

# MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

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## Shields of the Heart of Christ

*"Let us be shields of love that  
protect Our Lord"*

THE CHARISM OF THE  
MSP

*Our only promise: the  
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NEWS FROM OUR HOMES

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# SHIELDS OF THE HEART OF CHRIST

In the last edition, we remembered how Saint Bernard (a lover of Christ and the Virgin Mary) invited us not only to follow Christ, but to reach him, since the Lord must be the ultimate goal of everything we do. We also said that Saint Bernard is the heir to a beautiful reform that began with Saint Roberto de Molesmes and was followed by San Alberico and later by Saint Esteban Harding. This famous reform gave rise to the Cistercians as we know them today.

Today we will focus on Saint Alberico (Burgundy, XI century - Cistercian Abbey, January 26, 1108) perhaps the most unknown of all, but whose doctrine enlighten us to a great extent.

One day St. Alberico and St. Esteban were chatting and Alberico told him the following: - Do you think that, despite doing nothing [since prayer is often judged idle], as the world believes, we are helping save the world?

- I am fully convinced that we help to save the world -said Saint Stephen- even though the world thinks that our lives are useless. Therefore, it turns out that those of us who do nothing contribute to the salvation of the world.



- Fine. Well now I want to convince you and the whole community that we can also save Christ.

- Save Christ? Esteban was surprised. - Save Him from what?

- From being pierced by a spear again! We have to become shields, to protect His Sacred Heart, because the Sacred Heart needs us. Everywhere the most sharp points are directed to the Sacred Chest. In these times, Christ must be invaded by sadness, because He is threatened with the spear of impurity. We have to be the shield that defends it! [1].

The words of Saint Alberic may seem very curious and disconcerting. Save Christ? Such words must be understood from the perspective of love. Every lover desires the good of his beloved and if we truly love the heart of Christ we would not want Him to be hurt. Hence, as Catholics, we must repair all the outrages and sacrileges that are committed against his wounded heart; In truth, we must become repairers who alleviate the pain that sin has produced.

May God grant us that burning love that leads us to prefer, like good shields, to receive offenses before they touch the heart of Christ.

[1] Cfr. Fr. M. Raymond, *Tres monjes rebeldes*, Herder, Barcelona, 1981, 183.





*"Forgetting the Heart of  
Jesus would be like  
forgetting His love for us  
sinners"*



FR. GIOVANNI SALERNO



# THE CHARISM OF THE MSP

*Our only promise: the cross*

Our movement is born in a very simple, very humble way, without great promises, but only with the promise of the cross. I felt the presence of God in the faces of these children, the starving, the sick. I could no longer run away from His gaze, from His call. I had to answer, I had to look at Him face to face and finally give Him an answer. And I began to call young people with big hearts to serve others, not closing in on themselves, but overcoming their selfishness.

I still remember, as if it were yesterday, all those young people who came to give a little bit of their lives to the poorest in Peru. I remember our first steps, uncertain, hesitant, yes, but knowing that God was attentive so that we did not fall, as the child knows that when he takes his first steps, his mother is there to hold him.

I remember our home "Saint Teresa of Jesus", taking care of the first orphaned and abandoned children, with an unacceptable physical structure in place, but very encouraging in terms of the wealth of love of those who served. My eyes fill with tears when

So many children whose lives we have been able to save go through my mind: children like Edgar, Maria and Kathy; children for whom we had to fight and spend hours after hours and entire days at their side to save their lives. I also remember, with nostalgia and sympathy, all the children that the Lord wanted to call to Him, who, although little, I know that they are with God, enjoying his glory and interceding for our work, which is, above all, His work. .

Thus, in May 1986, I presented my proposal to Cardinal Marcelo González, Archbishop of Toledo and Primate of Spain. I will never forget his encouraging 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. Start receiving young candidates for the priesthood, even if you have nothing".

At that time, Peru suffered the terrible consequences of a natural disaster caused by an earthquake. The bishop knew this and, immediately, offered economic and humanitarian aid as a sign of his deep human and Christian sense. I preferred that Divine Providence take charge of the economic, thinking that sacrifice and austerity were the most convenient for this work. (to be continued...)

Fr. Giovanni Salerno



**"Our Movement was born in a very simple way, without great promises, but only with the promise of the cross."**

# NEWS FROM OUR HOMES

## Welcoming Christ

The Missionary Servants of the Poor have a boarding school for poor and abandoned children and we have always considered that it is not a child we are welcoming, but rather Christ Himself whom we are receiving. (Cf. Mc 9, 37).

In recent months, the work of the Priests and Brothers who care for the children has not stopped, since even on vacation, the children, having no family, remain in the care of the Priests.

They have recently resumed their school work and we hope it will be a year of blessings, in which the children learn a lot; Above all, feel loved by Our Lord and Our Mother the Virgin Mary, since deep down, you are not alone.

We entrust ourselves to your prayers and beg you to ask God to inspire the generosity of many families that can adopt and welcome these children.

God bless you.

## Missionary couples sow the Gospel

The missionary couples belonging to the MSP serve the poorest with their family witness. During this year, they have several assignments: they help in our schools, they make frequent visits to the homes of very poor people, they carry out catechism for many parents, they collaborate in various administrative tasks, etc.

Their example and their work are an impulse for all the missionaries, since at the same time that they serve Christ with their lives, they dedicate time to their family life.

Visiting "Villa Nazareth" (the place where the families live) is like seeing a "little piece of heaven", since the families live dedicated to God, giving at the same time an education in holiness to their children.

In these difficult times in which we live, times in which Satan is waging a strong war against the family, how beautiful is the life of these families! May God give them the strength to go forward in the various services they must perform.





S.O.S

*TO THE YOUTH*

If you are a boy or a girl, or a couple, or if from your country you want to form a support group or be an Oblate. God calls you! Do not put out the flame and say yes to Christ

contact us!



# WE NEED YOUR PRAYER

THE MOST IMPORTANT HELP YOU CAN GIVE TO THE MISSION IS PRAYER

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