Gathering the sheep of the father, leading them into the fold of Christ Jesus, enlightening them with the light of the Holy Spirit, nourishing them of most pure truth and grace, supporting them with prayer, encouraging them with a perfect exemplarity in every virtue, praying so that no sheep is lost and all form a single sheepfold under one shepherd." If the disciple of Jesus separates his life from the salvation of the sheep, then it is no longer life from the will of the father, from the heart of Christ and from the truth of the Holy Spirit. It is a life without a real mission. The disciple can do everything without mission: from the celebration of the sacraments, to prayer, to teaching and to every donation of the Lord's Word. All these things can be done without the supernatural and eternal end. Mother of God, ensure that we never forget the end of our mission: gathering into the sheepfold of Christ Jesus all the sheep of the father.

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno

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IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS

Reflections from the Message of H.H. Francis for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019

There is an expression that returns several times in the Message of Pope Francis for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees: "It is not just about migrants". It is not a speech to speak only of migrants and refugees. The heart of this message is man and his highest dignity. If man is not treated as a man, if in our categories of thought there are men to be welcomed and others to be discarded, people to love and others to be isolated, human beings recognized as such with rights and others cataloged as a number, a problem to be eliminated and an annoyance to be solved, if there are brothers who are victims of trafficking, of abuse, exploitation, where is the logic of the Gospel, the teaching of Christ, the will of God and that attitude of Christ who is the one that feels compassion here?

In the Pope's speech an invitation is evident: "The presence of migrants and refugees - as, in general, of vulnerable people - represents today an invitation to recover some essential dimensions of our Christian existence and of our humanity, which risk falling asleep in a lifestyle full of comfort. This is why "it is not just about migrants", that is to say: taking an interest in them we are also taking an interest in ourselves, in everyone; taking care of them, we also take an interest of us and of all; taking care of them, we all grow; by listening to them we also give voice to that part of us that perhaps we keep hidden because today it is not well seen» (Message).

There is a risk, that of thinking, of saying: "I'm fine, everyone is fine". It is not so. God did not create us to be fine on our own (cf. Gn 2,18-22) and he asks us to be custodians

of one another (cf. Gn 4,1-16). Moreover love is not only towards those who love us (cf. Mt 5:46). This is why "It is not just about migrants: it is a matter of charity. Through the works of charity we show our faith (cf. Jas 2:18). And the highest charity is that which is exercised towards those who are unable to reciprocate and perhaps not even to thank" (cit.).

Jesus is the one who has compassion and every Christian must imitate him because: "The face we want to give ourselves as a society and the value of every life is at stake. [...] Above all, the progress of our peoples [...] depends on the capacity to let oneself be stirred and moved by who knocks at the door and with his look discredits and weakens all the false idols that jeopardise and enslave life" (cit.).

Pope Francis invites everyone to look at the good Samaritan of the Gospel (cf. Lk 10:33): "What drives that Samaritan - a foreigner with respect to the Jews - to stop is compassion, a feeling that cannot be explained only on the rational level. Compassion touches the most sensitive strings of our humanity, causing an urgent push to "make oneself neighbour" to whoever we see in difficulty. As Jesus himself teaches us (cf. Mt 9:35-36; 14.13-14; 15.32-37), having compassion means recognizing the suffering of others and going immediately to action to soothe, heal and save" (cit.).

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, you who have always compassion for your children, obtain for us a merciful and attentive heart to the needs of our brothers. Not a heart that judges, but a heart that loves, everyone and always.

Father Francesco Cristofaro

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND FOR YOU
(XIV SUNDAY O.T. - year C)

WHEN YOU SEE THIS, YOUR HEART SHALL REJOICE (Is 66,10-14c)

History attests to the truth of every word of the Lord. Our God, the only living and true God, the only creator of Heaven and Earth, the only Lord of history, has promised liberation from the slavery of Babylon. Now the Lord kindles hope in the heart of Jerusalem. She will see her children that return and will rejoice in unspeakable joy. Here is the faith that must always animate the worshiper of the true God: every word he has spoken, proclaimed, prophesied and sworn, is always fulfilled in time and in eternity. The true worshiper will see the fulfillment of the word of his God and might rejoice. But, there are words whose fulfillment is given by the obedience of Man. What God promised that he will be the one to bring to completion, shall always happen. Instead, what is conditioned to our obedience will happen if we listen. His triumph passes through our docility to his Word. Without faith there is no victory.

I BEAR THE MARKS OF JESUS ON MY BODY (Gal 6,14-18)

St. Paul has conformed all his being to Christ Jesus. It is no longer he who lives, but Jesus Lord truly lives in him. His soul, spirit and body were donated entirely to him, Paul held nothing for himself. He offered all his life to his lord so that he made a sacrifice of it for the salvation of many other hearts. His opponents are many. If they do not want to believe his word, which is the word with which he says in fullness of truth all the mystery of Jesus, at least let them believe in what they see: the mystery of Christ, all imprinted in his body. Paul carries the stigmata

of Christ Jesus on his body. The word that announces an invisible mystery becomes reality and can be seen realized in a visible body. The stigmata of Christ on Paul's body reveal the truth of every word spoken by Paul about the mystery of his lord. The invisible truth will have to become visible truth in the disciple's body. This is the perfection of the announcement.

THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT (Lk 10.1-12.17-20)

The harvest is abundant because there is the whole world to be gathered and led into the Kingdom of Christ Jesus. Never might one man travel the world far and wide and bring every sheep of the father into the flock of Jesus Lord. Even if for an amazing miracle a person had the gift of being in every part and every place, at every man and he could carry this out during his days of stay on earth, who will continue to collect the sheep of the Lord after? Jesus rises to heaven. He leaves as continuators of his mission of salvation and redemption twelve apostles, seventy two disciples and some other followers. In the upper room there were about one hundred and twenty people in all. An accomplished though imperfect number, because the perfection of the Twelve is multiplied by the imperfection of the ten. As Jesus left one hundred and twenty people, so every other disciple of Jesus is called to imitate his master. At the time of his death even he will have to leave one hundred and twenty people who carry on the salvation mission of Christ the Lord. That is why it is necessary that we pray.

by the theologian,
Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno