

"Youth on mission". A program in harmony with the WYD

"Giving an affirmative answer to God is the first step to be happy and to make many people happy". The young people of the Apostolic Movement were also listening to the encouragement of Pope Francis, who in his video message in the Panama WYD presented the example of Most Holy Mary as a model of listening, relationship with God and readiness to serve: "She has listened to what the angel told her and then she answered. From this relationship with God in the silence of the heart, we discover our identity and the vocation to which the Lord calls us, which can be expressed in different forms: in marriage, in the consecrated life and in priesthood... All these are ways to follow Jesus. The important thing is to find out what the Lord expects of us and have the courage to say "yes"».

With the screening of the video of the Holy Father, circulated worldwide by Vatican News, the first of a new cycle of meetings of the young people of the Apostolic Movement, held at the Catanzaro central seat, started on 24 January. The event, held simultaneously with the first day of Pope Francis in Panama, has thus placed the young participants in immediate harmony with the many thou-

sands of peers associated with the WYD event.

The cycle of meetings is entitled "Youth on mission. Charisma, gospel and world". Opening the first evening, dedicated to the charismas to be discovered and put to good use, Fr Alessandro Carioti proposed an involving narrative testimony, aimed at making the value of the talents of each and of the whole Apostolic Movement be perceived, to always put them at the service of the Church.

Other priests have also brought the story of their experience, thus opening up to dialogue and discussion with the young people present. References to the beginnings of their vocational journey were also highly appreciated. Testimonies that, without any nostalgic allusions, instead have had the merit of showing substantial and attractive significance with respect to the concrete reality experienced by young people today.

A dialogue enriched by the evocative interventions of some young people, who expressed the charismas of reception and communication through insightful and effective performances of musical pieces.

The dynamic of an encounter that was able to combine reflection, narration and communion was very appreciated by all the young people present. The same dynamic will certainly be resumed in subsequent events.

At the end, the young people set a meeting for the following Sunday, January 27, to participate together with their peers at the Youth Day organized in Rende (CS) by the Regional Youth Ministry, in conjunction with the final celebration of the WYD in Panama.



On your word I will throw the nets

What Peter says to Jesus: "Master, we have laboured all night and we have not taken anything, but on your word I will throw the nets", it is a truth that neither he nor any other fisher of men will have to forget. They must also always remember that the net to be thrown is the very Word of Jesus. The Word must be sown in the hearts according to the modalities revealed by the Holy Spirit. When separations, divisions, distances, contrapositions and subjectivism arise or will be created, between the modalities indicated by the Spirit or even between the Word of Jesus and ours, then we will always return to shore with the empty net. The Holy Spirit does not attract souls into the web of Jesus, if his modalities are not observed. He does not even attract them if the Word that is thrown is not the Word of the Lord.

Every human fisherman must choose between a vain, useless work, in which every energy is consumed without producing any fruit of eternal life and a work of obedience both to the modalities and to the Word that has been given so that it is made to resound ever pure, virgin, immaculate and without any stain or pollution of human words, in the world. It is evident that this obligation is personal for every fisher of men. If every other fisher of men were either to abandon the modalities or the Word that were delivered by Christ the Lord, each individual is personally bound to respect them even at the cost of martyrdom or the sacrifice of his life. Life must be offered in holocaust to God for obedience to his command, which has value until the coming of Christ Jesus on the clouds of hea-

ven. The command ends when the new heavens and the new earth come. Then the present world will end and the future one will begin.

Every fisher of men knows what the methods dictated by Christ Jesus are. They are essentially four: going throughout the world, making disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching those who have been converted to the Word how the Gospel received by them must be lived. Not only must the fisher of men say the Gospel, he must also show with a correctly, perfectly evangelical life how it must be lived and realized in every single Word. When these four modalities - which are of essence and not modalities left to the will of each fisherman - are not brought into being, the Holy Spirit withdraws from the fisherman and no man will enter the net he has thrown. It is a human net with human modalities. It is not a net that interests the Holy Spirit, because it is not the net desired and commanded by Jesus. Can a fisher of men affirm that baptism is no longer necessary? If he said so, he would put himself in Jesus' place. Can he say that it is not necessary today to make disciples? If he taught it or simply thought it, he would take the place of the Holy Spirit. He would sin with pride, because he would believe himself to be in wisdom, intelligence and modalities superior to Jesus. Mother of God, Mother of the Redemption, grant to all the fisher of men the humility to abandon themselves fully to every command given them by Christ the Lord.

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CHRIST JESUS "THE LIGHT, THAT REACHES AND ENLIGHTENS ALL "

Reflections starting from the homily of H.H. Francis in the Epiphany of the Lord (6.1.2019)

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piphany: the word indicates the manifestation of the Lord, who, as St. Paul says in the Second Reading (cf. Eph 3: 6), reveals himself to all peoples, represented today by the Magi. Thus the beautiful reality of God That came for all is revealed: every nation, language and people is welcomed and loved by him. A symbol of this is the light, which reaches and enlightens all " (Homily).

The prologue of John on Christ "true light" relates: "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (Jn 1: 9). Christ is the eternal Word of the Father, the true God himself, forever with him. He comes in the flesh to bring to man the fullness of grace and truth, the true knowledge of the Father, the "power to become children of God": to those who believe in his name" (see Jn 1: 1-18). The Word does not come from himself, but, as Jesus himself will testify to the Jews: "I came out and come from God; I did not come from myself, but he sent me" (Jn 8:32). He comes to realize the eternal plans of salvation kept in the heart of the Father, suggested by the eternal counsel of the Holy Spirit, sealed by the eternal gift of the Son to the Father as the Lamb of redemption for the salvation of the creature.

Isaiah's prophecy foretells that the Light that is Christ is universal and all peoples need it: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples" (60: 2). And St. Paul affirms: "all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). It is certainly true that the coming of Christ is the coming of salvation, the coming of grace and the coming of truth and light, "which reaches and enlightens all ". But it is evident that the presence of Christ among men must be

evangelized so that we may believe in him, and become one body and one salvation with him.

The Magi are men that become a part of the history of salvation as witnesses of this universality of the light of Christ, but also of their experienced evangelization of Him as their Messiah, accepted and followed by them. The Father and the Holy Spirit have mysteriously provided for them by raising "his star" and setting these men in movement so that, not without the motion of the Holy Spirit, the ancient prophecy were accomplished (see Is 60: 6).

As to the Magi many aids were needed to be able to access the "place where the child was", so also to the men that the Providence of the Father will want to lead to Christ many aids are needed so that they reach where their Redeemer "rests". The mere coming of Christ is not sufficient to reach and enlighten all men. We need the Spirit that moves to Christ, we need the Scriptures that reveal the details of his mystery. Therefore, the Church, in whose womb there is the fullness of the means of grace and light, so that every man may be clothed with them, is needed. Faith to adhere to him is also needed.

In our days, the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, reminds that peoples, to return to being enlightened by their Redeemer, need those who spend their lives to know, live and proclaim the Word of the Gospel. may the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Angels and Saints, obtain us to live and die in the conviction that from the fidelity to this call the triumph of the Light of Christ might flourish for many hearts in the world.

Father Giuseppe Deodato

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

THEY LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED HIM
(V Sunday O.T. - Year C)

WHOM SHALL I SEND? WHO WILL GO FOR US? (Is 6,1-2a.3-8)

The historical ways which the Lord uses to call and entrust a particular mission are special for each person. There is no way that is the same as the others. They are always new. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, The first four apostles and Saul, for each one the Lord has his own particular modality. Isaiah is in the temple of his God. He sees his glory and listens to his voice. He does not know who to call and who to send to let his people hear his voice. After having been purified, Isaiah offers his life to the Lord. "Who will I send and who will go for us?" And I replied: "Here I am, send me!" The Lord always needs someone to send to man to call him to salvation. Not always who is willing to give his life for a mission of proclamation, redemption and salvation is found. God needs us.

IF YOU HOLD FAST TO THE WORD I PREACHED TO YOU (1Cor 15, 1-11)

Salvation is achieved if two obediences are experienced. One is like the tree. The other like the fruit. The first obedience asks the missionaries of the Gospel to preach the Word in fullness of truth. You receive the Word, just as you receive it, it must be announced, preached and taught. You receive it pure, you give it pure. It is received intact, it is given intact. If we add, take away, modify and alter what we have received, it is no longer the Word that it is given, but our thoughts and desires. Then, who receives the Word, he will receive eternal life from the Word, if he will live it as it was transmitted and received. If who receives it

makes even a slight change in it, some modification or transformation either in a lot or a little it is no longer the Word of the Lord and no salvation will come from it. The Gospel must be lived just as it was transmitted. If it is altered, it is vainly believed in it. It will produce no fruit of eternal life.

FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BE CATCHING MEN (Lk 5,1-11).

Here is the apostolic mission: fishing men to lead them into the eternal homeland, through the boat that is the body of Christ Jesus, his Church. From the body of Christ the Word of Christ is sown, according to the ways and forms indicated by Him. The Holy Spirit attracts into the net of the Word, the Apostles with the sacraments of grace, insert each person into the body of Christ, in his Church. Taken by the hands by the Apostles and the ministers and administrators of the mysteries of God, they are accompanied to the threshold of eternity. The preaching of the Word must always produce the fruit of the incorporation to Christ and of the formation of the Church. The aggregation to the body of Christ of new members, new disciples, is the essence of the apostolic and missionary ministry. Jesus does not tell Peter: "I will make you a sower of my Word". Instead he says: "I will make you a fisher of men or you will be a fisher of men". Evangelization is not only to throw the net, but also to draw from the net all the men sent or attracted there by the Spirit, to place them on the boat of the Church, which is the body of Christ and to bring them to the shore of eternity.

by the theologian,
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