

### 5 / As stars in the night

In our reflection group we started from the invitation to be "stars in the night of other young people", taken from the letter "Christus vivit" of Pope Francis.

But what is the night for a young man? What is the darkness of the heart? A rather common condition for many young people today who find themselves facing life without joy, without enthusiasm, without hope for the future, afflicted by a thousand problems without knowing a way to face and overcome the difficulties of life.

In a society that tends to eradicate Christ crucified, what to do to give hope? With the example, with one's life! When one meets the Lord life changes, he savours the taste of living according to the will of the Father. We discover true freedom in obedience. The true knowledge of Christ, thanks to formation, which allows to bring the Word to the world. The difference is noticeable, when there is Jesus in the heart, we note it from the smile, the brightness of the look and from the peace and serenity that only Christ can give. We need to show this to young people. So that the desire to know Jesus' things better and to choose him, is born in them. He who waits for us forever and ever will be with us. Ah, if only we raised our gaze to the crucifix! We would rediscover the fullness of existence, of that joy that comes only from Jesus. To illuminate the night of the young, we must bring the Word so that Christ enters the heart.

But it is not enough to just do something, "illuminating", you have to be enlightened. Let me explain better... First Christ must be present in us, in our heart, in my heart. If I do not know Christ and his Word first and do not live in conformity with the Gospel, how do I pretend to be of help to my brother?! I would not be an example at all! Therefore I must be authentic in my Christian being. Once we choose Christ, and we approach the sacraments... slowly grace allows us to discern what is the will that the Father has on us. And in this journey of conversion you completely change your life that finally acquires meaning. If our life changes, if we change, our brothers notice it and start to wonder, "But what made you change? Who?". And there in their night the light of Christ begins to breach their hearts.

I was greatly struck by a phrase a girl said, "the night can be overcome, but not alone...!". This confirms the importance of having next to us people firm in the faith who can help and direct us. And for this very reason a very important figure in this phase is that of the spiritual father, not understood as "now I go and he clears my sins..." or "now I tell him everything and he will solve my problems", but as an aid in discerning that which is according to God and that which is not, to understand what is in conformity with the Gospel and what is not. Coming to confession, Mass and the Eucharist, reading a Gospel page every day allows us to receive the grace and strength to face everything. And in this perspective, it is fundamental to rediscover the beauty of reciting the Holy Rosary and the personal prayer made with the heart. It is important to remind young people that in Heaven we have a Celestial Mother who prays with us and for us, always diligent in helping her children. As Pope Francis reminds us: "May she renew your youth with the strength of her prayer and always accompany you with her presence as a Mother".

**Maria Cristina Monda**

## They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them

**E**ternal salvation is the fruit of our obedience to the Word of God and of Christ Jesus. Moses and the Prophets are the entire Old Testament. Today we must say: "They have Moses, the Prophets, Christ Jesus, the Apostles, Tradition and the Magisterium; let them listen to them". As Moses and the prophets are one voice, not two, so also Moses, Prophets, Christ Jesus, Apostles, Tradition and Magisterium, must be considered a single voice, no more separate and distinct voices. No voice can be taken without the others. Moses needs the prophets to be a true voice of God, the Prophets need Christ Jesus, Christ Jesus the Apostles, the Apostles the Tradition, the Tradition the Magisterium. If one of these voices is omitted, the true voice of the Father of heaven no longer exists. Whether one proceeds from Moses to the Magisterium or from the Magisterium going towards Moses, no voice must be omitted, omitted, declared no longer current. The truth is from all these voices that in the will of God they are eternally one voice. Woe to make more voices and woe to divide them.

Instead what happens today? The Christian has decided to set aside not one of these items, but all of them. Once it was said: "Sola Scriptura, sola gratia, sola fides". There was a tenuous link with the Scriptures and consequently there also existed some atom of truth. At least they believed in the one and triune God, even if they did not believe in the universal mediation of the Church. Today every link with what happened yesterday has been declared cut. Nothing from the past must govern the mind of man. Not even with

thought one must have a relationship. The mind says rationality, argumentation, deduction and discernment. We must also get rid of these things. Today everything must be from will, from instinct and from feeling. No objective principle must hinder our decision. But then we are called to come to terms with an objectivity of hunger, misery, sin, death and destruction of the very nature. We fall into panic and confusion. A thousand appeals are made, but once again without any use of either Scripture or the mind of man. Everything is from feeling, from instinct and from will. Either we return to the sources of truth which are the Scriptures and the mind of man, or we will be consumed by every natural and spiritual catastrophe, in time and in eternity. No one might ever separate himself from the objectivity of things, starting from his own death that looms over him.

Today is the era of will, of feeling, of instinct, of separation from all that is truth, light, wisdom, intelligence and discernment. Even the Christian faith has been reduced to a mortifying sentimentalism and to a will without any objective reality in support. But it is not the world that must return to the objectivity of truth, but the Christian. He was made light of the world and salt of the earth. He has been made a participant of divine nature. The prophetic Scriptures were delivered to him. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are in his hands. Mother of God, Angels, Saints, arrange that the Christian recognizes his very high dignity and mission for the redemption of his brothers.

