

"On the way of God": meetings for young people

Inaugurating the cycle of catecheses dedicated to the commandments, this is how Pope Francis presented the path to be followed, with a particular thought for the young: "In these catecheses we will take the two tablets of Moses as Christians, holding us by the hand with Jesus, to pass from the illusions of youth to the treasure that is in heaven, walking behind Him. We will discover, in each of those ancient and wise laws, the door opened by the Father who is in heaven so that the Lord Jesus, who has crossed it, leads us into true life. His life. The life of the children of God" (General Audience, 13 June 2018).

According to the indications of the Holy Father and with the comfort of a sensitivity for the world of youth encouraged many times by the archbishop of the place, Msgr. Bertolone, also in the diocese of Catanzaro, the Apostolic Movement has planned a new formative project for young people, in continuity with a commitment that has always remained in the forefront in the service offered by this ecclesial aggregation in its various seats. Over the years, in fact, there have been numerous specific training and animation initiatives that the Apostolic Movement has particularly dedicated to young people, involving them directly in their planning and execution.

Thus, the program entitled "On the way

of God" was launched, meetings of young people on the ten commandments. The project focuses with simplicity on some essential elements: favoring the direct contact of the young with the Holy Scriptures, listened to and welcomed in the witness of the Church in the light of faith in the Risen Christ; helping them perceive the direct and timely reference of the words of the Covenant to the concreteness of their lives, so that everyone can be helped to interpret his own existence and make his own choices according to God's plan, which guides, illuminates and liberates; offering them the opportunity to express their doubts, their hopes, their intuitions or uncertainties, in a perspective of confrontation with the Word of God.

Each meeting draws attention to one of the commandments and its strength to guide current life, in harmony with the whole Word of God. Several priests alternate in the conduction of the various appointments and the young people take care to promote the initiative among their peers.

To date, the first two meetings have already been held. In the inaugural event, Fr Alessandro Carioti introduced the meaning of the biblical commandments as the Word that guides man to his authentic happiness and full maturity. In the successive meeting, Fr Francesco Brancaccio spoke about the first commandment, paying attention above all to the gift of authentic freedom generated by the Covenant that God chooses to establish with his people. Before impeding something negative, the ten words positively open the path of the loving relationship with the Lord, in its uniqueness and centrality; introduce to the brotherly responsibility of justice towards others and open the path of personal vocation and mutual communion.

Let it be for me according to your word

The first woman knew the Word of the Lord, she knew of his commandment: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die" (Gen 2,16-17). When the angel of darkness approached her, under the guise of a serpent, or of the most astute beast of the whole garden, the woman lost her faith in her Lord, whose Word is the most pure truth and believed the word of angel of evil, which is a word of falsehood, lies and deceit. The woman should have remained faithful to her Creator. She did not do it. She became in turn an angel of darkness for the man. From a woman of support she became a woman of temptation and seduction. Man let himself be seduced and death entered humanity. From that moment on, every day we live in the shadow not only of physical, but also of spiritual death, with the risk that it becomes eternal death, in darkness.

A very young woman lives in Nazareth. God sends one of his angels so that he brings her the happiest news that could ever be heard in the ear of the human creature. First of all, it is revealed who the Virgin is. She is full of grace. She is immaculate. She is wonderfully beautiful in her soul and spirit. She is the home of her Lord on our earth. God made her the most sublime woman, the highest being in all of his creation. God did this not after her conception, but in conception. It is as if soul, spirit, body, will, heart and every part of her were woven with grace. The temple of the Lord our God is all beautiful. It is a living temple and not a stone one like the an-

cient temple of Jerusalem. But the Angel does not stop at these initial words. He tells her that she was chosen by the Lord to be the Mother of his Only Son, the Son of the Most High will have to become flesh in her bosom. He adds that this Son who will be born of her and who will be called Jesus is the Messiah, the Expected of the Gentiles. It will be He who will fulfill every promise made by God to David. The Son that will be born of Her will be the King with the eternal kingdom. They are words full of mystery.

First the Virgin Mary asks the Angel to reveal to her how this announcement will have to be fulfilled historically. We cannot obey our God if the modes are not known. He reveals them from time to time and day to day. Today we obey what he asks, according to the paths outlined. Tomorrow we will obey according to the ways he will outline tomorrow. She must not do anything. As until today everything has been done by God, Mary is the purest creation of God from the first moment of her conception, so it must be today and always. She will only have to hand herself over to God and let always herself be made by Him. She will conceive through the work of the Holy Spirit. Human ways are all excluded. Having received the modalities, she immediately gives herself completely to God so that he can fulfill his divine and eternal will: "Let it be to me according to your Word". Let the Lord make me according to what he has decided. The gift is full, without reservations. Mother of the Redemption, teach us your children to live your same wisdom and obedience for all the days of our lives.

Mgr. 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.Musulino, 23/E, Catanzaro.

Internet: www.movimentoapostolico.it
e-mail: info@movimentoapostolico.it

Printed by the press office of the Apostolic Movement

HOW TO ACCESS THE CHURCH AND BUILD UNITY WITHIN HER

Reflections from the General Hearing of H.H. Francis (October 23, 2019)

"From the Book of Acts the nature of the Church emerges, that is not a stronghold, but a tent capable of enlarging its space (cf. Is 54: 2) and giving access to all. [...] She is called to be always the open house of the Father" (Audience). In these statements of the Holy Father Francis the nature of the Church, which was constituted and sent by Christ as his Body, to every man of the whole world and of every time, with a single purpose, is emphasized: proposing access to her (cf. Mc 16,15-16).

It is in the house of the Father - the Church - that every man is freed from sin and rebuilt in the fullness of his truth and grace; it is from her bosom that one can carry out the saving mission, as it is from her that one can have access to the eternal house of the Father. For these reasons one is sent to go, to save, to convert and to fill her with new members.

To satisfy this divine desire it is necessary to be part of the Body of Christ - and this is historically visible when there is membership in the parish community - and from it invite others to become its living members for the conversion to the Word of the Lord announced and reminded to them. Omitting the preaching of the Gospel or altering it is like closing the door of entry into the Body of Christ. What was preached by Christ to scribes and Pharisees is verified: "You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter" (Mt 23,13). Saul of Tarsus can enter the Church because of the Word addressed to him by Christ himself on the road to Damascus: "After that transforming encounter with Jesus, Paul is received by the Church of Jerusalem thanks to the mediation of Barnabas and begins to proclaim

Christ" (Audience). Inserted in Christ, from being a persecutor he becomes the builder of the Body of Christ concerning preaching the Gospel.

Another difficulty emphasized by the Holy Father, in the light of the text taken into consideration (cf. Acts 14:27; 15:1-35), is the intrusion of human views in the ecclesial body, to which we claim to enslave all his limbs. The difficulty - a source of controversy - that arose in the first Christian Community consisted in wanting to oblige those who were not circumcised to circumcision in view of Baptism and official entry into the Church. The question was clarified in an ecclesial manner and no mending agreements were found. For this reason, Paul and Barnabas addressed the council of the Apostles and the elders of Jerusalem, those who had authority in the Church, who said: "In fact, it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15.28), to trace the direction of truth for which to walk and on which to build unity. Holy Spirit and Apostles must be a single mystery, a single foundation of unity for the Ecclesial Body. The synodal path for the Church means hierarchical path, "otherwise it is not synodality, it is conversational meeting, parliament and another thing" (Audience). The Church of Christ has no different heads of government, but the Father, through Christ the Lord in the Holy Spirit, on the visible foundation of his Pastors in a hierarchical relationship.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, grant us her own virtue, the humility of obedience, to what the Lord has arranged to be done for unity among the members of His Body.

Father Giuseppe Carrabetta

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

HAIL, FAVORED ONE!
(IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - SOLEMNITY)

I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN (Gen 3: 9-15.20)

Having transgressed the commandment of the Lord that forbade him to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, man, immediately experienced the death of his spirit. He no longer governs himself. He no longer sees from the truth, but from lies. He does not live from virtue, but from concupiscence. He does not tend towards good, but towards evil. He is no longer the same man. God had made him oriented towards the light, he now walks towards darkness. And it is here that the great mercy of his Creator is manifested. The Lord goes down into the garden and utters his first oracle of life. He promises that he will put enmity between Satan and the woman, between the lineage of Satan and the lineage of the woman. This will crush his head as he entangles his heel. This promise is fulfilled in the Virgin Mary and in Jesus, through Christ and with Mary, it is fulfilled in every disciple of the Lord. The Christian lives to give life to this promise.

IN ACCORD WITH THE FAVOUR OF HIS WILL (Eph 1,3-6.11-12)

Salvation in Christ, through Christ and with Christ, is not a fruit of the earth, it is not through merit of any man. God decides our salvation for his great mercy and his great love. But he also realizes it in order to manifest how the true relationship with him is lived: in the same way as Christ Jesus. Salvation is a gift of the Father, it is a fruit of his eternal love. However, man is called to make this gift his own and to place himself at the service of the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, so that through the offering of his life, other brothers may wel-

come his gift of redemption and salvation. Our faith and the truths on which it is based today are seriously in crisis. Many of these truths have been declared invalid. All that concerns the commitment of man in the work of salvation, both personal and towards his brothers, was abolished. People want everything to be the exclusive work of God without any commitment on the part of the creature. It is falseness.

YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOUR WITH GOD (Lk 1, 26-38)

The Virgin Mary was conceived full of grace. In this grace God made her grow, leading her from grace to grace, from light to light and from holiness to holiness. Why if in the Virgin Mary everything is from grace and through grace, it is said that she found favour with God? God is pleased with her because she has sublimely responded to her Lord. God wanted her perfect and she let herself be made perfect. God added and she let that God added. The Virgin Mary is not a terracotta vase made of divine beauty by her Lord and Creator. She is a human person, a person who has always allowed that her God acted in her according to his will. This is confirmed by what happens in the house of Nazareth. This time the Lord asks her to surrender herself to him in the soul, in the spirit and in the body, he asks her to abandon every project so far cultivated, even if of the purest good, and she immediately hands herself over to her God. The Lord wants her entirely his and she answers: "Let it be for me according to your Word". Your will is my will. This is the life style of the of the Virgin Mary.

by the theologian,

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno