



MISIONEROS SIERVOS DE LOS POBRES

Educating for fraternity

Let us pray that all people who suffer discrimination and religious persecution will find in the societies in which they live the recognition of their rights and the dignity that comes from being brothers and sisters. (Intention of the Holy Father entrusted to his Worldwide Prayer Network)

The Splendor of Truth

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

ARTICLE 1

 "I BELIEVE IN GOD, ALMIGHTY FATHER,
 CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH"

THE FATHER

I "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

232 Christians are baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (*Mt* 28:19). Before they answer "I believe" to the triple question that asks them to confess their faith in the Father, in the Son and in the Spirit: *Fides omnium christianorum in Trinitate consistit* ("The faith of all Christians is founded in the Most Holy Trinity") (Saint Caesarius of Arles, *Expositio symboli [sermo 9]*).

233 Christians are baptized in "the name" of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit and not in their "names," for there is but one God, the Almighty Father and His only Son and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

234 The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in Himself. It is, therefore, the source of all the other mysteries of faith; it is the light that illuminates them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of truths of faith." "The whole history of salvation is nothing but the history of the way and the means by which the true and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals Himself to men, separates them from sin and reconciles them and unites them with them."

235 In this paragraph, it will be briefly explained how the mystery of the Blessed Trinity is revealed (I), how the Church has formulated the doctrine of the faith on this mystery (II), and finally how, by the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father carries out his "loving plan" of creation, of redemption, and sanctification (III).



236 The Fathers of the Church distinguish between *Theologia* and *Oikonomia*, designating with the first term the mystery of the intimate life of the God-Trinity, with the second all the works of God by which His life is revealed and communicated. By *Oikonomia* *Theology* is revealed to us; but conversely, it is *Theology*, which clarifies all *Oikonomia*. God's works reveal who He is in Himself; and conversely, the mystery of his intimate Being illuminates the intelligence of all his works. This is the case, analogically, between human persons. The person is shown in his work and the better we know a person, the better we understand his work.

237 The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the mysteries hidden in God, "which cannot be known if they are not revealed from on high" (Vatican Council I). God has certainly left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of Creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But the intimacy of his Being as Holy Trinity constitutes a mystery inaccessible to reason alone and even to the faith of Israel before the Incarnation of the Son of God and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

News to think about

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE
FAITH

INSTRUCTION

DONUM VERITATIS

ON THE ECCLESIAL VOCATION OF THE THEOLOGIAN

INTRODUCTION

1. The truth that sets you free is a gift of Jesus Christ (cf. Jn 8:32). The search for truth is a requirement of man's nature, while ignorance keeps him in a condition of slavery. Indeed, man cannot be truly free if he does not receive a light on the central questions of his existence and in particular on that of knowing where he comes from and where he is going. He becomes free when God gives himself to him as a Friend, according to the word of the Lord: "I no longer call you servants, because the servant does not know what his master does; but I call you friends, for what I have heard from the Father I have made known to you" (Jn 15:15). Liberation from the alienation of sin and death is realized in man when Christ, who is the Truth, becomes the "way" for him (cf. Jn 14:6).

In the Christian faith knowledge and life, truth and existence are intrinsically linked. The truth offered in God's revelation certainly surpasses man's capacities for knowledge, but it is not opposed to human reason. Rather, it penetrates it, elevates it and claims the responsibility of each one (cf. 1 Pet 3:15). For this reason, since the beginning of the First Century, the "norm of doctrine" (Rom 6:17) has been linked, with baptism, to the entry

into the mystery of Christ. Service to doctrine, which involves the believer's search for an understanding of the faith, that is, theology, is therefore a requirement which the Church cannot renounce.

In all ages, theology is important so that the Church can respond to God's plan that "all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4). In times of great spiritual and cultural changes it is even more important, but it is also exposed to risks, because it must strive to "remain" in the truth (cf. Jn 8:31) and take into account, at the same time, the new problems that arise in the human spirit. In our century, particularly during the preparation and implementation of the Second Vatican Council, theology has contributed much to a deeper "understanding of the things and words transmitted", but it has also known and still knows moments of crisis and tension.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith therefore considers it opportune to address to the Bishops of the Catholic Church, and through them to theologians, the present instruction which aims to illuminate the mission of theology in the Church. After considering the truth as God's gift to his people (I), he will describe the role of theologians (II), dwell on the particular mission of pastors (III), and, finally, propose some indications about the just relationship between them (IV). In this way he wants to serve progress in the knowledge of the truth (cf. Col 1:10), which introduces us to the freedom for which Christ died and rose again (cf. Gal 5:1).

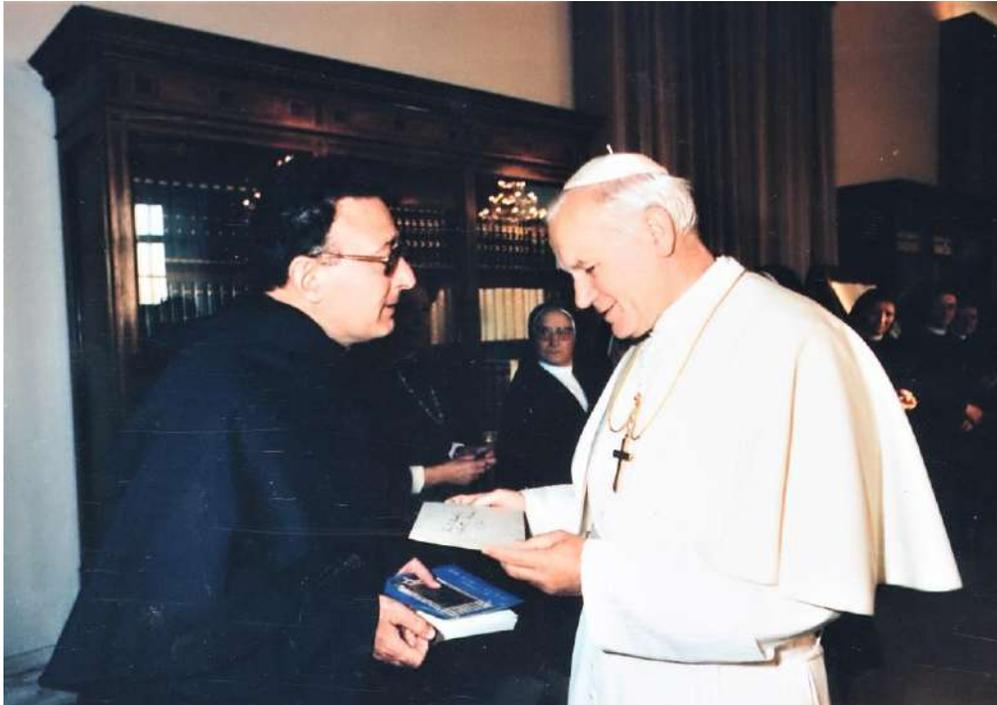
Rome, 24 March 1990.

(To be continued)

The light of our charism

SEED OF A CHARISMA

Publication made in 1996 to celebrate the ten years of life of the MSP



Written by Francesco Pini

A new Movement is born: the strangeness of a name

(...)

Something made me reflect on the name "Servants", so hard to accept. He asked me: "Servants or... friends? Servants or.. brothers?" And I found the answer by talking to Father Giovanni himself, when one day he emphatically defended it, on the basis of his long experience with the poorest of the poor, that in front of the poor we have to put ourselves in the attitude of true servants, because only in this way is it possible to take them to the level that corresponds to them, that of a brother and a friend.

This is what Christ did!

He has called his disciples friends, but he washed their feet.

The opposite is to go to the poor as boss does, treating them as employees and, even worse, as slaves.

The name of the MSP, is represented by an Indian to whom a Missionary Servant of the Poor washes his feet with an attitude of love, renders even softer the impact of the words, redirecting the image to the gesture of Christ, the Master, who washes the feet of his disciples at the last supper when "having loved his own who were in the *world*, *He loved them to the extreme*"(Jn. 13:1).

This is the way to understand the "madness" of offering oneself as a servant, to a king or a powerful man of this world, but nothing like offering the same to the poorest of the poor, as the present "incarnation" of the Poor Christ.

(to be continued)

News from our Homes

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor

Mission

THE COMMUNITY OF HUACAHUASI

For some years now, our community of Rumichaca - Urubamba have been planning to serve a town belonging to the parish.

Recently we asked the parish priest to which village he would propose us to go. Huacahuasi he told us without hesitation. From this town comes the new priest ordained in Cusco, and soon there was the possibility of introducing ourselves to the people, because Fr Apolinario would celebrate his first Holy Mass for his people. Thanks be to God we managed to organize the car and driver, and we were also sent some delicious bread made by our Sisters from Cusco to take to them. Before leaving we looked at the map where the town is located geographically, and "WHAT A SURPRISE!": the direction was exactly on a straight line from our house, passing the snowy hill that we look upon on a daily basis. The altitude of the village is 3,800 metres above sea level.

We departed on November 29 at 7am, the trip lasted two hours up the hill; the road is mostly dirt, and quite narrow.

Upon arrival, the family of Fr Apolinario welcomed us, and thanks to them we gained the confidence of everyone, since the other inhabitants looked at us with strangely and surprised.



The place is of a very cold and desert climate, so it only allows them to cultivate specific crops of tubers such as potato, oca, año, olluco (local produce); we also saw in the fields many flocks of alpacas and sheep. Through the village crosses a river of transparent waters that gives them small fish (the water comes from the snow on the top of the mountain).

The people there wear their typical clothes made by themselves from the wool of their alpacas; this also helps them to earn some money. At the entrance of this town there is small chapel made of adobes (mud and straw); the Holy Mass was attended by many, as this was Fr Apolinario's first Mass; everything was in Quechua. After the blessing, we went out to distribute the hot chocolate along with the delicious bread. While the people were enjoying their chocolate, the Parish Priest introduced us to the people so that they could meet us and welcome us when the time came for we to meet again to prepare them for the Sacraments; they were very happy about this. Then we realized that the children were not there at all, and one of the parents told us that they were still at school; we then put away the chocolate and the few loaves of bread left for them, but GOD SENT US A SAN JOSÉ, WHO GAVE US ABOUT 100 ROLLS OF HUARO (typical bread from Cusco) to distribute

to the children. We also had some yogurt; the surprise was that after their chocolate they were just waiting to try the yogurt; they liked it so much that they wanted more. Thank God the chocolate was enough for everyone. While the children were eating and drinking, Fr Apollo took the opportunity to talk to them about how he studied there until the 5th grade, he asked them questions about what they wanted to be in the future and advised them to be something in life. He also encouraged them to remain at school; and said that they may even be future priests. The children looked at him attentively; he gave them some catechesis and then we said goodbye.



After these dialogues, (very exciting for us), we were invited to an exquisite plate of food (alpaca meat in potato starch, some potatoes and fried fish). We said goodbye to the village.

Our desire is to return and strengthen their faith. From then on, we see the hill outside our house with different eyes, because we know that behind it, there is the people of the town of Hucahuasi. We carry them in our prayers.

ILO

The reception of the Sacraments for our children of the missions of "OCTOBER 24" and "BOCA DE SAPO" was scheduled for the month of December. They, after careful preparation, made their first encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.



It was a very special day for them, they were excited, happy, all dressed in white; the Holy Mass and the ceremony, everything, made noticeable an atmosphere of celebration, in which Jesus comes with His Body and His Blood inside these hearts to make them His own and dwelling place. There is innocence in the souls of these children.

There were 12 children who received this Holy Sacrament. Let us pray to Mary Most Holy to grant them a pure heart, and above all to be good children of God.

Important dates and times of the month of January:

Monday 10: - The students of the House of Formation in Ajofrín (Toledo, Spain) resume classes after the Christmas holidays.

- First virtual prayer meeting (zoom platform) of the support groups and all the friends of the MSP at 21:00 (Spain time).

Monday 24: Monthly virtual catechetical training course for the Italian speaking friends; the appointment is at 21:00 (peninsular time of Spain) on the zoom platform.

Friday 28: Diocesan Missionary Vigil - The Monastery of the Benedictine Nuns of the Blessed Sacrament of Milan, presided over by Fr. Walter, msp.

Campus 2022

For boys (up to 25 years old)

from July 17 to 30 at the House of Formation in Ajofrín (Toledo, Spain)

Deadline for registration: April 30, 2022

For families

from 1 to 7 August in Arta Terme (Udine, Italy): Covid certification obligatory

Deadline for registration: March 31, 2022

For more information:

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Missionary commitment of the month:

At the beginning of this new year, I will offer my prayers and my "little flowers" so that missionary enthusiasm may be renewed in the hearts of young people and they may have the courage to put themselves seriously at stake in the service of those most in need.

I will also try to organize, with the Missionary Servants of the Poor, some missionary meeting throughout 2022, to continue feeding the missionary atmosphere that I wish to spread.