

MILAN - Life of the Apostolic Movement (2018/19)

"A Church on a journey, that is not afraid of being reformed and reading the signs of the times for a witness that makes itself joy and hope for the people of today": it was the leitmotif that guided our catechesis and spirituality meetings, which have developed starting from the Pastoral Letter "His strength grows along the way" for 2018/2019, of our Archbishop Msgr. Mario Delpini.

On the basis of the indications of the Holy Father, on the traces designated by the Diocese and following the programmatic lines of 2018-2019, written by the Central Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Apostolic Movement Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno, both the catechesis service according to the model of the central seat, which is at the same time biblical-theological-liturgical-ascetic-sacramental, on the Gospel in Ambrosian Sunday rite and the spiritual formation meetings, were carried out.

The formation meetings of the adhering members took place respectively in the following venues where the Apostolic Movement is present:

- In the Holy Spirit Parish Corsico, usually on Wednesday, the formation meeting led by Father Massimo Cardamone was held.

- In the Saints Gervaso and Protasio Parish, of the Saint Peter from Verona Pastoral Community in Seveso, Fr. Carlo Pirotta held weekly catechesis and monthly formation meetings.

- In the Saint Brizio parish in Olginate, Pastoral Community of Besozzo, in the first part of the year the meetings were held with some adhering members who were there every Thursday to read the Gospel of the following Sunday commented by Msgr. Costantino di Bruno. In the month of fr. Giuseppe Andreoli accepted the spirituality of the Apostolic Movement in the Parish, allowing the members to meet in the parish premises for the moments of catechesis and spirituality, guided once a month by fr. Massimo Cardamone.

- In the Parish of St. Desiderio in Correzana, fr. Carlo held monthly catechesis sessions in the oratory rooms, on the specific of the spirituality of the Apostolic Movement.

We are present in the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Fr Carlo Pirotta diocesan ecclesiastical assistant, Maria Curtosi, Diocesan Responsible member of the Apostolic Movement, Alessandra Chiesa, a lay consecrated person at the Secular Institute "Mary Mother of the Redemption", are part of the diocesan consultation committee of the Coordination of Movements in the Diocese of Milan.

There were also the MeetMaps, which involved adherents and supporters, a moment of gathering and reflection for the adherents of the Diocese of Milan.

On the third Sunday of the month we animated Mass at 9.30 am at the Masciadri Rest Home in Seveso.

Let us always pray to the Mother of the Redemption so that through her intercession she guides our steps according to the will of her Son Jesus, in communion with the universal Church and obedience to the Holy Father. To Jesus we entrust our journey, always listening to the words of the Holy Father Francis, who every day reminds us of the true motive of our being movement in the Church, at her service in the brothers.

**The diocesan responsible adherents
and the diocesan secretary**



Who made me judge or mediator above you?

Jesus, the Eternal Son of the Father, the One for whom and in view of whom not only creation, but also the redemption of the human race were made, was constituted by the Father, in the Holy Spirit, not only Lord and Judge of the living and of the dead, but also the only Mediator between the Father and every man, including the whole universe. Nothing descends from the Father onto the earth except through Christ, in Christ and with Christ. From the earth nothing ascends to the Father, except through Christ, with Christ and in Christ. The Father knows in the Holy Spirit no one except Christ Jesus and those who are in him, and live with him and for him. Jesus will not know anyone before his Father, if not those who have listened to his voice, done his will, recognizing him as their God and Lord before every man. The confession of Christ Jesus before men is a necessary and indispensable condition to enter the kingdom of heaven. These are the conditions set by Jesus to enter paradise.

A man asks Jesus to act as arbiter and mediator between him and his brother in a matter of inheritance. Jesus firmly rejects this mediation. He did not come to put the men in agreement among them. Today many Christians are doing just that: they work to put men in agreement with each other. This is not Jesus' mission. Instead it consists in preaching the Gospel, the Word of the good news, inviting every man to conversion and faith in it, so that he can enter into communion with his Father, in the Holy Spirit. When a man enters into communion with the Father, in Christ and

through the Holy Spirit, it is then that he will know true communion. This is in the offering of the personal life to the Father, so that many other men may enter into this mystery of eternal communion. This is the reason why much of today's work of Jesus' disciples is destined for an eternal failure. There is no real communion between man and man if it is not true communion in Christ, for Christ and in Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, in conversion to the Gospel and in faith in it for all the days of our lives. Agreements between man and man are ephemeral. It suffices a breath of wind and they skip. At most they can be done between a man and another man, but not between a people and another people.

When a Christian makes an agreement between him and another man at the expense of Christ Jesus, ignoring him and misunderstanding him, betraying his mission as a mediator in Christ, for the gift of Christ to every heart, because only in it true communion is created between a man and another man, this agreement is never blessed by the Lord. Without the blessing of the Father, our toil rots. Never might it produce a single fruit of good. The Father never blesses when his Son is placed in a closet of our life. Christ must be the heart of our heart, the mouth of our mouth, the thought of our thoughts, the truth of our every word and the holiness of our desire. Mother of God, ensure that we give Christ Jesus our life so that He may become the life of every man on earth.

