

Rome - H.Eminence Card De Donatis inaugurated the Apostolic Movement's year of Catechesis

The cycle of organic and systematic catechesis that the Apostolic Movement offers for the 35th year in the capital started on 18 October. The general theme of the meetings - "In movement driven by the Holy Spirit" - this year is also taken from the speech that the Holy Father Francis gave on the occasion of the Convention of the Diocese of Rome (Laterano Basilica, 9 May 2019).

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by the Cardinal Vicar, H. Eminence Angelo De Donatis, at the Saint Romano Martyr parish, in the Tiburtino district, one of the various parishes of the city in which the adherents of the Apostolic Movement are active with their service of pastoral animation.

A dozen priests, sisters of the secular institute Mary Mother of the Redemption, the adherents of the Apostolic Movement in Rome and numerous parish faithful were in attendance. The parish priest of Saint Romano, Fr Julio Lavin de Tezanos Pinto, thanked his Eminence for his presence and introduced the regional assistant of Calabria, fr Gesualdo De Luca, for the opening

greeting and the presentation of the theme of the year.

In the homily, the Cardinal, referring to the Gospel passage of the feast of St. Luke, took inspiration from the mission that Jesus entrusted to the seventy-two disciples. The Evangelist - he commented - spoke to us about the mercy of the Father and the mission of the Church in a difficult context like ours: "I send you as lambs among wolves". Therefore, we are invited each to resume our mission, knowing that the missionary does not go by himself, but is always an envoy of Christ Jesus. As such, he brings nothing of his own, but announces the Kingdom, whose content does not belong to us but it was given to us. With this awareness, he recommended to all the members convened to go and bring the good news to the poor, in the certainty that the listener will start being in "movement" to return to the Father's house and be welcomed in his arms, which are always in movement to give us his embrace. The Virgin Mary, who with her presence accompanies the movement of the disciples, is a certainty and a source of trust.

In communion with their respective parish priests, the 2019-2020 meetings are offered in the same parish of Saint Romano and in the "St. Mary of the Carmine and Saint Joseph" in the Casaleto district. In the former a biblical catechesis is proposed, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 7.30 pm; in the latter, a Bible course is held with an appointment every Monday at 7.00pm.



With your perseverance

Perseverance according to the Gospel is very personal. Every member of the body of Christ must obey not only the Gospel according to the truth placed in it by the Holy Spirit. He must also carry out the mission entrusted to him and freely assumed by him in respect of the lived charisma and sacrament with which he receives a particular and special conformation to Christ Jesus. With baptism the adoptive progeny with the Father must be brought to fulfillment. Until the end we must live as true children of God. With confirmation we must accomplish the mission of showing the beauty of the Gospel to every man. As Jesus showed the world the beauty of the Father's love and truth, so the confirmed person must manifest to every man the beauty of the grace, truth, light and holiness of Lord Jesus. The deacon must live the whole charity of Christ by placing himself at the service of the needs of the body of Christ. The presbyter must nourish the people of God with every grace and truth. He must make all his efforts so that every member of the body of Christ conforms to his Head. He must spend all his energy so that the body of Christ grows with the addition of new members. In the Parish, the evangelizing mission must originate from him and must return to him for its supernatural fulfilment.

The Bishop announces the Word. Makes new disciples of Christ. Indicates Jesus as the one and only way of salvation. He baptizes. Give the Holy Spirit. Generates Deacons, Presbyters and Bishops. Leads the community. Watches over it so that nothing impure enters its breast. He keeps the faithful in the grace and light of Christ the Lord. Provides for each

community to be led by a presbyter. Harmonizes the many charisms within his Church. Discerns if a charisma comes from God or is the fruit of the human mind. Teaches how the Gospel is lived in every Word. In the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, everything is from the Father. The Father works through Christ and his Holy Spirit. Jesus acts through the Bishop and the Spirit. Without the mediation in the grace and truth of the Bishop, even the work of the Holy Spirit remains unfinished. The Spirit does not celebrate sacraments, does not baptize, does not make the Eucharist and does not proclaim the Gospel. Without hierarchical communion with the Bishop there is no mission of true salvation. The sacramental source through which Christ Jesus pours himself into the hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit is missing. Without the Bishop, Christ would be like the Father without Him. There is no salvation. Everything in the Church is from the perseverance of the Bishop in his vocation, ministry and mission. He is the fire that sets fire to every other perseverance in the body of Christ.

The history that is made up of violent persecutions, temptations, obstacles and impediments that reach the point of martyrdom, is the place of our perseverance. The journey of one in fidelity to Christ becomes a model, an example, a spur, an incitement, an exhortation and an attraction for everyone else. Whoever fulfills his mission, helps the whole body in fidelity to Christ Jesus. Mother of God, come to our help. Obtain for us the grace of being persevering to the end.

