

Apostolic Movement: Final report on the service carried out in the Archdiocese of Catanzaro-Squillace Year XL - 2018/19 (Part 1 of 4)

Young people were the main protagonists of the 10th International Convention of the Apostolic Movement, on the theme: "I am listening to you. Young people protagonists in the Church and in society". The convention, held November 26, 2018 in Catanzaro, at the Palasport of Giovino District, saw the presence of over 1,300 participants coming also from other Italian and foreign dioceses.

In the preparation phase of the convention, some training sessions for young people were organized in Catanzaro, Serra San Bruno and at the Monte Stella Sanctuary.

The convention was moderated by Dr. Maria Nocchi, who reiterated how this event was organized in continuity with the recent Synod of Bishops dedicated to young people.

The work was introduced by Dr. Domenico Lucchino, delegate of the President Cesare Rotundo, who was unable to participate. Lucchino recalled how the young people were also protagonists in some previous conventions, and, of course, in the musicals of Dr. Cettina Marraffa.

After greeting the Founder, Mrs. Maria Marino and all the people present, the

Catanzaro-Squillace Archbishop, Monsignor Vincenzo Bertolone, President of the CEC, in his speech underlined that "This people assures the young their listening because it considers them protagonists of society. It is a new, revolutionary perspective in pastoral care. Faith comes from listening". He also underlined that "initiatives must be planned with young people and not for young people. Making them credible witnesses of the beauty of the Gospel".

Prof. Antonio Cerasa, neuroscientist of the CNR of Catanzaro, answered to some questions that were asked him, on the subject being discussed, intervening directly in the audience, hand in hand with the numerous young people present at the meeting.

HE Msgr. Domenico Battaglia, Bishop of Cerreto Sannita - Telesse - S. Agata de Goti, who had already been for 20 years at the head of the Calabrese Solidarity Centre, in his speech, highlighted, that "young people are the perennial resource in the Church, the strength of our hope, the breath of our joy, fragile revolutionaries, precarious builders of presence and future".

During the convention the hymn "I am listening to you", was proposed, by some young people, while fr Davide Marino took care of the delivery of an award to the winner of a photo contest dedicated to the event. Then, fr Davide himself read a message of encouragement and good wishes addressed to all from the Founder of the Apostolic Movement, Mrs. Maria Marino.

(it continues)



He will teach you everything

Any truth refused, forgotten, neglected, or even denied, contested and deliberately abandoned, modifies our Christian statute. It makes us become from true disciples of Jesus false, unjust from righteous, sinners from saints and from lovers of the true good we are transformed into its enemies. The truth that is never announced or reminded is this: the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of his body. He works only to form the body of Christ. If we are out, he works to make us Christ's body. If we are the body of Christ, he acts so that we become fully conformed to Jesus the Lord. This is the mission of the Holy Spirit: forming the body of Christ, arranging that the body of Christ manifests in history all the power of its beauty of holiness, grace, eternal life, light, justice and peace. Since the visible body of Christ lives fully in all its power of grace and truth in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, the Holy Spirit works to make every man the Church of Christ Jesus. Once he has become visible Church, with all her gifts of grace and truth He helps him so that he can live according to all the holiness that is in Christ the Lord.

When we separate ourselves from the Church, when we do not want to become the Church of Christ Jesus in the fullness of her visibility, the Spirit can work nothing for us. If the apostles of Christ Jesus dissociate themselves from this mission, that is, they are not perfect instruments of the Spirit to form the Church, the visible body of Christ, He withdraws from them. What they do is not for his inspiration and nor for his motion.

There is no formation of the visible body of Christ. But when there is stagnation in the formation of the visible body of Christ, there is always separation from the Holy Spirit. We act from the flesh and not from the power of the Spirit of Christ the Lord. The same thing must be said when we separate ourselves from the body of Christ with a mortal sin. We are cut off from the life of the body, the Holy Spirit can no longer work in us and for us. We are like branches cut from the vine. We are good only to be collected and burned in the fire. No one can appeal to the Holy Spirit when we separate ourselves from the visible body of Christ, when we live in vice, when we break the commandments of the Law of the Lord.

The body of Christ is everything for the Christian. The Christian must live everything to form himself as the body of Christ, being fully conformed to his Master. But he must also live everything so that every other man can also become the visible body of Lord Jesus. There cannot exist a Christian that does not invoke the name of Lord Jesus and that does not become the body of Christ Jesus. This is why the Apostles are sent into the world: to call those who seek the true God so that they let themselves be made the true body of Christ, the only way to reach the true God. Christ is our life and every life is in Christ. One is in Christ and he is in life. One is not in Christ and he is in death. Mother of the Redemption, put the very pure truth of Jesus, your Son and our Lord in the heart of every Christian.

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno

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NOURISHMENT, LIFE, PROCLAMATION: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION "TRIAD"

*Reflections starting from the Speech of H.H. Francis
at the Congress of the Catholic Biblical Federation (26.04.2019)*

Speaking to the participants in the International Congress promoted by the Catholic Biblical Federation, the Holy Father focused above all on the theme of the event, namely the inseparable binomial that exists between Bible and life.