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno

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
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Printed by the press office of the Apostolic Movement

CHRIST JESUS, THE MODEL EVERY YOUNG PERSON MUST LOOK AT)
*Reflections starting from the second chapter
of the Apostolic Exhortation "Christus vivit" of H. H. Francis*

The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus vivit* of the Holy Father Francis follows the work of a Synod Assembly integrating the work of communion carried out by the Bishops, gathered together with the Successor of Peter, with the voice of the Pastor to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to confirm the brothers in faith.

In his second chapter (cf. §§ 22-63) the Exhortation offers many points for reflection, but above all it presents Jesus to young people as the true model of life. The Gospels seemingly appear to be scanty with news about the youth of Christ. But the few things that emerge from them are sufficient to introduce us into a mystery, that of youth, having wasted which life might hardly enter into the fullness of its completion.

The thirty years of the hidden life of Jesus, on which the Gospels open a few windows, were the long preparation for his messianic ministry. Thus Christ lived his youth (cf. ChV 27). Youth is this mystery of hidden, arduous and laborious preparation to know and live the vocation and mission for which each of us has been called to existence.

Another truth about the youth of Jesus is given by the fidelity in which each of the members of the Family of Nazareth lives, which is the garden where the Father, in the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit, wanted to "plant" his eternal Word. Jesus comes to the light, through the work of the Holy Spirit, from the chaste breast of the Virgin Mary and grows in a family entirely consecrated to living the will of God. Servant of the mystery of the Incarnation of the eternal Word that is fulfilled through her divine motherhood is the Virgin Mary; Servant of the mystery of a spiri-

tual paternity, which confers on the eternal Word descended into the flesh, true Davidic descent, is St. Joseph.

This garden, the holiness in a particular way of the father and mother, is certainly an indispensable condition so that even today the young may flourish and bear fruit according to the divine plan woven for each man "from the mother's womb".

Another truth about Christ's youth was the growth of Jesus in "age, wisdom and grace" (cf. ChV 26). It was favoured by the garden of his Holy Family and also by his letting himself be cultivated in the faith of the Fathers, listening to and meditating on the Scriptures, a man among men: He who was the eternal Word of the Father. Jesus had a habitual attendance at the synagogue of Nazareth: "He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up and according to his custom, on the Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and rose to read" (Lk 4,16). This small note reminds us of another aspect necessary for youth for a harmonious and true growth: the need for its formation in the mysteries of faith and its growth in grace. How might a young man who does not let himself be formed in faith and who does not keep an orderly and true relationship with the Sacraments, prepare himself to live his Christian mission?

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, you wanted to plant each of us in a special garden of the Church, that of the Apostolic Movement, a garden of high formation, of growth in grace of communion and prayer. Arrange that we guard this garden in its heavenly status so that young people can flourish as true disciples and witnesses of Christ.

Father Giuseppe Deodato

**The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE**

**THE THINGS YOU HAVE PREPARED,
TO WHOM WILL THEY BELONG?**
(XVIII SUNDAY O.T. - Year C)

VANITY OF VANITIES! ALL THINGS ARE VANITY! (Eccl 1,2; 2,21-23)

To Qoheleth vanity is a chasing the wind. One can also chase the wind for a whole day or even for a lifetime, the result does not change. He was empty before and is empty after. In addition, the waste of all the personal existence on our earth, whose purpose is only one, is added: living it well in order to reach eternal life tomorrow in the holy heavens of our God. What is it then what arranges that all our occupations are not a vanity? Living them by the Law and according to the Law of the Lord, of the Creator of man, both by the Law of justice and by the law of charity or of the purest love, which is sharing and communion of every good that we possess with those who are poor on our earth. If man places himself out of the law of love, not only does he spoil his human existence in vanity, he also drags it into sin and loses it for eternity. He does not enjoy the present and nor eternity. From vanity he passes to eternal death.

STOP LYING TO ONE ANOTHER
(Col 3.1-5.9-11)

Christianly Speaking, a lie is every word of the Christian that denies, obscures, tarnishes, contradicts, fights and destroys the truth of Christ the Lord, the only one in whom it is established that we are saved. Today, Christians are telling many and numerous lies about God and about Christ. A lie is the declaration about the one God. A lie is the assertion that true salvation is achieved without Christ. Against God, who has established that only in Christ the redemption and salvation of the

human race is, we say that every man can save himself by himself for himself. A lie is the assertion that the commandments are burdensome and cannot be lived. Jesus says that his yoke is gentle and his burden light. His yoke is the Sermon on the Mount. A lie is every teaching that holds that eternal salvation is independent of works. A lie is supporting the non-existence of hell.

**THIS NIGHT YOUR LIFE WILL BE
DEMANDED OF YOU** (Lk 12,13-21)

Scripture teaches that man is the one who has his breath on loan, without any stipulated contract on the duration. This can be of an instant or of a hundred and more years. Only God knows how long the breath will remain in us. Knowing this, every man must always be ready to leave time and enter eternity. Since there is not only Paradise, but also eternal perdition, everyone must always be ready to enter Paradise. We are ready, obeying both the Law of justice and the Law of charity, almsgiving, sharing and communion of both our material and spiritual goods. Almsgiving is a powerful key that opens the doors of paradise and closes those of hell. Mercy towards the poor of the earth covers a multitude of sins. It is the utmost foolishness to imprison the heart in the goods of this world and then damn soul and body for eternity. It is foolish to amass wealth on earth, knowing that we will carry nothing with us. Instead we can bring all wealth if we turn it into eternal currency with almsgiving.

by the theologian,

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno