



Newsletter
Year 9 (2021)
Number 12
December 2021

OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

Intention for evangelization – *The catechists*

May we pray for all catechists called to proclaim the Word of God: may they witness to the Word with courage, creativity and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

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

The Splendor of Truth

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

IV. THE IMPLICATIONS OF FAITH IN ONE GOD

222 Believing in God, the only One, and loving him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life.

223 *It means coming to know God's greatness and majesty: "Behold, God is great, and we know h*

Him not." (Job 36:26) *Therefore, we must "serve God first".* (St. Joan of Arc).

224 *It means living in thanksgiving: if God is the only One, everything we are and have, comes from Him: "What have you that you did not receive?"* (I Cor 4:7) *"What shall I render to the LORD for all his bounty to me?"* (Ps 116:12)

225 *It means knowing the unity and true dignity of all men: everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.* (Gn 1,26).

226 *It means making good use of created things: faith in God, the only One, leads us to use everything that is not God only insofar as it brings us closer to him, and to detach ourselves from it insofar as it turns us away from him: My Lord and my God, take from me everything that distances me from you. My Lord and my God, give me everything that brings me closer to you. My Lord and my God, detach me from myself to give my all to you.*

(St. Nicholas of Flue; cf. Mt 5:29-30; 16:24-26)



227 *It means trusting God in every circumstance, even in adversity. A prayer of St. Teresa of Jesus wonderfully expresses this trust:*

*Let nothing trouble you / Let nothing frighten you Everything passes / God never changes
Patience / Obtains all Whoever has God / Wants for nothing God alone is enough.* (St. Teresa of Jesus, *Poesias* 30 in the *Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila*, vol. III, tr. K. Kavanaugh OCD and O. Rodriguez OCD (Washington DC Institute of Carmelite Studies, 1985), 386 no. 9. tr. John Wall.)

News to think about

**CONGR. FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE
FAITH**

"SAMARITANUS BONUS" LETTER
*about caring for people in
critical and terminal phases of life*

Conclusion

The mystery of man's Redemption is rooted in a surprising way in God's loving commitment to human suffering. That is why we can trust God and transmit this certainty in faith to man suffering and frightened by death pain.

Christian witness shows how hope is always possible, also within the culture of discarding. "The eloquence of the parable of the Good Samaritan, as well as that of the entire Gospel, is concretely this: man must feel personally called to bear witness to love in suffering" [96].

The Church learns from the Good Samaritan the care of the terminally ill and thus obeys the commandment linked to the gift of life: "respect, defend, love and serve life, all human life!" [97]. The gospel of life is a gospel of compassion and mercy addressed to the concrete, weak and sinful man, to lift him up, keep him in the life of grace and, if possible, heal him from every possible wound.

However, it is not enough to share the pain, it is necessary to immerse oneself in the fruits of the Paschal Mystery of Christ in order to overcome sin and evil, with the will to "banish the misery of others as if it were one's own" [98]. However, the greatest misery is the lack of hope in the face of death. This is the hope announced by Christian witness which, to be effective, must be lived in faith involving everyone, family members, nurses, doctors, and the pastoral care of dioceses and Catholic hospitals, called to faithfully live their duty. to accompany the sick in all phases of the disease, and in particular, in the critical and terminal phases of life, as defined in this document.

The Good Samaritan, who puts the face of his brother in difficulty at the centre of his heart, knows how to see his need, offers him all the good

necessary to lift him from the wound of desolation and open luminous cracks of hope in his heart.

The "wanting good" of the Samaritan, who becomes a neighbour of the wounded man not with words or with his tongue, but with deeds and in truth (cf. 1 Jn 3:18), takes the form of care, with example of Christ who went about doing good and healing everyone (cf. Acts 10:38).

Cured by Jesus, we become men and women called to announce his healing power, to love and take care of our neighbour as he has taught us.

This vocation to love and care for the other [99], which brings with it the gains of eternity, is explicitly announced by the Lord of life in this paraphrase of the final judgment: receive the kingdom as your inheritance, because I was sick and you have me visited. When, Lord? All the times that you have done this with your youngest brother, a brother of yours who suffers, you have done it with me (cf. Mt 25, 31-46).

The Supreme Pontiff Francis, on June 25, 2020, has approved this Letter, decided in the Plenary Session of this Congregation on January 29, 2020, and has ordered its publication.

Given in Rome, from the headquarters of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on July 14, 2020, liturgical memory of Saint Camil de Lelis.

Luis F. Card. Ladaria, S.I.
Prefect

+ Giacomo Moran
Titular Archbishop of Cerveteri
Secretary

FR. GIOVANNI, MSP
60 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

MONREALE (ITALY)

23 DECEMBER 1961 –

LIMA 23 DECEMBER 2021

DEAR FRIENDS, ON THE OCCASION OF MY 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD, I WANT TO SEND YOU THIS BRIEF MESSAGE. *INTROIBO EN EL ALTAR DEI; AD DEUM QUI LAETIFICAT JUVENTUTEM MEAM.* [I WILL GO TO THE ALTAR OF GOD; TO THE GOD WHO GIVES JOY TO MY YOUTH] WITH JOY BACK IN 1961, I CELEBRATED MY FIRST HOLY MASS WITH THESE WORDS. I WAS IN THE SPLENDID AND GOLDEN CATHEDRAL OF MONREALE. I WAS PREPARED FOR PRIESTHOOD BY HOLY TEACHERS AND PRIESTS OF THE HOMONYMOUS DIOCESE; I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE GOSPEL AND ABOVE ALL WITH THE PROPHETS WHO ANNOUNCED THE GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.

I HAVE NEVER LOST THE JOY THAT I FELT THAT DAY AND IN THAT FIRST HOLY MASS CELEBRATED IN MONREALE AND EVERY DAY AFTER THAT; EVERY TIME I CELEBRATE HOLY MASS, I FEEL YOUNGER AND ALWAYS WITH THE SAME ENTHUSIASM AS THE FIRST HOLY MASS. IF I WOULD RETURN ONCE AGAIN TO THIS WORLD, ONCE AGAIN AND WITHOUT DOUBT, I WOULD EMBRACE THE LIFE OF THE MISSIONARY PRIEST TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO THE POOREST OF THE ANDES WHERE IN MANY VILLAGES AND IN MANY REGIONS ARE STILL WITHOUT PRIESTS; VILLAGES AND REGIONS WHERE OUR INDIGENOUS BROTHERS LIVE AN SUBHUMAN LIFE.

ON THIS DAY SO DEAR TO ME, I THANK THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TOGETHER WITH THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FOR HAVING GIVEN ME SO MANY BLESSINGS, SO MANY BLESSINGS IN THESE SIXTY YEARS OF PRIESTLY LIFE. AT THE SAME TIME, I WANT TO ASK YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME ON THIS DAY NOT ONLY TO THANK THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, BUT ALSO TO ASK THE LORD AND THE BLESSED VIRGIN FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF ALL MY SINS COMMITTED IN THESE SIXTY YEARS.



I WANT TO THANK THE HOLY TRINITY ALSO FOR THE GIFT OF MY PARENTS. I WAS EDUCATED IN GRATITUDE AND IN KNOWING HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THE POOR AND IN THOSE WHO SUFFER. I WANT TO THANK EVEN MORE, MY AUGUSTINIAN SUPERIOR OF SICILY WHO HAD THE COURAGE TO LET ME CONTINUE

MY STUDIES EVEN THOUGH THREE OPHTHALMOLOGISTS HAD DECLARED THAT I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO CONTINUE MY STUDIES BECAUSE I WOULD BECOME BLIND BY THE AGE OF TWENTY YEARS OLD.

I AM HAPPY TO BE A PRIEST AND A MISSIONARY; I THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ACCOMPANIED ME IN THESE LONG YEARS OF PRIESTLY LIFE. TODAY WE ARE LIVING A VERY DIFFICULT MOMENT IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD, HOWEVER, WE MUST NOT BE DISCOURAGED: JESUS HAS RISEN; AND WE MUST ELIMINATE FROM OUR HEARTS ALL PESIMISM, ALL FEAR. WE MUST KNOW HOW TO ANNOUNCE JOY, JOY BECAUSE JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH US AND DOES NOT LEAVE US.

I RECOMMEND YOUNG COUPLES NOT TO GET DISCOURAGED BUT TO DEEPEN THEIR FAITH AND THIS WAY LEAVE IT AS AN INHERITANCE TO THEIR CHILDREN; I RECOMMEND THAT YOU STAY 'FIRM', WITHOUT BEING SEDUCED BY FALSE PROPHETS. LET THEM OPEN THEIR EYES AND LISTEN TO THE SILENCE OF THE POOR WHO SUFFER UNSPEAKABLE PAIN FROM HUNGER, THE DISEASES THEY SUFFER FROM LACK OF MEDICINES; TOGETHER WITH THE SUFFERYNG FROM SPIRITUAL ABANDONMENT AND LACK OF EUCHARISTIC BREAD.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DURING THESE TIMES, OUR FAITH LAY ROOTS AS DEEP AS THE TRUNK OF THE CYPRESSES. WE SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED IF WE ARE RIDICULIZED AND CRITICIZED BECAUSE WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL, FAITHFUL TO THE DOCTRINE JESUS HAS LEFT US. WE MUST NOT BE DISCOURAGED, BUT GO FORWARD EVEN THOUGH DURING THE DAY, WE ARE DESPISED, FORGOTTEN AND RIDICULED; WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT THAT WE ARE

LIVING RIGHT NOW, WE CAN EMANATE THE SCENT OF HOLINESS, LIKE THE GHANA PLANT: DURING THE DAY, WHILE THE SUN SHINES AND GIVES LIGHT, EVERYONE FORGETS THIS PLANT EXISTS; DURING THE NIGHT HOWEVER, IN THE DARK, IT GIVES OFF A SWEET PERFUME AND ATTRACTS ALL THE PASSERSBY.

OUR LIFE, ENRICHED BY OUR FAITH, IN ADDITION TO BEING A SPROUT THAT BECOMES A STABLE AND VIGOROUS TREE, SHOULD NEVER GET TIRED - LIKE THE GHANA PLANT - OF GIVING OFF PERFUME IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT.

I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER INTO YOUR HOMES AND THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WITH ALL OF MY HEART, FOR HELPING ME IN THIS PATH OF SERVICE TO THE POOREST.

LET US NOT FORGET THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS, OUR GUIDE IN THE FAITH. MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT ILLUMINATE HIM.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

PRAY FOR ME ALWAYS.

FR. GIOVANNI SALERNO, MSP

News from our Homes

Missionary Servants of the Poor Missions



The mission that the Sisters carry out in the towns of the high mountain range, with God's blessing, does not stop. These days we visit the rural communities of: Cccasacunca, Pacca, Corca Ayllu, Carhuis and Urotea.

People have been previously notified of our arrival and both they and we wait with joy for these days ... The three days of mission are intense days, in which we must make the most of the time we have with them, which is short and in the that we alternate: catechesis, games, prayer, contests and intensive preparation for the Sacraments.

We thank God for the privilege of serving Him through the poor.

Important dates and times for the month of December 2021:

2 - 4: Ordinary mission of the MSP Sisters to the towns of Pacca, Ccasacunca, Carhuis and Orotea, in the department (and diocese) of Cusco.

6 - 17: Extraordinary mission of the MSP Sisters to the towns of Hacca and Huillcuyo, in the department (and diocese) of Cusco.

Sunday 12: Virtual Vocational Retreat for women, organized by the MSP Sisters.

Sunday 12: Missionary Spirituality Day in Naples (Italy).

Sunday 19: Missionary Spirituality Day in Manerba del Garda (Brescia - ITALY).

13 - 20: Vocational coexistence for women, organized by the MSP Sisters in Cusco (Peru).

Thursday 23: 60th Anniversary of priesthood of Fr. Giovanni Salerno, msp.

Tuesday 28: 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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Web: www.msptm.com

Facebook: Misioneros Siervos de los Pobres/

Missionary Servants of the Poor

Missionary Commitment of the Month:

IF I CHANGED, I WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH! If I changed the way I act in front of others, it would make them happier. If I always wanted the welfare of others, I would be happier. If I fully understood my mistakes and shortcomings, I would be humble and understanding towards others. If, by understanding my mistakes and defects, I tried to change them, how much better my home and my environments would be! If I changed "having" more to "being" more, how much happier I would be! If I changed from being "me" to being "us," the civilization of love would begin. If I decided to follow Jesus and his Gospel, I would begin to live true happiness. If I "seriously" loved others, they would change. If I changed my way of thinking towards others, I would understand them. If I accepted everyone as they are, I would suffer less. If I criticized less and applauded more, how many friends would I win! If I found the positive in everyone, with what joy I would treat them!