

MARISTS ON A JOURNEY

Catechesis 10/12

April 15th 2013



Beatitudes of Easter

Happy are those who in searching for God find a woman badly treated, sick, marginalised....

Happy are those who have the courage to say that they have seen a light, a hope, someone who has risen to new life.

Happy are those who visit the tombs of the world, who find the linen cloths, those who doubt but continue to trust.

Happy are those who understand the vindication of vulnerable groups and who commit themselves to change oppressive structures..

Happy are those who believe Mary, Peter and John: each one of them awakens us and opens us to a renewed existence.

Happy are those who experience Easter as a happy time, unique, special, a new beginning, to share in community, to come close to others.

Happy are the those who discover that with the resurrection of Jesus a new day has dawned, a unique and definitive day.

Cf. Miguel Ángel Mesa

We prepare our heart!

Dear young people: I look forward joyfully to next July in Rio de Janeiro! I will see you in that great city in Brazil! Prepare well – prepare spiritually above all – in your communities, so that our gathering in Rio may be a sign of faith for the whole world. Young people must say to the world: to follow Christ is good; to go with Christ is good; the message of Christ is good; emerging from ourselves, to the ends of the earth and of existence, to take Jesus there, is good!

(HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS, Palm Sunday, March 24th 2013).

In this way our Pope has animated us to give a strong spiritual impulse to our preparation for the WYD in Rio 2013. But, how do we prepare? We propose these three ideas taken from some of Pope Francis messages :

Journeying, building and professing: Always **journeying**, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with the blamelessness . **Building** the Church. We speak of stones: stones are solid; but living stones, stones anointed by the Holy Spirit. **Professing**: We can walk as much as we want, we can build many things, but if we do not profess Jesus Christ, things go wrong. ("MISSA PRO ECCLESIA" WITH THE CARDINAL ELECTORS, Thursday, 14 March 2013).

Practising Mercy. Jesus has this message for us: **mercy**. Let us go back to the Lord. The Lord never tires of forgiving: never! It is we who tire of asking his forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace not to tire of asking forgiveness, because he never tires of forgiving. Let us ask for this grace. (Fifth Sunday of Lent, 17 March 2013).

Be protectors of God's gifts!. The vocation of being a "protector" means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.

(MASS AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS PETRINE MINISTRY, Tuesday, 19 March 2013).

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Dear Young People:

4. Gather all nations

The risen Christ sent his disciples forth to bear witness to his saving presence before all the nations, because God in his superabundant love wants everyone to be saved and no one to be lost. By his loving sacrifice on the cross, Jesus opened up the way for every man and woman to come to know God and enter into a communion of love with him. He formed a community of disciples to bring the saving message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth and to reach men and women in every time and place. Let us make God's desire our own!

Dear friends, open your eyes and look around you. So many young people no longer see any meaning in their lives. Go forth! Christ needs you too. Let yourselves be caught up and drawn along by his love. Be at the service of this immense love, so it can reach out to everyone, especially to those "far away". Some people are far away geographically, but others are far away because their way of life has no place for God. Some people have not yet personally received the Gospel, while others have been given it, but live as if God did not exist. Let us open our hearts to everyone. Let us enter into conversation in simplicity and respect. If this conversation is held in true friendship, it will bear fruit. The "nations" that we are invited to reach out to are not only other countries in the world. They are also the different areas of our lives, such as our families, communities, places of study and work, groups of friends and places where we spend our free time. The joyful proclamation of the Gospel is meant for all the areas of our lives, without exception.

I would like to emphasize two areas where your missionary commitment is all the more necessary. Dear young people, the first is the field of social communications, particularly the world of the internet. As I mentioned to you on another occasion: "I ask you to introduce into the culture of this new environment of communications and information technology the values on which you have built your lives. [...] It falls, in particular, to young people, who have an almost spontaneous affinity for the new means of communication, to take on the responsibility for the evangelization of this 'digital continent'" (Message for the 43rd World Communications Day, 24 May 2009). Learn how to use these media wisely. Be aware of the hidden dangers they contain, especially the risk of addiction, of confusing the real world with the virtual, and of replacing direct and personal encounters and dialogue with internet contacts.

The second area is that of travel and migration. Nowadays more and more young people travel, sometimes for their studies or work, and at other times for pleasure. I am also thinking of the movements of migration which involve millions of people, very often young, who go to other regions or countries for financial or social reasons. Here too we can find providential opportunities for sharing the Gospel. Dear young people, do not be afraid to witness to your faith in these settings. It is a precious gift for those you meet when you communicate the joy of an encounter with Christ.

Shared reflection:

To what peoples or environments do you feel called to go in the name of Jesus? Have you thought about being a missionary on the digital continent? Have any "HOWS" occurred to you as a response to this message? How present in your own situation is the migration of youth and what can we do as a Marist group to accompany them?

"The message of Easter announces that all human situations, however difficult, have a solution... since new life in the Resurrection is directed to all dimensions of human life and to the whole of creation."

E. Bianchi

DISCIPLES OF JESUS



Jesus the Crucified is alive !

Jesus died and was buried. The Resurrection does not signify the end of a painful drama but rather the beginning once again of the whole world under the power of death recreated by God. The new creation begins alive with the glory of God's Son. The Resurrection is the exaltation of Jesus as Lord at the right hand of the Father, which is when Jesus actually discovers that he is the only Son of God, his ultimate identity, which in different ways has been emerging indirectly through his authority and above all by his obedience and belonging to the Father whom he calls Abba.

Seated at the right hand of the Father, he receives the power of the Kingdom. What up to now was the Reign of God now becomes the reign of Christ. The Teaching Jesus has now become the Jesus proclaimed. It is now that the promise of the Spirit is fulfilled, the beginning of the Kingdom of the Resurrected, the Holy Spirit. In manifesting himself to his disciples Jesus forms them into a community, he gives them the gift of peace, as the prize of the fulfillment of the promise and he gives them their misión : share with us the Father's life.

The Risen Jesus has chosen us, has made us his own. The climax of Christian spirituality is the mystery of the living and permanent relation which we have with the Risen Christ. There was a time when the catechumans asked the question: to whom do you belong?, to which those who wished to be baptised responded: I am of Jesus! There is no faith without this experience of his presence.

Faith enables us to confess that Jesus is Risen, "He who lived in Palestine is here" Where can we perceive his presence today ?

Taken from Javier Garrido: *El Camino del Discipulo*, Victoria-Gasteiz 2008.

MARY'S WAY



Close my eyes

*Close my eyes:
I will see you;
close my ears:
I will hear you;
I can find you even without feet
and even without voice,
I can conjugate you.
Break my arms
and I will find you
with all my heart
with my fingers;
Stop my heart :
you will hear it beat
in my brain,
and if you cast fire
I will carry you in my blood.
Rainer Maria Rilke*

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20, 29)

We often ask why the Evangelists never refer to an apparition of the Risen Jesus to Mary. We can imagine three reasons: It just did not happen or because if it did happen the Evangelists knew nothing about it; or in spite of knowing of its existence they considered it too obvious to mention it. Some precious texts and reflections have been developed which suggest that it happened but we really do not know. The Evangelists do not tell us.

On the other hand, the beatitudes of those who "believed without seeing" (cf. Jn 20, 29) contain an implicit reference to Mary, above all if it is placed in relation to the exclamation of Elizabeth: "Blessed are you who believed" (Lc 1,45). from where it comes that Mary believed without seeing. We could say that this is the least necessary, because what the women believed on the morning of the Resurrection, what Peter and John believed, includes Mary Mother of the Church and of all believers. In any case Mary preceded the disciples on the way to the tomb, in the way of faith. She knew that Jesus, her Son, and above all her Master, had risen from the dead. She had no need of apparitions nor explanations..... she had fully entered into the mystery of the scriptures, and without understanding just like the other disciples she fully believed that the God of promises would not disappoint his people.. (cf. Carlo María Martini: *Una libertad que se entrega*, En meditación con María , Sal Terrae, Santander1998).

A message from the Team in Brazil



Dear Brothers and Sisters, greetings! It is with great pleasure that we write to all of you again, hoping that you are very animated and motivated for our meeting just a few months from now.

We want to offer you some very important information for the success of our meeting, so that everyone will be comfortable during our stay in Rio de Janeiro.

1. It is very important that as soon as possible everyone sends details about flight numbers, times of arrival and times of leaving Brazil.
2. Taking into consideration that in our Marist meeting people from different parts of the world will be participating, different countries, languages, cultures etc, we hope to count on the collaboration of all in the animation, prayer and cultural presentations. This will render our meeting richer and more diverse. We would like to ask that you send by e mail some songs, hymns and prayers that you would like to sing and share during our time there. This would give us the opportunity to edit and print some material.
3. We have already sent the protocol of the inscriptions to everyone whose passport number we already have. I hope you are not having any visa problems. The protocol of confirmation of your inscription to World Youth Day is the only thing required by the embassies and consulates; it is sufficient that you have this signed and sealed by your Parish priest and Diocese. The visa should not have any cost. If you are having any problems with all this please get in touch with us.
4. We ask the Coordinators of the groups to verify all those who are registered and confirmed with protocol. We are working and taking a lot of care that no one is left out, but we also count on your cooperation in the communication so as to avoid any difficulties afterwards.
5. Please remember to prepare all you need in terms of personal hygiene and sleeping equipment, simple mattress or air mattress, a blanket or sleeping bag, sheet and pillow. A good rest facilitates a good atmosphere in our Marist meeting of WYD in Rio in 2013.
6. Finally we would like to ask you once again to invite other people to come, we still have some places. It will be a very enriching experience, maybe the only one for all of us.

Thank you in anticipation

Sincerely

Brother Ailto SM

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