

## In view of the Synod, some resonances of young people to the Message of H.H. Francis for the WYD2018

### GOD CALLS BY NAME

"Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favour with God". The angel Gabriel reassures Our Lady in his call and does it calling her by name, turning to her heart, like a friend who has always known you and knows what is behind your name and behind the appearance.

At birth the first gift we receive is the name, almost as if we became someone in that name, almost as if we officially entered the world with that ticket, with that password given only to us. In that name there is a new life, in that name there is a unique and inimitable identity.

But there is much more in that name, there is a soul that opens to life and that only in God is completed and shines, there is a personal mission to be discovered and realized.

God calls by name; he calls to show the way. In the call to the Our Lady there is the revelation of his mystery, in the answer and in prayer there is our yes. Behind the name of each one there is a vocation: from that word initially assigned as a gift, we become ourselves a gift.

We must have the courage to show who we are, starting from the name and beyond the name.

**Maria Nocchi**

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### THE PLAN OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST FOR HUMANITY

Mary has "found favour with God". Graces means gift, but also gratuity.

As in Mary, the Lord has a predilection look on each of us, on every young person. Every day He lavishes his providence and his attention. Let us never forget that he takes care of us. Of course, everything is by grace; everything is a gift from God. Every good has its origin from the heart of our heavenly Father, from his gratuitous and infinite love towards us.

But in addition to the aspect of gratuitousness, Pope Francis also speaks of fidelity: our vocation requires a commitment of fidelity to be renewed every day.

Fidelity to God is none other than our response to his love. We are faithful when we decide to remain anchored to his word every day, despite trials and temptations.

Therefore, we must not be discouraged. Let us treasure these beautiful words of the Pope: God is able to perceive a unique beauty in our being.

He wants us to persuade ourselves because we are not only living beings alongside other living beings, but we are his children and for this he has, for each of us, a plan for our existence.

Today, here, we are so many plans that together, with faith, we form one only: the plan of the love of Christ for humanity.

**Domenico Melina**



## Listen to me all and understand well!

Jesus always asks his followers to let themselves be guided by wisdom, never by folly, by sound discernment and not by instinct, by light and not by darkness, by truth and not by falsehood. He asks that they be capable of a sound, intelligent, wise and careful reasoning. Man according to God is a wonderful creature, because capable of analysis, synthesis, deduction and argumentation, that is, capable, from a visible truth, to arrive at an invisible truth and from a simple truth to a more complex one. Thus the Book of Sirach: "The Lord from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him. Limited days of life he gives him and makes him return to earth again. He endows man with a strength of his own, and with power over all things else on earth. He puts the fear of him in all flesh, and gives him rule over beasts and birds. He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them; good and evil he shows them. He looks with favour upon their hearts, and shows them his glorious works, That they may describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name" (Sir 17,1-8).

Man is a true man, lives as a true man, only if he is inseparably linked with the truth, the wisdom, intelligence, knowledge and counsel that are in him a gift of the Holy Spirit. When we are not in disobedience to the Lord with the transgression of the Commandments, we must always ask the Holy Spirit to become our Spirit of truth

and light, wisdom and intelligence, counsel and knowledge. Only in this way can we know the true good and the true evil and free ourselves from every false good and from every true evil. When one is separated from the Spirit of God through a grave transgression of his Law, the true good is declared false good, the true evil is called false evil. Thus man proposes the true evil as true good and he declares the true good false good and condemns it. Jesus does not want his disciples to fall into this trap of lies and falsehood tomorrow. They must be teachers of the purest truth of God, capable of every teaching, discernment and gift of true light. If they are masters of the false, all of humanity will walk in falsehood.

Can a food contaminate a man in his heart and soul? It can do it if it is a poisoned food or if it is taken without the virtue of temperance and sobriety. But it is not the food itself that is bad. But the use that is made of it. Whereas if an unjust thought, an evil desire, a wicked, foolish, superb, false, arrogant word come out of the heart, they can lead one generation to death. Who is in the Holy Spirit, understands this. Who is not in the Spirit, is without any intelligence, he reasons and thinks as a blind person. But even today: why do we not understand that the mission of salvation does not come from our hearts, but from the heart of the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit? Mother of God, fill us with your wisdom, to always know and live in the divine will.

**Father Costantino Di Bruno**

## "THERE IS A BEFORE AND AN AFTER BAPTISM" Reflections starting from the Hearing in which H.H. Francis opened the cycle of catechesis on Baptism (11.4.2018)

Baptism:  
- The beginning and the "foundation of Christian life"...

- "The door that allows Christ the Lord to dwell in our person and us to be immersed in his Mystery"...

- The gift that, "by virtue of the Holy Spirit (...) plunges us into the death and resurrection of the Lord, drowning in the baptismal font the old man, dominated by the sin that divides from God, and making the new man, recreated in Jesus, be born"...

- «A rebirth» ...

- "Regeneration": we believe that God has saved us "for his mercy, with a water that regenerates and renews in the Spirit"»...

- The "purification bath" through which "whoever believes in Christ is immersed in the very life of the Trinity"...

- The gift that "by immersing ourselves in Christ... makes us also members of his Body, which is the Church and partakers of his mission in the world"...

- The Baptismal waters which «illuminate our whole life, guiding our steps to the Jerusalem of Heaven»...

These are definitions that the Holy Father quotes verbatim and comments in the first of his audiences dedicated to baptism. They are all attestations carved in the Christian faith and universally transmitted by the tradition of the Church. Therefore, it is necessary to be logical: if the truth of this faith is recognized, the direct consequences for man's being and for the pastoral care of the Church must also be recognized.

What does Baptism bring to man, what does it produce? It is not a matter of "ad-

ding" a grace to the human being, and not even producing a "bit more" for his benefit. Baptism does not "bring", it creates. It does not add, it renews. It does not qualify life, it regenerates it in its newest and most complete essence. The new man comes out of the water of Baptism.

The novelty of the baptized man is novelty of the beginning of his life, not of some external qualities: "One life, that of the Holy Spirit, flows from Christ to the baptized, uniting them in one Body (cf. 1 Cor 12:13), Chrismed by the holy unction and nourished at the Eucharistic table".

This is why - the Pope recalls - «there is a before and after Baptism». And it is not a matter of a chronological passage. The before and after mark a difference that is essential, anthropological, a total change in human nature: "Baptism "Christifies us", who received Baptism and is "Christified", resembles Christ, is transformed into Christ and it really makes him another Christ".

Without the rebirth of water and the Spirit, human nature is therefore unfinished, old, all to be brought into the newness of Christ. Of course, Baptism must be welcomed and brought personally to fruit in the faith. But then how can we think that it is not necessary for the Church to proclaim and propose Baptism, while she witnesses and spreads the Gospel?

Virgin Mary, help us to regain consciousness that to make the new man is an inalienable mission, which the Church can never render conditional, substitute or neglect.

**Father Francesco Brancaccio**

The  
Lord's Day  
ROMAN RITE

TEACHING AS DOCTRINES HUMAN PRECEPTS  
(XXII SUNDAY O.T. YEAR B)

**YOU SHALL NOT ADD TO IT (Dt 4,1-2.6-8)**

The law of the Lord is perfect. It comes from his heart, from his nature and from his being. As to God nothing can be added, so nothing can be added to his Law. As to God nothing can be taken away, so nothing might be taken away from his Law. Someone could think: why then did Jesus give the Gospel as his new law? Jesus did not add anything to the Law of his Father, he conferred it its perfection, its eternal beauty and its divine truth. Jesus has added nothing to human nature. He gave it its truth. He put in it the Holy Spirit so that it reached the fullest and most perfect truth. So he also added nothing to the law of the Father. He placed the Holy Spirit in it so that he taught it to us in its highest fulfillment of love, truth, justice and holiness. Man is not given the power to intervene in the Law of the Lord. All obedience to the Holy Spirit is asked of Him.

**HUMBLY WELCOME THE WORD (Jm 1,17-18.21b-22.27)**

Who is the true disciple of Jesus? He who docilely accepts the Word that has been sown, that is sown in him by the ministers of the Word and taught according to truth to the heart and mind by the Holy Spirit, so that perfect obedience is given. Who wants to know the will of God needs to listen to the ministers of the Word with the outer ear and the Holy Spirit with the inner ears of the heart and the soul. There is no true Word of God if the disciple of Jesus omits only one of these two listenings: of the minister of Christ and of the Holy Spirit. Neither the minister without the Spirit,

nor the Spirit without the minister. If the minister gives his word instead of the Word of the Lord, he becomes responsible to God for all disobedience due to the Word he has not given. The Spirit cannot teach the Word, because it has not been sown. True minister and true teaching of the Holy Spirit: it is God's way.

**THEIR HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME (Mk 7,1-8.14-15.21-22)**

Jesus appeals to the prophet Isaiah to reveal the condition of spiritual misery in which God's people live. There is no true religion in the people, because there is no true obedience. There is no true obedience, because there is no true teaching of the Word. There is no true teaching of the Word, because the teachers of Israel teach not the Law of the Lord, but the precepts of their tradition. Replacing a commandment with an offering to be taken to the temple is a true aberration. We cannot replace the sixth Commandment, or the fifth, the seventh, or the third, or the eighth, or the second or even the first with some alms, some work outside of us. The works of the Christian must be one only: the transformation in his life of every commandment of the Law of the Lord. This is our true charity and also our true hope with which we work in our lives. Instead we want to be adulterers and replace the sin of adultery with the promise of a little sacrifice. On the contrary, we often become more sad for the non-maintained promise of a little sacrifice than for a continued adultery. It is foolishness.

*by the theologian*  
**Father Costantino Di Bruno**