At the beginning of his Speech, he invited all those present to never reduce Sacred Scripture simply to a collection of Sacred Books to be known or studied, since it is mainly the Word to be incarnated and sown on all the earth lands (see Mk 4.1-20). It is not enough to simply spread the Word of God with the announcement, or with studies, research, volumes and academic contributions, so that love for the Lord and the desire to follow him is born in hearts. In addition to giving the Word, it is necessary to give the Holy Spirit, because He alone is able to touch hearts and open them to conversion. To give the Spirit of conversion, first of all, it is necessary to live moved by him, in the sanctity of life, that is, by being committed daily to translate the revealed truth of Scripture into a concrete existence.

In reference to the preaching of the Word, the Pope also focused on the missionary dimension, recalling that the Church cannot remain closed in herself, but she is called to go out to proclaim the Word of Christ to every man, in fidelity to the command received from her Lord (see Mk 16,15-16; Mt 28.18-20).

However, to carry out his mandate in an authentic way, every Christian must always draw the content of his announcement from the Word of God, renouncing to speak of himself, of personal things that have nothing to do with the true faith, to put only the voice

of the Most High at the core of his speeches. In this regard, the Pope pointed out that the Holy Spirit is pleased only with "a Church that does not speak from herself or of herself, but that has the Lord in her heart and on her lips, that she daily draws from his Word. Instead, the temptation is always that of announcing ourselves and talking about our dynamics, but life is not transmitted to the world this way" (Speech).

Pope Francis recalled that, in order to present the Word in a current way, the Church must constantly feed on it, in the daily reading and meditation of the Gospels, which in Sacred Scripture constitute the "heart" (see CCC 125; DV 18). Therefore Scripture must be understood in the faith of the Church. This is the reason why on the part of every faithful it is necessary the assiduous attendance of the Catechesis and to be compared with the priests on the Word of God, to avoid that truthful and moral confusion is generated in the people of God.

Nourishment, life, announcement. This is the existence of the Christian: he is nourished with the Word, he commits himself every day to living it, he announces it as it is, "without adding and taking anything away" (cf Dt 4,2; 13,1; Rev 22,18 -19). If one of the three dimensions fails, not only does his mission lose its authenticity but also its saving effectiveness.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, in whose womb the Word of God became flesh, intercede for us to be faithful heralds of the Word of her Son Jesus. May the divine grace make Christ's desire be born in many people who do not know him yet.

Father Felice Raffaele

**The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE**

**HE WILL REMIND YOU OF ALL THAT (I) TOLD YOU
(PENTECOST SUNDAY - Year C)**

THERE APPEARED TO THEM TONGUES AS OF FIRE (Acts 2,1-11)

The Holy Spirit is the true "devouring fire". He must set fire and burn to ashes our old humanity, so that the new one, made entirely in the image of the humanity of Christ Jesus, may arise in its place so that it may live in him, with him and for him, his same mission of salvation and redemption. The Holy Spirit is one, the tongues of fire are as many as the disciples of Jesus. To each one the tongue of fire is given to fulfil the mission of being fully conformed to Christ Jesus and so that according to his personal conformation he can accomplish the mission. The baptized as a baptized, the confirmed as a confirmed and so also the deacon, the presbyter and the bishop. Since Christ is one, the body of Christ is one and the Holy Spirit is one, all of Jesus' disciples must also work in unity. Everyone must add his little flame of the Holy Spirit to the other little flames. This is the true communion that must reign in the body of Christ.

THE SPIRIT IS ALIVE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Rom 8: 8-17)

Justice is realizing everyone his own life only from the will of God, so that Christ, in his mystery of truth, light, eternal life, grace, salvation, redemption and eternal glory may be formed in us and in others. If we exclude from our justice the formation of Christ in man, up to our perfect conformation to him, there is no real justice. Then, ours becomes a human, earthly, non-divine and non-evangelical justice. The Christian must only realize the evangelical, divine and eternal justice. He can realize it if every day he lets himself be animated, led and moved by

the Holy Spirit who is the Giver of life, that is, the Creator and Former of the life of Christ Jesus in us. If we separate ourselves from Christ, the Holy Spirit can no longer act, because he can no longer realize justice according to God. Today we all risk being unjust because we have separated justice from Christ the Lord and from the Holy Spirit. We serve men with an unjust justice.

HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE (Jn 14,15-16. 23b-26)

No man alone can accomplish the mission received from Christ Jesus, a mission that is twofold: bringing himself into the eternal kingdom of the Father, realizing on earth the full conformation to Jesus the Lord; calling every other man so that he lets himself be made the body of Christ, to realize Christ in his life and to reach him into the blessed eternity. The temptations are many, the ways that open before us are many, but only one is the right one, the one that the Holy Spirit has outlined for us. Since only the Spirit knows this way, only He can teach it to us, but not telling it at the beginning. Instead, He reveals it to us moment by moment, second by second, action by action and thought by thought. That is why Jesus left us another Comforter, another Paraclete. Jesus is the Paraclete of salvation, of redemption and of the great intercession. The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete of uninterrupted guidance to reach full and perfect conformation to Christ, to be the true body of Christ and to form the body of Christ, with the addition of new members.

*by the theologian,
Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno*