

Apostolic Movement - 2020 Catechesis and training meetings in some areas of the Centre-North

TORINO: Madonna of the Roses Parish (Oratory room, A. Da Brescia rd.)
3rd SUNDAY, 7:30 pm

DOMODOSSOLA (VB): Parrocchia S. Heart of Jesus and St. Quirico (Calice pl.)

20NOV2019, 18DIC, 22JAN2020, 19FEB, 18MAR, 22APR, 20MAY, 5.00 pm

CORSICO (MI): Holy Spirit Parish (Europe Square)

Last FRIDAY of the month - 6.45 pm
CORREZZANA (MB): St. Desire Oratory (St. Desire rd., 10)

27Oct2019, 24NOV, 26JAN2020, 23FEB, 15MAR, 3MAY - 5:30 pm

SEVESO (MB): Pastoral Community of St. Peter of Verona (Cavour rd., 2)

3NOV2019, 1DIC, 2FEB2020, 1MAR, 5APR, 17MAG, 5:00 pm

BESOZZO (VA): St. Brizio Parish (Oliginasio pl. - Rebuschini rd., 52)

Periodic training meetings
MORBEGNO (SO): St. John B. Parish (Hypogeum Hall: Cappuccini rd., 2)

21NOV2019, 19DIC, 23 JAN2020, 20 FEB, 19MAR, 23 APR, 21 MAY, 5.30 pm

BOLOGNA: St. Mary and St. Dominic

Parish church (Mascarella rd., 48)

One Friday a month, 7.00 pm

SIENA: S. Petronilla Parish (Cavour rd., 20)

2nd SATURDAY, 6.45pm

GROSSETO: San Joseph B. Cottolengo Parish (Scansanese rd., 67)

A SUNDAY in the month, 3.30pm

RIETI: S. John Bosco Parish (Risorgimento Square, 3 - Reatina Villa)

3rd SATURDAY, 4.00 pm

ROME: St. Mary of the Carmine and S. Joseph Parish (Casaletto rd., 691)

MONDAY, 7.00 pm: Bible training meeting

ROME: St. Roman Martyr Parish (Beltramelli place, 23)

1st, 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAY, 7.30 pm

ROME: St. Jude Thaddeus, Apostle Parish (Salone Giulio II, Via Amedeo Crivelucci, 3)

FRIDAY, 8.00 pm

ROME: St Agnes outside the walls Basilica (Via Nomentana, 349)

1st and 3rd MONDAY, 7.30 pm

ROME, Farnese Island place: S. Pancrazio Martyr Parish (Colonneta Sq.)

THURSDAY, 6.30 pm and SATURDAY, 6.45 pm: catechesis;

ONE SUNDAY in the month, at 6.00 pm: adherents training meeting

FREGENE (Rome): B.V. Mary Assumption Parish (Riva Trigoso sq., 8)

3rdSUNDAY, 5.00 pm

Calendar and updates are available on www.movimentoapostolico.it



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An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream

Joseph is a just man. He lives in full obedience to the will of his Lord. What the Law commands, he does it. What the Law prohibits, he refrains from doing it. There is no justice in a heart, if the soul is not conformed to the whole will of its God. Joseph is just, not omniscient. He does not know the mysteries of history. He knows what happened yesterday or is happening today the moment it happens, but he does not know the mystery of what is in the events or even the intentions of the hearts. Not knowing because he lacks the divine virtue of omniscience and divine eyes, the only ones that are able to pierce the wall of the invisible, he must keep listening to his God, who is beside him to guard, protect, save and always lead him on a path of truth and salvation. Listening to the Lord is the obligation of man. He listens to him who is just. The unjust does not listen because he deprived of the ear for listening to his God.

The Lord does not speak directly to Joseph, he uses one of his angels. The heavenly envoy comes to him in a dream and gives him a precise command. Joseph gets up and immediately executes what he was commanded. There is not a single moment of interval between listening and obedience. The Angel says and Joseph obeys. The Angel commands and Joseph carries out, does, works. Thus acting, Joseph is the true model of the man of God. The Lord can put the life of his Only Son into his hands. Never will the Lord put the life of his Son into the hands of a disobedient and recalcitrant person to his voice. Thus Joseph teaches us Christians

that if we want the Lord to put the mystery of his Son or of his kingdom or of salvation or redemption into our hands, we must make justice our garment. We must make obedience to his voice our own life. How might this happen? Starting from obedience to his Commandments, to his written Law and to his Gospel. By living of the Word, one becomes just. In justice the Lord comes and entrusts us all of himself. He knows he can trust us.

Every disciple of Jesus must show himself worthy of trust with the Lord. How does one show up being worthy? Growing from obedience to obedience, from light to light, from truth to truth and from justice to justice, keeping away from every transgression and vice. When we enter into this newness of life, even the fears of the heart or the disturbances of the mind are resolved by the Lord, sending his divine light upon us. Joseph fears for the life of Jesus. Judea is not a safe place to live in. The Angel of the Lord comes, speaks to him in a dream and Joseph again gets the Mother and Child and takes refuge in the distant Galilee, going to live in Nazareth. Everything is from justice. The more one grows in it, the more familiar one becomes with the voice of the Lord. Even the troubles of the heart are enlightened by God so that the right decision of salvation is made. Mother of the Redemption, you were guarded and protected by the justice of Joseph. Grant that even the work entrusted to us is always guarded by our greatest justice, the fruit of an ever more true obedience.

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno

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A NATIVITY SCENE OF LIFE AND NOT OF STRAW

Reflections from the Apostolic Letter "Admirabile signum"

of H. H. Francis (1.12.2019)

In the Apostolic Letter Admirabile signum Pope Francis wanted to highlight how the nativity scene is a wonderful sign for Christians, a "living Gospel" that invites "to put ourselves spiritually to the road, attracted by the humility of the One who became man to meet every man. And we discover that He [Jesus] loves us so much as to join us, so that we too can unite with him. [...] It is an invitation to "feel", to "touch" the poverty that the Son of God has chosen for himself in his Incarnation. And so, implicitly, it is a call to follow him on the path of humility, poverty and despoilment, which from the manger of Bethlehem leads to the Cross" (Letter).

The one who is born in the Bethlehem grotto is not simply a man, but he is the Son of God who becomes man. The second Person of the Most Holy Trinity assumes a body of flesh in the virginal womb of the Immaculate Conception. This very high and eternal truth obliges every Christian to set out, that is, in movement, because he is attracted by the humility of God who becomes one of us. The Creator becomes a creature to meet every man and make him share in this divine and human love together, and to offer him belonging to this admirable and eternal mystery.

The eternal Word becomes man by the will of the Heavenly Father; it is that Child in the manger, little Jesus, that reminds us of his submission to God already in eternity and from eternity. By the will of the Heavenly Father, the Only Begotten Son descends from Heaven and assumes the human condition, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, through the work of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the same will, he chooses poverty as his particular existential condition and not just for reasons of random order or historical

contingency: "Entering this world, the Son of God finds a place where animals go to eat. Hay becomes the first bed for the One who will reveal himself as "the bread descended from heaven" (Jn 6:41). A symbolism that already Saint Augustine, together with other Fathers, had caught when he wrote: "Lying in a manger, he became our food" (Serm. 189.4)" (Letter).

Humility is full acceptance of the will of God manifested and contained in every Word of his, both of general (Commandments and Beatitudes) and of particular order (personal vocation). The humble obeys his Lord, directing mind, heart and body towards the command received, making sure that everything is realized in respect of the divine modalities. In fact, it is not enough to do only what God asks, but it is also necessary to respect the times and criteria established by him.

The Pope is keen to underline how humility and poverty, present together in the Incarnate God, not only attract, but represent, in the same way, the only way for the Christian to go: "It is not important how the nativity scene is set up, [...] what matters, is that it speaks to our life. [...] Thus the nativity scene, while showing us God as he entered the world, causes us to think about our life inserted in that of God; it invites to become his disciples if we want to reach the ultimate meaning of life" (Letter).

Mother of the Redemption, ensure that every one of your children is a living nativity scene: humble at heart and poor in mind, willing to strip himself of his own will to assume that of Christ, reminding and announcing the whole world the Gospel of life and not of straw.

Father Massimo Amelio

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

TOOK THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER
AND DEPARTED FOR EGYPT
(HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - Year A)

ATONES FOR SINS (Sir 3.2-6.12-14)

Not only does the Lord give blessings over blessings, not only does he promise long life filled with great serenity and peace, he also forgives the sins of whoever honours, respects, supports, has compassion and works all the good that is in his possibilities towards his parents. There is no reward that the Lord does not bestow on children who care for their father and mother. But there is also a very severe punishment for those who curse their parents. In the old days the death penalty was foreseen. As love towards parents will never be forgotten, so also disgrace, abandonment, contempt, non-compassion and non-pity will never be forgotten. We can affirm that the true honour towards the father and the mother is a great investment with God. There is no greater investment and with more fruits. Whoever believes in the Word of the Lord loves and respects with great diligence. Who does not believe in the Word, dishonors and despises.

WIVES, BE SUBORDINATE TO YOUR HUSBANDS (Col 3,12-21)

The submission of wives to husbands is not and must never be arbitrary, despotic, of domination, oppression and of true slavery, as if the woman were the servant of man. Instead, it is a submission regulated by the laws of faith. Man is subject to God in everything. He listens and obeys every Word of his Lord. As He is from God so the wife is from her husband, but not to impose his will on her, but to communicate to her only the will of God. Someone might ask: how does a husband manage to know God's will? Because he lives in the family doing only the will of his Lord. Whoever

walks with God knows what God wants. Instead, whoever does not walk with God, might never know the will of God on his person and not even on his wife or on other people. The wife, by submitting to the man, obeys God. Without very pure vision of faith, dominion and instinct reign in the family.

HE SHALL BE CALLED A NAZOREAN (Mt 2.13-15.19-23)

Jesus is the Shoot that springs from the root of Jesse. He is also the Shoot grown in arid land, that is, in the spiritual and moral desert of our world. If he is the Shoot he is the true Messiah and the Suffering Servant. This double truth is contained in his name: "Nazarene". The Apostle Peter will say that "there is no other name given to men in which it is established that we are saved, if not in the Name of Jesus, the Nazarene". Herod wants to kill him because he thinks he is king like all the other kings of this world. The Angel of the Lord intervenes and asks Joseph to flee to Egypt with the Mother and the Child. Herod dies and again the Angel comes and commands Joseph to return to the land of Judas. As always, obedience is immediate. But Joseph feels that Judea is not a safe place for Jesus. What to do? Again the Angel of the Lord intervenes and he goes to live in Galilee, in the city of Nazareth, in whose name there is the "root" which means "Shoot". The prophecy is fulfilled: he will be called Nazarene, that is, Shoot. Truly the ways for the fulfillment of prophecies are a mystery.

by the theologian,
Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno