

MARISTS ON A JOURNEY

Catechesis 6/12

15 December 2012



¿What are you waiting for?

“Hold on to the flame that God has placed in your heart tonight. Never let it die, renew it each day, share it with those who live in poverty and with those who are searching for light for their way.”

Pope Benedict, Vigilia WYD Madrid



Advent is a time of hope. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are preparing for his second coming. Let's make ours the great hopes of humanity, especially of those who hope that the message of Jesus, the Reign of God, what changed history twenty centuries ago, was lived coherently and radically by his Disciples can renew the world once again. We could ask ourselves this Advent In whom do I hope? Who am I waiting for? Perhaps we can also ask ourselves, How do I hope to recognise him and live what He came and gave his life for?"

I am worth celebrating. I am worth everything.
I am unique. In the whole world there is only one me.

Nobody else has a finger print like mine.

There is only one person with my talents, with my experience and my gifts.

No one can take my place.

God created only one me and I am precious in God's sight.

He holds me in the palm of his hand.

I have immense potential to love, to care, to create, to grow, if only I believe in myself.

The past doesn't matter, the wrong that I've done is forgotten, the mistakes I have made are learning points, I have only this moment to enjoy.

God has lit a flame in my heart.

I am growing in love.



I am accepted. I am okay. God loves me in spite of everything.

I must learn to love myself and nourish the seeds within me.

I am made in the image of God, I am **enough** and that is all I need.

I am called to celebrate my gift of life!

I am called to mission, **I AM MISSION**, The world needs me.

I will begin now, start anew, I will **“Go make Disciples of all nations”**

Today is my moment, This is my time.

So join me in celebrating the miracle of life and mission in WYD!

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DISCIPLES OF JESUS



PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD.

Jesus did not create a social or political model. He doesn't just wish the world to function well. He wants more. He wants to recreate it from the roots. For this reason someone needs to live according to the heart of God, giving of himself/herself, always taking the first step to live faithfully this unconditional love. Bible study tells us that Jesus did not speak of himself, nor did he speak of his Father or of the Spirit: The heart of Jesus' teaching is the 'The Kingdom of God.' In his words and actions he made present the Reign of God. When Jesus called people to follow him the root of this call and this following was the Reign of God. The calls in the Synoptic Gospels (Mt, Mc y Lk) always begin with announcing the arrival of the Reign of God.

The Reign of God is a community living in God's presence in a relationship of Dignity, Justice, Peace, and has as its basic elements: 1) the equality of each human person; 2) brotherhood/ sisterhood because we are all children of the same Father, 3) solidarity : a community whose rule of life is LOVE 4) preference for the poor and suffering: the 'Little Ones' , those who do not count in the world are put in first place in the project of Jesus: 5) The freedom of all members: Jesús never forces anyone to be a member of this community nor to remain in it .

In Jesus, the announcing of the Reign of God and those called as followers are inseparable. We cannot love Jesus and try to follow Him without reference to the Reign of God. Neither can we try to build the Reign of God without reference to the person of Jesus. As followers we are put in contact with the Person of Jesus and with the Project of the Reign of God, the Kingdom of God.

*Do you know how many times Jesus speaks of the Reign of God in the Gospel s?
I nvestigate it. What does it mean? What is God's desire for the whole of humanity?
What do you experience when you listen to Jesus speaking this way? To what are
YOU being called?*

PILGRIMAGE— Journey

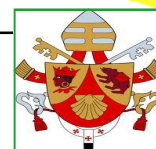


PILGRIMS OF THE KINGDOM

Taking the above into account we can say that a Christian is a pilgrim of Faith, Love and Justice; someone searching, as did Jesus to announce, witness and build the Kingdom of God here and now. They seek to know the will of God, to love HIM above all else and to love his/her neighbour as himself/ herself. He /she is a pilgrim of the Beatitudes. The disciple of Jesus lives in constant reference to the Person of Jesus and the values of the Reign of God, the Kingdom of God.

MISSIONARIES

What is essential to our Christian mission? To what did Jesus send us? What is the Church's role in building the Kingdom of God?



The voice of the Pope:

«**Rejoice in the Lord always!**» (Flp 4,4)

“Rejoice in the Lord always”

7. Witnesses of joy

Dear friends, to conclude I would encourage you to be missionaries of joy. We cannot be happy if others are not. Joy has to be shared. Go and tell other young people about your joy at finding the precious treasure which is Jesus himself. We cannot keep the joy of faith to ourselves. If we are to keep it, we must give it away. Saint John said: “What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; we are writing this so that our joy may be complete” (1 Jn 1:3-4).

Christianity is sometimes depicted as a way of life that stifles our freedom and goes against our desires for happiness and joy. But this is far from the truth. Christians are men and women who are truly happy because they know that they are not alone. They know that God is always holding them in his hands. It is up to you, young followers of Christ, to show the world that faith brings happiness and a joy which is true, full and enduring. If the way Christians live at times appears dull and boring, you should be the first to show the joyful and happy side of faith. The Gospel is the “good news” that God loves us and that each of us is important to him. Show the world that this is true!

Be enthusiastic witnesses of the new evangelization! Go to those who are suffering and those who are searching, and give them the joy that Jesus wants to bestow. Bring it to your families, your schools and universities, your workplaces and your friends, wherever you live. You will see how it is contagious. You will receive a hundredfold: the joy of salvation for yourselves, and the joy of seeing God's mercy at work in the hearts of others. And when you go to meet the Lord on that last day, you will hear him say: “Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy” (Mt 25:21).

May the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany you on this journey. She welcomed the Lord within herself and proclaimed this in a song of praise and joy, the Magnificat: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” (Lk 1:46-47). Mary responded fully to God's love by devoting her life to him in humble and complete service. She is invoked as “Cause of our Joy” because she gave us Jesus. May she lead you to that joy which no one will ever be able to take away from you!

The Pope has now presented his message for the XXVIII World Youth Day to be celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil in July 2013. We will begin to reflect on this in January. Today leaving out points five and six of the 2012 message we reflect on the conclusion, the call of the Pope to all of us, to be of like Mary, witnesses of Joy in the world of today.

Reflect and share:

How can we in our lives today as young Marists be witnesses of joy in our own distinct environments.?

“Hope does not wander loosely in the streets. It has to be conquered. By truth alone can we acquire it.”

Georges Bernanos.

MARY'S WAY



Sister Regina tells us that Bucaral, Valencia Venezuela could be described as "a small hole, an unappealing town plagued with crime, violence, theft and drugs".

During the Novena for Mother Saint Joseph's Anniversary the Sisters invited parishioners to join them for the celebration which Regina organized on June 30. Expecting a big congregation she had prepared lots of leaflets but only two people turned up - a neighbour whose 16 year old son was shot dead in front of their house, and a sick woman trying to come to terms with the recent kidnapping of her nephew. "With much sorrow they prayed with us", Sister remembers, "and all the time the rain fell". That day, as she listened to the women crying and imploring God's help through the intercession of Mother Saint Joseph, Regina was struck by their simple faith and trust. "Mother Saint

Joseph, we beg you," they cried, over and over. Comparing Bucaral to Jarnosse in France, Regina reminds us of Eugenia Gautier's words:

"No one would dream of choosing a place like this." But at Jarnosse, under the leadership of Mother Saint Joseph, the Sisters dedicated themselves to educating the people of the village and lavishing maternal love on the poor and needy. After 9 years in the well-established mission of Campo Alegre, Maracay Regina felt helpless when

she came to Bucaral. But now in the Semillita Foundation which cares for orphans, abandoned kids and children at risk, Sister works happily as a liaison between school and community. In her free time Regina hops on her bike to greet people, visit families and finish up at the Foundation where she washes and cleans the children's hair and helps in the areas of cleanliness and personal hygiene. She explains: "I do it as a service to the kids. I think of Mother St. Joseph 'spending time in unnoticed work'. She did it out of love and I know she would want me to do the same".



Jean Marie Chavoín
(Mother St. Joseph)



Regina Cohene, sm



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

"FINAL CALL"

Participants in the International meeting of Young Marists in the WYD in Rio de Janeiro 2013.

Dates: International Marist gathering (17th to 22nd of July 2013), WYD(from 23rd to 28 of July 2013). We have accommodation up to the morning of the 29th.

Venue: During both events we will be accommodated in the Marist Brothers' College, San José - Barra.

Cost: 500 € (o 650 USD)

Deposit: 50% before the 25th of January. **BANCO BRADESCO, Agência 2938-6, Conta Corrente: 17876-4.**

Titulares: Deonor Vieira do Nascimento y Aílto Ferreira Gonçalves.

Visit the web pages: <http://cms.rio2013.com/pt> and www.maristyouthinternational.org