

IN VIEW OF THE SYNOD,
WE PUBLISH SOME RESONANCES
OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE MESSAGE
OF H. H. FRANCIS FOR THE WYD2018

Challenge accepted!

"From the certainty that the grace of God is with us comes the strength to have courage in the present". Pope Francis fully recognizes when he refers to "courage": the typical fears of the youth phase facing the thousand challenges of daily life that inevitably lead us to deal with it.

«Know that the Pope trusts you, that the Church trusts you! And you, trust the Church!» And here is: next to the "courage", the Pope's call is immediately to "trust". It is interesting to underline the reciprocity of this relationship of trust: on the one hand, the reassurance on the trust of the Church towards us young people of whom, therefore, it is important to have awareness and, on the other, the exhortation to have us trust.

After all, each of us is "entrusted" with a task. Here is, again, the punctual appeal of the Pope to "trust", where he re-

minds us that "the young Mary was entrusted with an important task precisely because she was young".

And then, one wonders: why is so important, indeed, our trusting and courageous response according to the unique project that everyone has in this life? The very brief but very significant, successive exhortations seem to reveal right the wonder of being God's instrument for the salvation of the world: committing our energies to improve the world, starting from the realities close to us; being able to assume important responsibilities also in the Church; looking at the example of Mary, whose love is "all projected towards the gift of herself", to be "outgoing Church", loving "God above all and ourselves" and being able to love "even those who could seem to be little lovable»!

That final question - "do you accept the challenge?" - that the Pope addresses to us young people, with such an amiably informal and direct language yet full of meaning, cannot leave us indifferent... It is about "living and not making believe to live!", "being protagonists and not spectators", just as the Pope himself reminded us on other occasions.

Therefore, even though aware of our human and inevitable difficulties, with "trust" and "courage", guys let's say it: yes, Pope Francis... challenge accepted!

Rosj Maria Veraldi

They brought him a deaf-mute person

God created man capable both of listening to his voice and, once heard, of transmitting it to his children. He listens to it in an integral and pure way and transmits it in an integral and pure way. Eva let herself be deceived by the snake. From that moment on she became deaf and mute towards the voice of God, she made herself a listener and transmitter of the voice of the snake. She tempted Adam and together they brought death into human nature and into the world. An element of destruction and decay entered the creation of God. Deafness and muteness became congenital for every man. Today the man listens to Satan and transmits his voice, instead of listening to his Creator and spreading his voice, his word and his truth.

To perform the healing of man, the Father sends his Only Son onto the earth. The healing of the deaf-mute is an image of the miracle of the healing of our spirit, which becomes capable again both of listening to the voice of our Creator and of transmitting it to the whole world. But by nature of sin man always remains deaf and dumb. He does not hear and does not speak. To hear and to speak he needs Christ to put the Holy Spirit in his spirit and his very heart in his heart. This happens on the day of baptism. But then it is necessary that man always revives the Spirit of God within him and always renews his heart growing as one heart with the heart of Jesus the Lord. Without this constant work, he returns to the old nature and consequently into the old muteness and deafness. Man also needs a second way to remain in true listening and transmis-

sion of the Word of his Creator. This second way is the Church. To the external the interior way must always be added way.

It is the obligation of the Church to be a way so that the voice of the Lord, his Holy Spirit, his grace and his truth, always renew, revive and reinforce what took place in Baptism. In the Church everyone must serve the other according to the fruits that each sacrament produces in its nature. The confirmed must serve as a true confirmed and so also the deacon, the presbyter and the bishop. Even the Pope must serve the Church as a bishop, vicar of Christ Jesus, successor of Peter and bearer of the charisma of guarantee and absolute certainty for the whole body of Lord Jesus. The true Church of Christ is built on his rock. He is the visible foundation of the Church of the Lord. If every member of the body of Christ does not serve the whole body from his sacrament and from his particular charisma, the body always risks returning to the deafness and muteness of the old nature. The Church, in every child, according to his particular gifts of grace, truth, charisma, sacrament and mission, must carry out the same work of Christ Jesus. Every day she must give the gift of the word and of listening to herself. Giving the word and listening to herself, she will have to give them to every other man. This is her mission and her ministry. Mother of God, help us to be healed from muteness and spiritual deafness. We will help the whole world to heal, so that it learns to listen to its God, listening to its Church.

Father Costantino Di Bruno

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REGENERATED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR A LIFE ACCORDING TO JESUS

Reflections starting from the fifth Catechesis of H.H. Francis on Baptism (9.5.2018)

The mystery of Baptism is a mystery of regeneration in which an ontological change takes place: from a creature to a child of God, from a man in flesh to a spiritual being. This sacramental renaissance "requires that a man corrupted by sin is reduced to dust" (Audience) and the new man is born that, regenerated by the grace of God and converted to the Word that saves, lives according to the laws of the Spirit.