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**"IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST THE NAZARENE,  
STAND UP AND WALK" (ACTS 3: 6)**

**Reflections from the H.H. Francis  
on the Acts of the Apostles/5 (7.8.2019)**

**P**ope Francis, commenting on the expression of Acts 3: 6, in which the Apostles heal in the name of Jesus the crippled beggar at the "Bella" door of the Temple, highlights the clear missionary purpose of the text: "These are "wonders and signs" (Acts 2:43) which occur by the work of the Apostles, confirming their word and demonstrating that they act in the name of Christ. It so happened that the Apostles intercede and Christ works, acting "together with them" and confirming the Word with the signs that accompany it (Mk 16:20). So many signs, so many miracles that the Apostles did were just a manifestation of the divinity of Jesus" (Audience).

Already in the Old Testament God worked through his envoys with many signs and wonders, crediting them in the eyes of the people, to arouse faith in them. Thus it was with Moses, Elijah, the Prophets and likewise with the Apostles. Jesus credited them with the miracles that accompanied them, so that the people believed in them and in the Word they announced.

Another important element in this text: what creates relationship is the "look". There is the look of the cripple who seeks the gaze of Peter and John to ask for alms and there is the gaze of Peter and John, who meet the eyes of the cripple to give him not what he asks for and that they do not have, but to give him the gift of what they have and he lacks, that is faith in Jesus Christ: "The cripple looks at them and Peter tells him: "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give it to you: in the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, rise up and walk!" (Acts 3.6). That beggar, meeting the Apostles, finds no

money but finds the Name that saves man: Jesus Christ the Nazarene. Peter invokes the name of Jesus, orders the paralytic to stand up, in the position of the living".

Thus, Pope Francis invites all of us to raise our gaze towards Jesus, in difficult moments of falling into sin, in the knowledge that He always lends his hand, always tries to lift, to arrange so that people heal and meet God. But even more, the Holy Father invites every Christian to live faith faithfully in order to become a sign and witness for the whole world, in order to be able to arouse faith in Jesus our Lord, who will then give everyone what he needs .

Our daily life, if lived, enlightened and guided by the Gospel, realizes the teaching of Jesus and makes us be "light of the world and salt of the earth": "Thus let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Mt 5:16).

The Christian is the way of faith and that is why he must increasingly conform to Lord Jesus. The same St. Augustine, in the "Confessions", says of himself that among the things that helped him in his conversion of great incidence was the testimony of Christians, because thanks to them he was able to see that the Gospel can be lived. The exemplarity and witness of the Christians of the time were the sign that changed the life of St. Augustine.

Mother of the Redemption, Virgin Mary, help us to show Jesus to the world, with the exemplariness of our life and with the visibility of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in us.

**Father Vincenzo Moniaci**

**The  
Lord's Day  
ROMAN RITE**

**I AM SUFFERING TORMENT IN THESE FLAMES  
(XXVI SUNDAY O.T. - Year C)**

**WOE TO THE COMPLACENT IN ZION  
(Am 6,1a.4-7)**

Who are the carefree of Zion? They are priests, kings, judges, administrators of public affairs and officials at every level, who think only of their particular interest, their enjoyment and the satisfaction of the desires of the moment. They who are called to create all good for the people while respecting justice, are not interested in people at all. They are stunned by the search of what can increase their enjoyments, even if on the blood of poor and deprived people. The Lord who scrutinizes every action of man sees and knows how to intervene. He announces it through the prophet. All this fuss of sin will end. All these festivals of injustice will cease. The day of God's intervention in history will come and all will be wiped out, they will end up in exile to pay for their sins. Today we have also deprived man even of this God just and judge of every action of men. By doing so, we have all become creators of great injustice.

**COMPETE WELL FOR THE FAITH  
(1Tm 6,11-16)**

What does this exhortation of Saint Paul to Timothy mean: "Do you fight the good battle of faith?" Timothy will always be immersed in a world of falsehood, lie, idolatry and immorality, around him there will be ten thousand singers of fabulously invented fables, all with a single purpose: destroying Christ in his divine, eternal truth of incarnation and redemption and of only mediation for the acquisition of salvation. In this world he must always hold up the Word of Christ Jesus. How? Living it all, in all its parts, without neglecting even a dash of it. But also announcing it all

without being ashamed. If he is a true light with life and with the Word, the world will see the light of Christ and might be converted. If He stops being the light of Christ, the world might never come to the light. Thus the battle of faith is fought: putting every care, fighting and being committed with all the strength of the Holy Spirit, so that no one steals from us this precious treasure. If someone deprives us of it, the fault will be ours alone. We didn't fight the good battle.

**THE RICH MAN ALSO DIED AND WAS BURIED (Lk 16.19-31)**

The Lord has given man every law so that he may live his whole life in function of eternal beatitude. It is up to man the will to observe or break them. But he must know that what the Lord says for him is an eternal obligation. The Lord cannot give the man a Word and then act differently from it. Lazarus dies and is led close to Abraham, that is, to the realm of the just. The rich man dies and is carried into eternal fire. The rich man wishes Lazarus had compassion on him. No compassion and no mercy for the damned. They have been without compassion and they will burn for eternity without compassion. The rich man wished Abraham sent Lazarus to warn his brothers, so that they too may not end up in the eternal flames. Abraham answers him that the Law is given. It suffices to observe it. Who do not believe in the Law will never believe other people, even if they came from the other world. Truly eternal incontestable truth.

*by the theologian,  
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