Msr. Costantino Di Bruno

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Internet: www.movimentoapostolico.it
e-mail: info@movimentoapostolico.it

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"IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS: IT'S ABOUT OUR HUMANITY"

*Reflections in the light of the Message of H.H. Francis
for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (09/29/9)*

On the occasion of the 105th Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Holy Father wanted to highlight how the arrival of migrants and refugees on our coasts is a much wider issue than what appears. It does not place itself only on a social, political, cultural, ethnic or economic level, but also on a spiritual level: "We are not just dealing with migrants: by being interested in them we are also interested in ourselves and in everyone; taking care of them, we all grow" (Speech). The real problem is the consideration that one has of man, of his dignity and his full realization according to God, since "it is not only a question of migrants: it is a question of our humanity" (ibid).

In our time, some ideologies tending to a marked individualism, which, combined with the utilitarian mentality and increased by the mass media, produce the so-called "globalization of indifference", contribute to generate a vision of man lacking in faith and truth. In this context, migrants and refugees are often charged with very negative judgments. Many, letting themselves be conditioned by the evil deeds that men commit, come to "distrust everyone" and to close themselves in their fears, manifesting even attitudes of intolerance or racism. Thus, fear becomes an interpretative factor that distorts history and prevents us from preserving the baggage of values linked to the Christian faith.

Recovering the meaning of life and the inalienable value of human dignity means having to deal with the very theme of salvation, since the latter concerns this earth and is, before than a blessed eternity, the full realization of a project that God has

about every man. To achieve the realization of this project, man is called to live in obedience to the will of God. The necessary way that the Word manifests concerns truth, compassion, charity and acceptance of the brother, especially of whoever suffers or even risks his life.

Mercy is necessary in order to become men and women fully realized according to God. As the Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches, it consists in taking care concretely of the brother who is in a state of need of the body or the spirit. The Good Samaritan shows care and attention towards the foreigner and thanks to his ability to know how to "spend" himself for the good of the other, he manages to give that man the "half life" that had been taken away from him by the brigands.

Evangelical mercy is not exclusive, but inclusive: good is done to all, without judging or making favouritisms of any kind. It is placed in a perspective of faith: we help others because before our eyes there is not only a man who is in need, but one in whom we recognize the face of Christ (cf. Mt 25: 31-46).

With a look of faith we can see «in the migrant and in the refugee not [...] a problem to be faced, but a brother and a sister to be welcomed, respected and loved, an opportunity that Providence offers us to contribute to the construction of a more just society and a more complete democracy" (ibid.).

May the Virgin Mary help us to embody Christ's compassion to realize ourselves in the will of God and contribute to a more just and fraternal society.

Father Felice Raffaele

**The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE**

**YOU WILL BE HATED BY ALL BECAUSE OF MY NAME
(XXXIII SUNDAY O.T. - Year C)**

THE DAY IS COMING, BLAZING LIKE AN OVEN (Mal 3.19-20a)

When a false thought about God and his actions insinuates itself into the people, the Lord always intervenes through his prophets and puts the divine truth back on the candelabrum so that every man can let himself be enlightened by it. At the time of Malachi it was stated that good and evil are indifferent before God. There is no benefit for those who observe the Law. Whether you observe or do not observe, everything is indifferent before the Lord. God intervenes promptly and reveals that there is difference and it is eternal. Those who obey his Word will shine in his kingdom like stars in the firmament. But those who surrender to disobedience and sin will be consumed as chaff in the fire. Neither root nor bud will remain of them. Today this truth has been erased from many hearts. We have returned to the time of Malachi. Indeed, we add that God's mercy surrounds us and our sin is hidden from his eyes.

IF ANYONE WAS UNWILLING TO WORK, NEITHER SHOULD THAT ONE EAT (2Ts 3,7-12)

After the man sinned he received from the Lord a commandment that must be observed from the day he sees the light until his eyes will close forever: "With the sweat of your forehead you will eat your bread". The earth is as hard as a stone. You water it with your own sweat. It produces what is necessary for man to live. From the newborn to the elderly, according to their abilities, everyone must shed his sweat and eat bread in peace. Because of a false faith, a false expectation of the coming of Jesus, many Christians in the Thessalonian com-

munity had stopped working. The Apostle takes the pen and corrects this false thought. Jesus can also come today, tomorrow and when he wants. Until He has come, everyone must get the bread he eats with the sweat of his forehead. Today's false faith does not abolish yesterday's commandment. Do you want to eat? Work. You don't want to work? You don't even have the right even to a bread crumb. A rule of universal justice.

YOU WILL EVEN BE HANDED OVER BY PARENTS (Lk 21.5-19)

Not only does Jesus ask his disciples to persevere, he also wants them to be as simple as doves and as prudent as snakes. Those who are believers must know that only he who truly believes in Christ might never betray them. He will not betray them until he believes in Christ. The moment he loses faith, even the believer might be a traitor. Wasn't Jesus betrayed by one of his disciples? Judas lost his faith, separated himself from the thought of Christ and became a traitor to the Master. Who might betray the Christian? Everybody. Father, mother, brothers, sisters, friends, relatives and acquaintances. Who might he trust then? Nobody, he must trust not even those who believe in Christ. Tomorrow those who believe could become non-believers and it is betrayal. For this reason one must be as simple as doves and as cautious as snakes. Betrayal is always ongoing. The disciple of Jesus knows this and lives according to the rules taught by his Master and Lord. When one is not cautious, the mission is compromised.

by the theologian,

Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno