

Young man, I say to you, get up! (cf. Lk 7:14)

It seems I see him, Jesus, when he runs into the funeral procession that accompanies the burial of a young man, the only son of a widow. Jesus is affected by the pain of the woman, He sees her pain and has compassion for her.

A thoughtful and sincere gaze makes Jesus understand how much suffering envelops that humble woman and with simple words, before performing the miracle, he comforts her... (cf. Lk 7: 11-13)

In his message to young people, the Pope urges us to reflect on our gaze, our mode of being aware of the others' suffering and our being young.

Seeing the extreme anguish pain and death the whole world is experiencing precisely in this period I find myself thinking; it's a new twisted reality that leads us to restlessness and worry.

Like so many young people, I don't hide that I often collapse in my emotional or social pain that can sometimes lead to apathy, discouragement and crying... You can feel dead from a failure and lack of a future, which leads to being oppressed by an inner emptiness. The Pope reports the phrase of a girl which seems being referred to the majority of us young people:

"Among my friends I see that the urge of getting involved and the courage of getting up, have been lost." It is precisely courage, strength and hope what we are lacking and this makes us live in futility, without it even being able to make us see the pain of who is around us...

But, beyond our unrealized dreams or illusions, there is Jesus that knows how to see pain, that gives us comfort and knows how to overcome Death. I can witness this in my journey of faith that began in the spirituality of the Apostolic Movement since I was a child.

How many times I have seen the Inspirer of the Movement turn her gaze towards us, "Little Herd", and give us love, trust and hope; she awakened us dozing from our own indifference.

Therefore, death lies in making our life dead to life and this also brings pain to the many mothers who every day accompany us in a funeral procession, which is repeated.

So, we understand that we must try not to fall into this spiritual death, we must entrust ourselves to Jesus who sees pain and death and does not stand still: he heals us and calls us back to life.

As I learned from our Inspirer, we too, even if we are young and with little life experience, by overcoming our "death", we can also prevent the "death" of our peers. We can give testimony and courage through a word, a smile, a simple attentive and not indifferent gesture. We must be the ones who awaken the other.

Maria Letizia Guzzo

The Ascension of the Lord

When is this holiday celebrated?

In Italy, the solemnity of the Ascension of Lord Jesus is no longer celebrated on the fortieth day after the resurrection, except in Milan in the Ambrosian rite, but on the following Sunday, the one preceding Pentecost Sunday.

What does Ascension mean?

The solemnity of the Ascension is the memory of an Easter manifestation (epiphany) of risen Christ, glorified by the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. The ascension of Jesus to heaven, his passing from this world to the "world" of the Father is narrated as a detachment of Jesus from his own, a being brought up to heaven, in close unity with the mystery of the Resurrection.

Where's heaven?

The references to heaven in the Bible are numerous, to the point that the term heaven designates the very identity of God and his relationship with humanity. The first page of Scripture presents God who creates the heavens and the earth; the last one announces the advent of a new heaven and a new earth. Therefore, it is not a "place" that stands above but it is the divine dimension to which humanity had been destined since Creation and of which the road had been lost with the Original Sin.

What are the powers of Jesus?

If Matthew had opened his gospel with the words "book of the genesis of Jesus Christ... the Emmanuel, the God-with-us", he now closes it with an allusion to the last verse of the Hebrew Scriptures he knew, where it reads: "The Lord, God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth" (2Ch 26,23);

and here the Risen One, who is the God-with-us forever, says: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Thus the gospel completes the whole history of salvation.

Why in Galilee?

For Matthew, Galilee is not so much the land of Jesus' childhood, from which he took the name of "Galilean", but rather the land desired by God as a place of evangelization, the "Galilee of the Gentiles, of the pagans", a land considered impure, from which "nothing good could come out", a land a blend of peoples, far from the centre of faith and worship, the holy city of Jerusalem. Therefore, Galilee as the land par excellence of evangelization and mission.

Why on a mountain?

The meeting place is the mountain, the theological site for Matthew, where God continually revealed himself and wanted to be met; there, where Jesus had spoken the long speech also containing the beatitudes; there, where Peter, James and John had contemplated his transfiguration. Upon seeing Jesus the eleven disciples, who had last seen him captured by his enemies, can do nothing except prostrate themselves in adoration.

Going, where?

It is not written: "Go" but "going", therefore not for a mission of conquest, occupation of lands and spaces, but for the opening to all peoples, to all cultures, to all men and women that are a part of humanity. The hour of announcement to the nations has come: by now, all human beings are recipients of the Gospel.

Father Carlo Pirotta

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.Musolino, 23/E, Catanzaro.

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

Printed by the press office of the Apostolic Movement

PROTAGONISTS AND WITNESSES OF LIFE THAT BECOMES HISTORY Message of Pope Francis for the 54th World Communications Day

"So that you may recount and fix in memory' (Ex 10,2). Life becomes history". This is the theme of Pope Francis' Message for the 54th World Communications Day which is celebrated today, the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension.

Throughout the message, we do not find the word "internet", but attention is drawn to the story to be able to tell, naturally also through digital forms, drawing on the "history of histories" contained in Holy Scripture.

Stories that can help us understand and say who we are, because in the early years of life, stories shape our beliefs and ways of acting.

For the Holy Father "man is a narrative being. Since childhood we are hungry for stories as we are hungry for food. Whether they are in the form of fairy tales, novels, films, songs, news..., stories influence our life, even if we are not aware of it. We often decide what is right or wrong based on the characters and stories we have assimilated."

"The history of Christ - Pope Francis writes - is not a heritage of the past, it is our always current history. It shows us that God has taken man, our flesh and our history to heart, till becoming man, flesh and history. It also tells us that there are no petty or small human histories. After God became history, every human history is, in a way, a divine history".

For the Holy Father, "in every great story our story comes into play": "As we read the Scriptures, the histories of saints, and also those texts that have been able to read the soul of man and bring to light its beauty, the Holy Spirit is free to write

in our hearts, renewing in us the memory of what we are in the eyes of God. When we remember the love that created and saved us - the Pope highlights - when we introduce love into our daily stories, when we weave the plots of our day with mercy, then we turn page.... Telling our story to God is never useless: even if the chronicle of events remains unchanged, the meaning and perspective change."

"The histories of all times - the Holy Father always observes - have a common 'frame': the structure includes 'heroes', even daily ones, who, in pursuit of a dream, face difficult situations, fight evil driven by a force that makes them brave: that of love. By immersing ourselves in the histories, we can find heroic motivations to face the challenges of life."

In the light of the words of the Holy Father, aware that the stories used for instrumental and power purposes are short-lived, while a good story after centuries remains current and nourishes life and is able to cross the boundaries of space and time, faced also with our history in these pandemic months, we are called to know how to tell the "Good News", taking advantage of the creativity and gifts that the Lord gives to every person of good will. Stories to be told with courage, rejecting all falsehoods, bringing out the truth of who we are in our daily life and history.

May Most Holy Mary, Mother of the Redemption, who lived with fullness history outlined by grace, help us to be protagonists and witnesses of truth in our daily lives.

Father Giovanni Scarpino

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS
(Ascension Of The Lord Year A)

A CLOUD TOOK HIM FROM THEIR SIGHT (At 1.1-11)

The time of the Lord's visible mission in history ends with his ascension and the invisible one begins. But the visible mission of his Apostles begins. But it is not two missions. The mission is one. The same as that of Christ, must be of the disciples. Christ's mission was that of revealing how great the Father's love for the salvation of man is. Christ Jesus manifested the Father's love from the cross, as a Crucifix. Now disciples must reveal how great the love of Jesus for every man is. How will they do this? By letting themselves be also crucified by the world for love of man. They will live this, if in the Holy Spirit they will let themselves be transformed into Christ, becoming one thing and one heart with Christ, just as Christ is one thing and one heart with the Father. Without the disciple's consecration to the truth of Christ, no mission will be of salvation and redemption.

SEATING HIM AT HIS RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENS (Eph 1: 17-23)

With the Ascension of Jesus every prophecy is fulfilled. Today Jesus receives the eternal kingdom. Today, he is invested by the Father of all power. Today, all the peoples are invited to serve Christ Jesus, but from now on the Apostles also will have to go to every man to announce that Christ is their King, their Lord, their Judge, their Saviour, Redeemer and God. Today, the prophecy itself is fulfilled with regard to the person of Christ. It will have to be carried out with regard to the confession of the truth of Christ on the part of all peoples. Whoever must ensure that the

prophecy takes place, are the disciples of Jesus. They will have to invite every man to receive Jesus because Jesus is their only true King, but it is also for Jesus that they will become true children of the Father and also real men. Without Christ, without being dressed with his truth, they remain in an eternal falseness. This is the mission of the disciples: bringing every man to Christ, to their king.

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS (Mt 28,16-20).

The visible mission of Christ ends with the ascension and the invisible one begins. Jesus must transform the Word of the disciples into life, salvation, redemption and justification. Jesus is like the earth. The earth turns every seed entrusted to it, placed in its bowels and in its bosom into a tree and a plant. Christ is the earth of grace, truth and life. If the disciple sows his Word, his Gospel, his Truth and his grace in the hearts, Christ immediately transforms into a tree of life what was sown by the disciple. On the contrary, if the disciple sows words of the world, Satan will be the one to make trees and fruits of death sprout. Never might Jesus transform a word of man into a tree and fruit of eternal life. When on earth there are no trees and fruits of truth and righteousness according to Christ, the responsibility is entirely of the Christian. He did not sow the good seed of Christ and Christ could not transform into a tree of life and into fruit of salvation the foolish, ignorant and insolent word of man. Christ knows only his Word and transforms into tree and fruits of eternal life only his Word.

by the theologian,
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