



MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

Intentions for evangelisation:

**Let us pray to live the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth,
in order to savour the infinite Mercy of God.**

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

The Splendour of the Truth

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

THE MAN'S ANSWER TO GOD

WE BELIEVE

166. Faith is a personal act - the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone.

You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life. the believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbour impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith.

167. "I believe" (Apostles' Creed) is the faith of the Church professed personally by each believer, principally during Baptism. "We believe" (Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed) is the faith of the Church confessed by the bishops assembled in council or more generally by the liturgical assembly of believers. "I believe" is also the Church, our mother, responding to God by faith as she teaches us to say both "I believe" and "We believe".

I. "Lord, Look Upon the Faith of Your Church"

168. It is the Church that believes first, and so bears, nourishes, and sustains my faith. Everywhere, it is the Church that first confesses the Lord: "Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you", as we sing in the hymn Te Deum; with her and in her, we are won over and brought to confess: "I believe", "We believe". It is through the Church that we receive faith and new life in Christ by Baptism. In the *Rituale Romanum*, the minister of Baptism asks the catechumen: "What do you ask of God's Church?" and the answer is: "Faith." "What does faith offer you?" "Eternal life." (Roman Ritual, Rite of Baptism of Adults.)

169. Salvation comes from God alone; but because we receive the life of faith through the Church, she is our mother: "We believe the Church as the mother of our new birth, and not in the Church as if she were the author of our salvation." (Faustus of Riez, *De Spiritu Sancto* 1, 2: PL 62, II.) Because she is our mother, she is also our teacher in the faith.

News to think about

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH SAMARITANUS BONUS CARD about caring for people in critical and terminal phases of life

II. The living experience of the suffering Christ and the announcement of hope

If the figure of the Good Samaritan illuminates the practice of care with a new light, the living experience of the suffering Christ, his agony on the Cross and his Resurrection, are the spaces in which the closeness of God made man is manifested in the multiple forms of the anguish and pain, which can hit the sick and their families, during the long days of the disease and at the end of life.



Not only in the words of the prophet Isaiah is the person of Christ announced as the man familiar with pain and suffering (cf. Is 53), if we reread the pages of Christ's passion we also find the experience of misunderstanding, of the mockery, abandonment, physical pain and anguish. These are experiences that hit many sick people today, often considered a

burden to society; sometimes they are not understood in their requests, they often experience forms of emotional abandonment, and loss of relationships.

Every sick person needs not only to be listened to, but to understand that the interlocutor himself "knows" what it means to feel alone, abandoned, anguished at the prospect of death, the pain of the flesh, the suffering that arises when the gaze of society measures your value in terms of quality of life and makes you feel like a burden for other people's projects. For this reason, looking back at Christ means knowing that one can turn to those who have tasted in their flesh the pain of the scourging and the nails, the mockery of the scourgers, the abandonment and betrayal of their dearest friends.

Faced with the challenge of illness and in the presence of emotional and spiritual difficulties in those who experience pain, there arises, inexorably, the need to know how to say a word of comfort, drawn from the hope-filled compassion of Jesus on the Cross. A credible hope, professed by Christ on the Cross, capable of facing the moment of trial, the challenge of death. On the Cross of Christ - sung by the liturgy on Good Friday: Ave crux, spes unica - all the evils and sufferings of the world are concentrated and summarized. All physical evil, of which the cross, like an infamous instrument of death, is the emblem; all the psychological evil, expressed in the death of Jesus in the darkest loneliness, abandonment and betrayal; all moral evil, manifested in the death sentence of the Innocent; all the spiritual evil, highlighted in the desolation that makes us perceive the silence of God.

(Rome, 14 July 2020)

(To be continued)

The light of our Charism

Seeds of a Charism

***Publication made in 1996
to celebrate the ten years MSP anniversary***

Our Movement was born in a simple and very humble way, without great promises, but the Cross. I felt the presence of God in the faces of the children, the poor, starving and the sick. I could no longer run from His gaze, from His calling. I had to answer Him, look Him in the face and finally give Him a proper answer. So, I began calling young people to serve others, only those with a great heart and not closed in themselves, but able to overcome their own selfishness.

I still remember, as if it were yesterday, all those young people who came to give a little of their lives to the poorest in Peru, to the poor in the Third World. I remember our first steps, staggering here and there, for sure, but knowing that God was attentive and that we would not fall, as a child knows that when he takes his first step, there is his mother holding and caring for him.

I remember our “Santa Teresa de Jesús” Home, and taking care of the first orphaned and abandoned children, in a situation that is not very acceptable as a physical structure of premises in nowadays standards, but very encouraging in terms of the richness of love from those who were serving.

My eyes fill with tears when I remember so many children, whose lives we have been able to save: children like Edgar, María and Ketty; children for whom we had to fight for and be there, hour after hour, sometimes entire days, constantly by their side, in order to save their lives. I also remember, with nostalgia and sympathy, all the children that the Lord has

called to Him, still very young, but with certainty, I know that they are next to God, enjoying his Glory and interceding for our work, which is, above all, His work.

It was thus that in May 1986 I presented my proposal to Cardinal Don Marcelo González, Archbishop of Toledo and Primate of Spain. I will never forget his inspiring words: “This project is something from God; I am not only Bishop of Toledo, I am Bishop of the Universal Church and as such I feel the duty to help you. You must begin to receive young candidates for the priesthood, even if you have nothing ready”.

At that time, Peru suffered the terrible consequences of a natural disaster caused by an earthquake. The Bishop knew it and without any delays, he offered economic and humanitarian aid as a sign of his profound human and Christian sense. However, I chose that Divine Providence should always take charge of the economic issues, thinking that sacrifice and austerity were the most convenient way for this work.

“... A similar tremor caused by your project touched the seminarians here... I feel a duty to help you. It doesn't matter if they sleep on the floor, but if you don't have priests, this Movement will become just another organism”, was the Archbishop's reply. It was then that, sent by him, several young seminarians arrived in Peru to help the injured Cuzco people.

And in this way, we started, without having a minimum of infrastructure.

Fr. Giovanni Salerno, msp

(To be continued)

News from our Homes

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor Cuzco

In these last days, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor received 15 more girls in our Student Residence "Santa Inés". With them now there are 31 girls.



The Student Residence has been created to help girls in extreme poverty who, for different reasons, could not study and be educated in values.

Currently some of them are taking the course of recovery and levelling, since being in their towns they could not have access to a cell phone, the internet or some means to be able to adequately follow the virtual classes.

Missions

"WITH AN ACT OF LOVING FAITH IN THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD, MANY BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS ARE REACHED FROM GOD "

In Guadalajara (Mexico), as well as all over the world, very difficult times are being experienced due to the pandemic; because the number of infections and deaths are increasing, even more so the number of families with great needs, either due to lack or job losses. We thank God because, in the

midst of all this sad reality, during these months of great need, He has been closer and more aware of the needs of His children.



For example, in these very cold days, the Lord sent us, through our benefactors, 200 blankets, pantries, nappies and milk. Likewise, the Carmelite mothers of San José, Guadalajara, donated several bags of candy, scarves and toys. However this time we decided to go on our own to a town called "Trinidad García de las Cadenas", located in the state of Zacatecas, an hour and a half away from Guadalajara, where we were able to distribute these donations to many needy people who come from different ethnic groups (Indigenous), the majority caretakers of country houses, some single mothers, children and other elderly. It is wonderful to recognize that with a loving act of faith in God's providence, many blessings and benefits come from God. We thank all the people who, in a very generous way, reach out to those most in need. May the Lord reward your generosity and continue to bless you.

OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

This page is meant to be a guide (requested by readers) for our support group meetings; Oblates, members, collaborators, and friends participate in these meetings. At the same time, this is an invitation for other people and groups to participate in this moment of prayer.

During the meeting, participants form a circle. In the centre is placed a lit candle that represents the light of Christ, the light of the people ("Lumen Gentium") and also our faith, received during Baptism, which we are called to, make it present, every moment of our lives.

1. The meeting begins with the chanted invocation of the **Holy Spirit**:
Holy Spirit of Love, receive the complete consecration of my whole being, so that, from now on, in all my thoughts, in my desires and my works, you be so good as to be my light and my guide, as well as the strength of my prayer. I abandon myself to You and Your divine inspirations. Holy Spirit, form me in Mary and with Mary, as the model of all our perfection, that is, Jesus Christ. Glory be...

2. Followed by the recitation of **3 Psalms** previously chosen.

3. After the recitation of the Psalms, comes **the passage of the Gospel** for the following Sunday. Then there should be at least 5 minutes silence, when each one then repeats aloud the words of the text that stood out in their minds, sharing aloud the personal message that through these words and the entire passage of the Gospel has reached their hearts. Each intervention can be concluded with this or similar sentences: "Glory and honour to you Lord Jesus!", to which each one present, responds by repeating the same sentence.

4. Then a **prayer of Praise is given by each and everyone's hearts**, praises for the Holy Spirit Itself, is prayed (as well as spontaneous prayers and petitions) for the necessities of the Church, universal or local, for the Missionary Servants of the Poor, the poor, etc.

5. Being the "Imitation of Christ" our spiritual rule, serving all men in silence, we read part of the daily "**Imitation of Christ**" (if there is a priest present, this can be a moment of reflection).

6. Before the moment of prayer is finished, we should encourage everyone to have some concrete commitments in favour of the poor, so that our whole life is oriented to its service. Particularly, we will consider, in addition to the monthly commitment proposed below, also a commitment to offer.....hours per week of (Adoration/Rosary) for(intention) andhours per week for charitable engagement in the parish andhours per week commitment for the diffusion of the Charism of the MSP.

7. We finish the meeting, commissioned by the **Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor**, with the prayer from Fr De Grandmaison, for God's help in walking behind His Son, Jesus Christ.

8. If there is a priest, the meeting is concluded with a blessing, otherwise with the sign of the cross.

9. One may take advantage of the meeting to plan and organise the next missionary initiatives.

Dates & important events for the month of March

Sunday 13 March: Missionary Sunday in the parish of Piscinola (Naples, Italy) with the presence of the MSP priests.

Wednesday 24 March: International meeting of formation and prayer for boys (up to 25 years old); the appointment is at 9:00 p.m. (Spanish time) on the zoom.us platform;

Friday 26 March: Monthly virtual catechetical formation course with Italian-speaking friends; the appointment is at 9:00 p.m. (Spanish time) on the zoom.us platform;

For more information:

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Missionary Pledge:

In our special intention of prayer for this period of Lent, we want to include the missions of Cusibamba and Punacancha where the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor have been serving for many years.

We ask the Lord that the seed sown will bear fruit in the hearts of the humble people of these towns.

We can also evaluate, with the group of people with whom we ordinarily meet to pray in favour of the missions, the possibility of "spiritually adopting" these peoples.