



Evangelisation Intention:

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

(Intention of the Holy Father given through the Pope's World Network of Prayer)

The Splendor of the Truth

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

GROWTH IN UNDERSTANDING THE FAITH

94. Thanks to the assistance of the Holy Spirit, the understanding of both the realities and the words of the heritage of faith is able to grow in the life of the Church:— «through the contemplation and study of believers who ponder these things in their hearts» (DV 8); it is particular «theological research [which] deepens knowledge of revealed truth» (GS 62,7; cfr. *Ibid.*, 44,2; DV 23; *Ibid.*, 24; UR 4) — «from the intimate sense of spiritual realities which [believers] experience» (DV 8); “*Divina eloquia cum legente crescent*”, -The sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them., St. Gregory the Great, *Homily on Ezekiel*, 1,7,8: PL 76, 843D).— «from the preaching of those who have received along with their right of succession in the episcopate, the sure charisma of truth» (DV 8).
95. It is clear that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working

together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls. (DV 10,3)

In brief

96. *What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to all generations, until Christ returns in glory.*
97. *“Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God” (DV 10), in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches.*
98. *“The Church, in her doctrine, life, and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that believes” (DV 8).*
99. *Thanks to its supernatural sense of faith, the People of God as a whole, never ceases to welcome, to penetrate more deeply, and to live more fully from the gift of divine Revelation.*
100. *The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with Him.*

(to be continued)

News to think about

Letter of the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Church to the “ministers of life”

These words are used by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, a senior penitentiary of the Vatican Apostolic Penitentiary, to address confessing priests in a letter issued on the occasion of the holy birth of the Lord 2019. The contents of the letter is not limited to the Christmas season, therefore it is always interesting to be able to read it: in it he proposes three important keys on how to best administer this sacrament. In the missive, the Italian Cardinal reminds us that the faithful that look to reconcile with the Lord, receive life through the Sacrament. “The life obtained from the crucified and risen Christ is given sacramentally, that is truly, to man in every confession”. And he explains that this is the “very essence of Christianity: it is an option for life, against the dominion of sin and death”.

The faithful who humbly and with due disposition approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation can say with serene certainty: ‘I have found life!’, wrote the Cardinal. He continues, “What does the life we find in the Sacrament consist of? It consists in the encounter with Love”. He then proposes three characteristics in order for a priest to be a good confessor.



1.- Attention to listening

“A single word, the tone of voice, a nuance, an indirect assent, can reveal the secrets of the soul and allow the right advice, the right word, the authentic indication of the path.”, he clarifies.

On the contrary, “the words said just for the sake of it or without attention, can even block, for years, a conscience that already finds it hard to open up to God. Tactfulness goes a long way!”, he emphasizes.

2.- Prudence in judgment

The second indispensable characteristic is “prudence in judgment; the penitent cannot always carry the whole of the weight of all of which he wants to confess during the brief encounter of the Sacrament of Reconciliation”. “It is necessary to be extremely prudent, so as not to discourage people in the way of faith or in the fight against sin, and always introduce them into that joy of life that the Sacrament Reconciliation continually calls them to return to”.

3.- The joy

The third characteristic “joy - a feature that is always good to keep. The Sacrament of Reconciliation should always, for all the parties, ministers and penitents, be a ‘Feast of Faith’: a moment of joyful celebration, of a renewed communion with God and with the Church”.

“We are ministers of joy and freedom, with the certainty that the Grace of the Sacrament is not opposed to freedom, but on the contrary, freedom is the daughter of Grace: a man who looks only to himself would be lost and would lose his life”.

“Rather”, the Cardinal continues, “the man who forgets about himself, does not look for his own life, but gives it, without fear, in the service of love, he finds God and finds his own self, in a freedom which only Faith and Grace are capable of providing”.

“This way we are ministers of life”, he underlines. When we offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, “we offer a service and we ask the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word made man and therefore Mother of Mercy, that she may help us to listen attentively, with prudence and joy, so that all our brothers may always receive life”.

The Light of Our Charism

We continue with the presentation from last month regarding a document from Fr. Giovanni Salerno from October 24, 1999: "The Servants of the Poor: A strain of the meek and humble of heart"

The ladder of humility: One can only climb up by going down

Eighth degree of humility

The eighth degree of humility requires that the Servant of the Poor "does not leave the common rules (...), nor distances himself from the example of the elders" who live by it.

These very brief lines are like a treasure chest that keeps safe the treasure of great wisdom. But what is the relationship with meekness? We know, by our own personal experiences how difficult it can be to abide by the rules. We must strip ourselves of old

customs and ways of thinking which have already formed a deep unity with our way of being, and constitute our lifestyle. However, it is indispensable that once you enter the Movement, and not only for the first years, but always- to put yourself in a position of willingness to learn from all, especially from those with greater knowledge and life experience of living within the Movement.

Otherwise, we run the risk of keeping intact our own way of thinking and living plus creating around us a limited boundary of solidarity with others who are not totally integrated in the community.

Whoever wants to be truthful disciples of Christ, should not under-appreciate the ways of the Movement, on the contrary, they should be willing to learn them and make them totally their own. Not only because the behavior asked from the Movement may be objectively of greater value than yours, but also because, in order to become one with the community, you must not overlook this reality even in the little details. The fundamental principle is that we must "abandon ourselves", get rid of our "egocentrism" giving that space to Christ, in order to be assimilated to Him.

It is about the observance fulfilled with a view to "metanoia", that is to say, the transformation necessary to marry the new reality, to become disciples of Christ, to truly become the school of the divine service and permanent disciples.

No one who is not a perfect disciple can ever become a teacher. To be able to transmit something valid to others, you have to live totally in the service of Christ. For the Servants of the Poor, the school of Christ is specifically the Statutes established for the community of the Movement, under the guidance of a Superior or responsible person and with the help of other Brothers.



Attitudes of anti-conformism are often a sign of infantilismo or at least immaturity: the truly mature man on the contrary, is aware that he will always have something to learn. **When an elder person is in the attitude of a disciple, this is when he truly become a teacher, because by his example, he teaches others to become authentic**

disciples, something that is of the utmost importance in consecrated life. What a great Grace it would be if the veterans and elders always knew how to show young people the behavior of a disciple in the school of divine service, demonstrating it in their way of living, and in this way teaching them how to walk with the Lord!

This example should primarily be given by the Superior or Spiritual Director. He gives all, and must learn from all; he must think and feel according to Christ; he must be the first disciple, the most faithful, the most attentive, the most loving, the most vigilant, the most passionate disciple of Christ, who attract others to also become disciples of Christ. He must be completely captivated by the teachings and ministry of Christ such that he comes to awaken in others an irresistible desire to be truthful followers of the Lord and this way assimilated to Him. He cannot be *“forma gregis”* (“model of the flock”) if he himself does not conform to Christ according to *“forma Christi”* (*the way of Christ*).

(to be continued)

News from our Homes

Sisters MSP



The Mission group of our Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor, have returned from their extraordinary mission trip from the villages of Chillihuani and Tintinco, which are villages that belong to the province of Quispicanchi. In these villages, the Sister's mission was centered on Advent and Christmas. The response there was very positive despite the intense cold of the last few days. Our Children's Home "Santa Teresa de Jesús" (St Teresa of the Child Jesus) in Cuzco continues to receive new arrivals. One of them was a six day old baby. Eveling entered our Home on a request from the Special Protection Unit. We give thanks to God for this beautiful gift.

Formation House (Ajofrín)

In the first few days of January our community in Ajofrín was able to enjoy a few days of rest in preparation for the final part of the first quarter, which will lead to scheduled exams for the first days of the month of February.

City of Boys

During our restful days we organized a few outings. This gave us the opportunity to visit some of the contemplative communities which support our mission with the offering of their daily prayer.

Fr. Raúl and Brother Guido went with a small group to visit the UPE (Special Protection Unit), a state agency that presents us with the children in need and with which we must work in collaboration. Fr. Raul celebrated Holy Mass there and afterwards they were able to share some pleasant moments with hot chocolate and some of our own bakery pastries.

Support Groups



Several meetings and retreats with the support groups, oblates and Friends of MSP have been held throughout the month of January. These are always lovely occasions to reinforce our missionary spirit and thank the many people who silently allow the daily miracle of serving the poor. During these meetings we also took the opportunity to schedule new projects. It is always very encouraging to see how the MSP Charism continues to motivate more people and whole families to commit themselves with their prayers and initiatives to organize meetings and in this way spread the knowledge of our love and service of the poor to young people.

Dates & important events for the month of February:

3 – 8 : Fr. Pablo and Fr. Sebastian participate in a course for trainers in Rome.

Sunday 16: Days of Missionary Spirituality in Carmiano (LE – Italy).

Wednesday 26: Ash Wednesday (day of fasting and abstinence) with which the season of Lent begins– a time for prayer, penance and fasting.

Saturday 29: The new archbishop of Toledo, Mons. Francisco Cerro, takes possession of the Archdiocese with a solemn celebration.

Campus 2020

For young men from 1 to 20 August in the Priestly Formation House, Ajofrín (Spain)

For young ladies from 2 to 23 August in the Mother House MSP, Cuzco (Peru)

For families from 1 to 9 August in Arta Terma (Udine, Italy)

In order to participate in any of these Summer Camps, please contact us now.

For more information:

E-Mail: seminario.msp@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Missionary Pledge of the Month:

In this month of February I will offer my prayers and sacrifices so that the Gospel may reach all the corners of the Earth. With friends and relatives I will also think of ways to organise more charitable initiatives that should characterize my Lenten promises.



Follow us

POSTAL DONATIONS

Alternatively you can mail cheques to either our US or UK addresses, thank you.

Friends of the Missionary Servants of the Poor
5800 W Monastery Rd
Hulbert, OK 74441
USA

Missionary Servants of the Poor TW (Reg. Charity Nr. 1134707)
1 Willow Dene
Pinner HA5 3LT
UK