

The Apostolic Movement on the Web

A presence at the service of the proclamation and remembrance of the Gospel

Over forty years ago, Blessed Paul VI, in a fundamental document on the proclamation of the Gospel, wrote: "In our century, marked by the mass media or instruments of social communication, the first proclamation, catechesis or further study of the faith, cannot do without these means. Placed at the service of the Gospel, they are able to extend the field of listening of the Word of God almost indefinitely, and they make the Good News reach millions of people. The Church would feel guilty before her Lord if she did not use these powerful means, which human intelligence makes every day more perfected; by using them the Church "preaches on the roofs" the message of which she is depositary; in them she finds a modern and effective version of the pulpit. Thanks to them, she is able to speak to the multitudes" (Evangelii nuntiandi, n.45).

The Church of the following decades has given reason to these intuitions, making the means of communication, and in particular the Internet network, one of the ordinary tools of her mission. By now, for many years, even the Apostolic Movement expresses its own charisma of proclamation and remembrance of the Gospel through the

web. Next to the site, which offers in a completely free way a huge wealth of content for Christian education and the deepening of the Word, over the years, social networks have been taking on an increasingly significant role. Currently, the Movement is present on all major social platforms. Always attentive and faithful to the Magisterium of the Church, it makes them, for example, a sounding board for the teachings of the Holy Father, which are regularly shared. However, there are also different initiatives that connote the presence of the Apostolic Movement in these virtual spaces. Among them, we can mention the commentary on the Gospel of the day of the central assistant, Msgr. Di Bruno, the in-depth section "spiritual notes", which every week on Facebook offers a reflection of faith on various topics, and the video column "A Word for you", that every Sunday and in the main liturgical festivities, gives a quick thought on the Word. On the Church's journey towards the next Synod of Bishops, there is instead #Faithshots, the photographic contest launched on the Instagram profile of the Movement, to stimulate the creative participation of young people - particularly fond of this social network - to the proclamation of the Gospel and ecclesial life.

In addition to spreading faith content, the social networks of the Movement are also an area of information and sharing of its activity in the various seats. In this way, while the invitation to events of proclamation, formation or prayer is extended to more people, the means of communication also becomes a means of communion, allowing the members, even if distant, to participate in each other's lives, as in a conversation around the domestic fireplace.

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



So that everyone believed through him

Every man is born carrying a mission written in his heart. Our Creator and Lord must be known in all the power and beauty of his glory and we must be its instrument. By fulfilling what is asked of us, we bring our humanity to true fruit and it is in this realization that the magnificence and greatness of our God is revealed and manifested. Whoever withdraws from the mission feels and experiences his incompleteness. His being does not sing with joy in all its fibres. It is like a dry tree in earth without water. Never might he hear the song of its leaves stirred by the wind.

John the Baptist has not yet been conceived and the Angel Gabriel reveals to Zechariah what his ministry will have to be. He must live exclusively at the service of the Messiah who is about to come. He will have to go before the Lord to prepare his way. Due to his strong word, which calls for conversion for the remission of sins, hearts must open to accept the Christ of God. His must not be a word thrown to the desert sand. He is sent to stir, sting and operate the hearts, so that all unbelief and mistrust, all hypocrisy and cunning may be removed from them and the coming Saviour is welcomed with sincerity and truth, with authentic and pure faith.

A grace that we must all ask of the Lord is the gift of the knowledge and science of our mission. Those who know themselves are limited to the fulfilment of the ministry received, from which all of humanity re-

ceives a great spiritual benefit. When a person does not recognize, does not know and does not ask the Holy Spirit to reveal him the task to carry out on earth, he is transformed into a forger of himself. He does not realize his humanity. Because of the non self-realization, many other people cannot be realized. The humility of a man is just this: accepting the limit of his mission and being consumed in it, without ever leaving it even a micro-millimetre.

John the Baptist is not Elijah, he is not the Prophet and he is not the Christ. He is only the voice of one who cries out in the desert, calling everyone to prepare the way of the heart and mind so as to be able to welcome the Christ of God by now in their midst. Another grace to ask the Lord is the knowledge of the ministry and mission of every other person who gravitates around us. Knowledge allows us to affirm the differences. The differences are substance of the person and not simple accidents or unnecessary details. John is a man, even if he is a great man. Jesus is not only a true man, he is also the true God in his Person. He is the true God and true man. John is the servant of the Lord. Jesus is the Lord and the Creator of John. Differences of not little importance. Virgin Mary, Mother of God, even your difference with every other woman is greater than heaven and earth. Help us to know Christ in his true difference with every other man.

Father Costantino Di Bruno

Starting afresh from the person to enhance cultural diversity

Reflections starting from the Discourse of H.H. Francis
to the Catholic Universities International Federation (4.11.2017)

Facing global emergencies in a perspective of mercy and concrete realism is the challenge launched by Pope Francis to members of the International Federation of Catholic Universities at the end of the Convention entitled "Refugees and Migrants in a globalized world: responsibilities and responses of Universities".

The migratory emergency, the main focus of his entire speech, was handled by the Holy Father with the gaze of who recognizes in migrations a component of the history of salvation that goes through the history of the world and that, for this reason, cannot be ignored by believers, let alone the trainers of those who in the future will represent pastoral guides.

From the journey of Abraham, to the deportation of the chosen people to Babylon, to the flight to Egypt of Mary and Joseph to save Jesus, our history as Christians is imbued with the search for a human, social and cultural dignity.

In light of all this, universities can represent a valid opportunity to recognize and promote the need to establish medium and long-term projects, which go beyond an immediate response to the emergency and which aim to promote the integration of migrants in the countries of reception and the development of the countries of origin, with honest and targeted policies.

«Let Catholic universities adopt programs aimed at encouraging the education of refugees, at various levels, both through the offer of courses also at distance for those who live in camps and gathering centres, and through the awarding of scholar-

ships that allow their relocation" (Discourse).

Living the welcome as a favourable opportunity to start from the person represents the hope of the Holy Father. Therefore, it is necessary to ask what is our responsibility in a time increasingly characterized by a plurality of cultures and religions. In proposing this question, our attention must shift to man, seen no longer only as a *civis*, a citizen endowed with privileges, but as a person who desires to be happy, beyond his social condition. Inclusion not as a synonym for undifferentiated flattening. On the contrary, we are genuinely inclusive if we are able to make the most of differences, assuming them as a common and enriching patrimony. In this perspective, migrants are a resource and not a burden.

In a globalized context, like the present one, Christians are called to meditate seriously on Jesus' statement: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25: 35). Above all, in front of the drama of male and female refugees, we cannot forget the fact of being in front of people, in front of the same members of the one body that is the Church.

"You will treat the stranger dwelling among you as one who was born among you; you will love him as yourself because you too have been strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God" (Lv 19:34).

Mother of the Redemption give us a heart like yours, ready to welcome every foreign brother and sister on earth.

Father Nicola De Luca

The Lord's Day
III Advent Sunday
Year B

SO THAT ALL MIGHT BELIEVE
THROUGH HIM

TO ANNOUNCE A YEAR OF FAVOUR
FROM THE LORD (Is 61,1-2a.10-11)

The Lord has commanded Moses to build the tent of the convention for him, following what he had been shown on the mountain. The Church was also asked to build the "Tent of God" on the earth which is the Body of Christ. She too is obliged to follow what she saw on the mountain that is Christ Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; for this he consecrated me with anointing and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and give sight to the blind; to set the oppressed in freedom, to proclaim the year of grace of the Lord" (Lk 4,1-19). If the Church in each of her children does not adhere to this "plan and project", no Body of Christ will be built on our earth and God will not be able to live among us. If the Church loses the end of her mission, she might also build "villas and palaces", but God does not live in them. God dwells only in the body of Lord Jesus, in his Son.

MAY THE GOD OF PEACE HIMSELF
MAKE YOU PERFECTLY HOLY (1Thes 5,
16-24))

What is true sanctification? For the Christian it is his perfect conformation to the sentiments that were in Christ Jesus, which are of peace, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, reconciliation, redemption, expiation of the sins of the world, in perfect humility and meekness, in poverty in spirit and in purity of the heart. Never had Jesus had a feeling that was not full obedience to every command of his Father. The Christian has only one mission to carry out: showing alive, today, in history, Christ Jesus. He looks at Christ, he realizes Christ. If he

turns his eyes away from his only model, he will give his life a thousand achievements, but they are not what the Lord wants from him. Who must "sculpt" Christ in our body is the Holy Spirit. To him the Christian must always be delivered, so that Christ may be formed. How do we give ourselves to the Spirit of the Lord? Living in the forge of the Word of Jesus.

MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE
LORD (Jn 1: 6-8.19-28))

Jesus comes. He must be received in the heart and in the mind. If the heart is full of impurity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, foolishness, fornication, idolatry, witchcraft, enmities, discord, jealousy, dissension, division, factions, drunkenness and orgies, never might Christ Lord be accepted in it. The coming Lord is the absolute absence of all evil. He is a very pure light of truth and love. Whoever wants Him to enter his heart must make every effort to make it pure. This is the straight path that must be built. Even the mind must be reclaimed from any thought that does not conform to the thoughts of God. It is a work that begins, but never ends. Evil is very similar to weeds in a field. The more the field is purified, the more weeds try to occupy it again. This is the true mission of the disciple of Jesus: watching without interruption on his heart so that no perverse roots enter and occupy it. If this happens, Christ Jesus is expelled from it. No mission of salvation might be accomplished.

by the theologian,
Frater Constantino Di Bruno