For this reason, Pope Francis reiterated with complete frankness that Baptism "opens us the door to a life of resurrection and not to a worldly life. A life according to Jesus" (Audience). In other words, the change of nature is at the same time a call to live in perfect obedience to the will of God and in the abandonment of what is immoral and contrary to the Gospel.

After having been immersed in the waters of baptism, man cannot live like pagans. He "re-emerges" Christified, with a new life, holder of a new identity. From this moment on the disciple of Christ can hear and understand every teaching of his Master, he can make a holy discernment concerning good and evil, he can elevate his moral life and realize the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The baptized person can really and concretely lead a life according to Jesus. He has the duty to witness his redemptive condition in everything he says, works, plans, thinks, imagines, wants and desires. He, who has become the light of the world and the salt of the earth, can and must live as a virtuous man: pure, chaste, true, just, merciful, wise, prudent and free from all concupiscence

and pride. This is the difference between the baptized and the non-baptized. Never might the non-baptized reach the peaks of the highest holiness because of a nature corrupted by the sin of origin and in the absence of the birth in Christ priest, king and prophet.

Having become a part of the community of the redeemed in Christ, in addition to pursuing his personal sanctification, the baptized person also becomes responsible for the salvation of the brothers. His mission is that of becoming, with words and example, an exemplary witness of the Gospel, so as to flood the world with truth, charity and hope. A wonderful vocation the one of the Christian, "remade" by God to re-present the Beatitudes in his flesh by bringing the wonders of Heaven to earth.

Unfortunately, our days are difficult, because many baptized live in complete religious indifference, as if they had never received the Holy Spirit, completely disinterested in knowing the will of God and the evangelical principles to which they owe obedience. In the same people of the Lord a diabolic current is nourished that aims to relativize Christ Jesus and his redemption. Truthful confusion generates fruits of mass destruction with regard to the purity of faith, coming to define all religions equal, each one able to relate its faithful to the "one God".

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, assist us with your maternal protection and ensure that we live fully the mystery of our baptismal regeneration in Christ your Son.

Father Raffaele Feroletto

The Lord's Day AND (IMMEDIATELY) THE MAN'S EARS WERE OPENED
ROMAN RITE (XXIII SUNDAY O.T. YEAR B)

THEN WILL THE EYES OF THE BLIND BE OPENED (Is 35.4-7a)

The Messiah or Christ of God comes to bring men to the Father and the Father to men. He will bring the father in a new way because he will give men, who will believe in his Word, will be born from water and the Holy Spirit, the sharing in his divine nature; he will make them his real adoptive sons. He will renew them in their hearts, minds, spirits and souls. He will constitute them new creatures in Him. He will give them the Holy Spirit as their Spirit. With the Holy Spirit inside them they might see God, listen to his Word, live according to his heart and obey his every request of love according to most pure truth and justice. The Messiah will come to operate the new creation, offering man the grace of his rebirth, renewal and total reconstruction of his nature. But for this the work of the Christ of God is not only enough, we also need the will of man, which manifests itself in conversion and faith.

SHOW NO PARTIALITY (Jm 2,1-5)

Faith is obedience to the Lord our God, listening to his every Word, understood according to the pure truth of the Holy Spirit, in which the Christian, always guided by the Spirit of God, is called to walk. If faith is obedience to the Word, rather full and total obedience, it is a movement that starts from God. Never might it start from men. If it starts from God, the Word is lived according to the command received, it might never be lived looking at men or acting on taste, feeling and personal favours. I like you, I am fond of you. You are

rich, I welcome you. You are poor, you can stay away from me. This modality is not faith, because it does not start from the Word, it is not obedience, it is not a journey in the truth, it is not a sequel of the Holy Spirit, it is not listening to his every motion. In faith all personal considerations must vanish, otherwise it is not obedience.

HIS SPEECH IMPEDIMENT WAS REMOVED (Mk 7,31-37)

Today Jesus is prayed to open the ears and untie the tongue to a deaf-mute. The miracle worked by the Lord reveals what his true mission is. He was sent by the Father to make the new creation of man in the Holy Spirit. He must give back to every man a nature capable of listening to the Word, living it in every command and announcing it to every other man as the true Word of eternal life. The proclaimed Word is the fruit of the Word lived, in turn the fruit of the Word heard. If the Word is not heard, it is neither lived and nor announced, proclaimed and witnessed. Whoever has to open our ears so that they listen and our mouth so that it announces the Word is Christ the Lord, through his Holy Spirit. Today there are diabolical and satanic attempts to put Christ at the margins of the Christian's life. Since the miracle of giving hearing and word can only be done by Christ Jesus, if He is put on the margins, the Christian remains in his deafness and in his muteness. Those who exclude Christ, condemn man to an eternal deafness and muteness.

by the theologian,
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