



MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

Universal Intention:

Let us pray that those responsible for the financial world issues will work with governments, to regulate the field of finance to protect their citizens.

(Intention of the Holy Father entrusted to his Worldwide Prayer Network)

The splendour of truth
The Catechism of the Catholic Church



MAN'S ANSWER TO GOD

III One faith

172 Since centuries, through many languages, cultures, peoples, and nations, the Church has never ceased to confess her one faith, received from one Lord, transmitted by a single baptism, rooted in the conviction that all men have only one God and Father (cf. *Eph* 4:4-6). Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, witness to this faith, declares:

173 "The Church, scattered throughout the whole world to the ends of the earth, received from the Apostles and their disciples the faith [...] diligently keeps preaching ... the faith received, dwelling as in a single house; and this faith is the same everywhere, as if it had only one soul and one heart, and what it preaches, teaches, and transmits, it does in unison, as if it had one mouth" (*Adversus*, 1, 10,1-2).

174 "For although languages differ throughout the world, the content of Tradition is one and identical. And neither the Churches established in Germania have any other faith or other Tradition, nor those among the Iberians, nor those among the Celts, nor those of the East, Egypt, Libya, nor those that are established in the center of the world..." (*Ibid.*). "The message of the Church is therefore true and solid, for it shows a single path of salvation throughout the whole world" (*Ibid.* 5,20,1).

175 "This faith which we have received from the Church, we keep it carefully, for incessantly, under the action of the Spirit of God, as a content of great value enclosed in an excellent vessel, rejuvenates the vessel itself in which it is contained." (*Ibid.*, 3:24,1).

News to think about

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

III. The Samaritan's heart "sees":

human life is a sacred and inviolable gift

Man, in whatever physical or psychic condition he encounters, maintains his original dignity as he has been created in the image of God. He can live and grow in divine splendor because he is called to be "the image and glory of God" (1 Cor 11:7; 2Cor 3:18). His dignity is in this vocation. God has become Man to save us, promising us salvation and destining us to communion with Him: here rests the ultimate foundation of human dignity. It belongs to the Church to accompany with mercy the weakest in their path of pain, to maintain in them the theological life and to guide them to the salvation of God. It is the Church of the Good Samaritan, which "considers service to the sick as an integral part of its mission." Understanding this saving mediation of the Church in a perspective of communion and solidarity among men is an essential aid in overcoming any reductionist and individualistic tendency.

Specifically, the Good Samaritan's program is "a heart that sees." They "teach that it is necessary to convert the gaze of the heart, because often those who look do not see. Why? Because there's a lack of compassion. [...] Without compassion, the one who looks does not engage in what he observes and goes by; instead, whoever has a compassionate heart moves and gets involved, stops and takes care of what happens." This heart sees where there is a need for love and work accordingly. The eyes perceive in weakness a call of God to work, recognizing in human life the first common good of society. Human life is a very high good and society is called to recognize it. Life is a sacred and inviolable gift and every man, created by God, has a transcendent vocation and a unique relationship with the One who gives

life, because "God invisible in His great love" offers every man a plan of salvation so that we can say: "Life is always a good. This is an intuition or, rather, a fact of experience, whose deep reason man is called to understand". That is why the Church is always ready to collaborate with all men of good will, with believers of other confessions or religions or non-believers, who respect the dignity of human life, also in its extreme phases of suffering and death, it rejects any act contrary to it. God the Creator offers man life and his dignity as a precious gift to guard and increase and to which, finally, to be accountable to Him. The Church affirms the positive meaning of human life as a value already perceptible by righteous reason, which the light of faith confirms and enhances in its inalienable dignity. This is not a subjective or arbitrary criterion; it is a criterion based on the inviolable natural dignity — in that life is the first good because it is a condition of the enjoyment of all other goods — and on the transcendent vocation of every human being, called to share the Trinitarian Love of the living God: "the very special love that the Creator has for every human being, gives him infinite dignity". The inviolable value of life is a basic truth of natural moral law and an essential foundation of the legal system. Just as it cannot be accepted that another man is our slave, even if he asked us to do so, it cannot also be directly chosen to attack the life of a human being, even if he asks for it. Therefore, suppressing of a sick person who asks for euthanasia does not mean at all recognizing its autonomy and appreciating it, but on the contrary means ignoring the value of his freedom, strongly conditioned by sickness and pain, and the value of his life, denying him any other possibility of human relationship, sense of existence and growth in theological life. More than that, the moment of death is decided in God's post. Therefore, "abortion, euthanasia and the same deliberate suicide [...] they degrade human civilization, dishonor its perpetrators more than their victims, and are totally contrary to honour because of the Creator."

(Rome, 14 July 2020)

(To be continued)

The light of our charisma

SEED OF A CHARISMA

Published in 1996

to celebrate the ten year anniversary of the MSPs

When we talk about the poor, it is almost always said that they have to receive financial help, which is still true: but we are often forgetting that the poor is also a human person, a being "*created by God and for God*" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 27), made "*in the image and likeness of God*" (Gen. 1:26), and for that very reason with true dignity, identical to that of any other person." *Because it has been made in the image of God, the human being has the dignity of a person; it is not only something, but someone. He is able to know himself, possess himself and give himself freely and enter into communion with others; who is called to grace, to an alliance with his Creator, to offer him an answer of faith and love that no other being can give in his place*" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 357).

These poor people have not asked us for material help, but for priests to live around them and therefore give them the message of the Good News of the Gospel, so that they can get out of their poverty, with the help of these priests. These very poor people have taught us about God, because God has manifested Himself through them.

It is uplifting for us to see how the poor, in their misery, possessing nothing, absolutely nothing material, can yet, possess God, and only need to say: "*My God!*". They believe in The Divine Providence, and its Infinite Love.

In this poverty, and misery, the Missionary Servants of the Poor have discovered God, or rather, still, they have felt God more tangibly.

If the MSPs have priests, committed young people and missionary marriages, brothers and priests who live in a cloister regime, we owe it all to the poor and to the children, because it is thanks to them that all our Missionary Servants of the Poor have decided to stay here, abandoning themselves in the arms of Mary, our Mother. It is also thanks to the poor and the children, that we have young people, whether male or female, and marriages, who have made their commitment to live the Charism of the MSPs in different countries.

I feel strengthened to see how our work has grown, not in the number of children cared for or the committed brothers and sisters, which has also grown, but in spiritual growth, in that life of fraternity and dedication to the poor, in that life of prayer, where the important thing is not work, but sanctification, that is, the genuine evangelical spirit with which one lives all aspects of his existence following Christ and imitating Christ.

P. Giovanni Salerno, msp

(To be continued)

News from our Homes

Retreats and meetings

In the last few weeks several spiritual encounters and retreats have been possible, some in person but mostly virtually. We would like to highlight, among others, the spiritual retreat for the male collaborators of the "St. Teresa de Jesús" Home and the "St. Mary Goretti" College.



It is one of the many retreats we organize for the people who work in our centres and allow us to perform the miracle of daily service to so many poor children. The spiritual attention to our collaborators is also a concern that we have, because if we only give them a job without spiritual support to them and for their families, our help would not be complete.

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor

Ilo Mission

In our mission at Ilo, a city in the department of Moquegua (South of Peru), we performed our daily service that, in recent months, has focused in a special way on the daily care of the poor through the dining room named "San Martín" which started operating during the pandemic; and although it was planned to last until the "budget" was over (three months or so), it continues to feed about 240 people daily... And it will continue to do so; because in the hearts of the inhabitants of this area there is love and this makes them able to offer what little they have for Jesus to do his multiplication work.



Before we begin our daily food distribution, every day, together with the people we serve, we pray in thanksgiving by asking St. Joseph to continue to intercede for us. And immediately afterwards we read the Gospel of the day accompanied by a small reflection. Thus, with God's help, we also try to nourish the soul of every person who comes to receive their food.

We thank God for everything He does for us and for the poor we serve.

Let us bless the Lord for the wonders He works every day.

Important dates and moments for the month of May

Sunday, May 9: Retreat open to all in Caravaggio (BG) – (the holding of the meeting and modalities are subjected to governmental provisions that may be in force at the time)

Wednesday, May 19: Virtual Vocational Day for Women, led by the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor (platform meet)

Wednesday, May 26: International training and prayer meeting for boys (up to the age of 25); the appointment is at 21:00 (Spanish time) on the zoom.us.

Monday, May 31: Monthly virtual catechetical training course for Italian speaking friends; the appointment is at 21:00 (Spanish time) on the zoom.us;

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Missionary pledge:

In this month of May, dedicated in a special way to the Virgin Mary, we will undertake to create a support group for the Missionary Servants of the Poor, with the initial commitment of regular prayer meetings. In order to know the modalities and characteristics of such groups you can always contact us, but we want to remember that it is of vital importance that they should have focus: "*without me you can do nothing*" the Lord reminds us, and therefore we urgently need men and women of goodwill who commit themselves to offer their prayers for the vocations, holiness and fruits of the apostolates of the Missionary Servants of the Poor.