

MARISTS ON A JOURNEY

Catechesis 9/12

March 15th 2013



“Habemus Papam!” Pope Francis... Looking forward to see you in Rio!

Walking

One day the child Jesus took his first steps under the watchful eyes of Mary and Joseph. One day he left Nazareth and has never stopped walking.....

- because as human beings we are his feet to come and go in freedom, with heads high and hands free.....
- to escape like Elías, fed by an Angel: “rise up and come otherwise the journey will be too long” (1 Reyes 19, 7).
- in haste like Mary to see her cousin (Lucas 1, 39) to visit her and be at her service...
- on the journey, sometimes happily stepping along, sometimes more slowly;
- in the desert towards Santiago de Compostela or around the cloister of a monastery, adjusting our thoughts and our prayer to the rhythm of our steps...
- until out fatigue wins and someone from on high says “Come away and rest a while” (Marcos 6, 31)
- until we are exhausted, like those found by SS Nazi during the “marches of death”

Bénédicte Orange



“And now, we take up this journey: Bishop and People. This journey of the Church of Rome which presides in charity over all the Churches. A journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity.”

Holy Father Pope Francis, 13 March 2013.

Contens

PILGRIMAGE– WAY



DISCIPLES OF JESUS



MISSIONARIES



THE VOICE OF THE POPE



MARY’S WAY



PILGRIMAGE— Journey

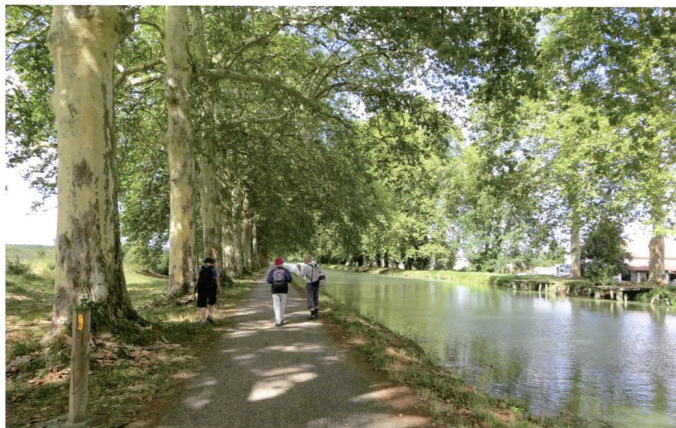


In this section we will take two texts from “*Regards maristes*” (No. 22, March 2013). The first is by Georges Lajara, a lay Marist and the second is by the theologian Bénédict Orange in the form of prayer.

A one mile walk...

Walking, What could be simpler or more natural than a walk? One foot in front of the other over and over again...

However, walking is a challenge, it is to accept a constant imbalance. What an emotional moment when a child takes the first step.! Accompanying the joy of the parents goes the fear of the dangers: the fall, the cars, the other pedestrians... The child is learning the liberty of movement: “I can go to the object of my desire, to know other people”, but for the parents it is a fountain of new problems!



When I decided to do the walk to Compostela, I remembered a little of those adventurous first steps: to take the risk of moving into the unknown. To begin a journey is to accept the encounters, first of all with oneself and then with others and ... maybe with the Other. This search for corporal balance goes hand in hand with the search for intellectual and spiritual balance. Walking can bring about a balance in my life, revising my project for the future, identifying my areas of emptiness, making decisions, choosing a direction...

Stages, interchange with the other “pilgrims” from different places in order to discover new perspectives , new desires, and to share values.

Along the way, the crosses on stones at the crossroads, the little hostels invite us to stop for prayer and allow us to see that we are not alone on the journey, we enter into communion with those in front of us and with those who follow. Moreover, it is not us who make the journey, but rather it is the journey which carries us forward to a deeper understanding of ourselves, which helps us to distinguish between the essential and the superfluous (the baggage we carry!) and opens up a dialogue with Him who goes before us.

Let's begin the journey and let us not detain ourselves on this journey in search of Life!

Walk...

Lord Jesus, you liked to walk around Palestine. You went out to meet people, the little ones..... the one time that you mounted was on a donkey, your feet almost touching the ground, an apparently ridiculous image of a pretend procession! You went forward, untiringly, like a Shepherd among the flock.

To see someone who could not walk for you was unsupportable. How many sick people, invalids, lame, paralyzed, did you heal and lift up? Including the dead! Many thought that the daughter of Jairos was dead, but you took her by the hand and said, Talita kumi! which means, “Little girl wake up and get up! and immediately the child got up and began to **walk** (Mark 5: 41).

Moreover when you most wanted to walk, your feet were nailed to the wood of the Cross, and you surrendered all into the hands of your Father who sent you to save the world.

"Go make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28,19)

Pope Benedict XVI's message for the twenty-eighth World Youth Day 2013



Dear Young People:

3. Go forth!

Jesus sent his disciples forth on mission with this command: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk 16:15-16). To evangelize means to bring the Good News of salvation to others and to let them know that this Good News is a person: Jesus Christ. When I meet him, when I discover how much I am loved by God and saved by God, I begin to feel not only the desire, but also the need to make God known to others. At the beginning of John's Gospel we see how Andrew, immediately after he met Jesus, ran off to fetch his brother Simon (cf. 1:40-42). Evangelization always begins with an encounter with the Lord Jesus. Those who come to Jesus and have experienced his love, immediately want to share the beauty of the meeting and the joy born of his friendship. The more we know Christ, the more we want to talk about him. The more we speak with Christ, the more we want to speak about him. The more we are won over by Christ, the more we want to draw others to him.

Through Baptism, which brings us to new life, the Holy Spirit abides in us and inflames our minds and hearts. The Spirit shows us how to know God and to enter into ever deeper friendship with Christ. It is the Spirit who encourages us to do good, to serve others and to give of ourselves. Through Confirmation we are strengthened by the gifts of the Spirit so that we can bear witness to the Gospel in an increasingly mature way. It is the Spirit of love, therefore, who is the driving force behind our mission. The Spirit impels us to go out from ourselves and to "go forth" to evangelize. Dear young people, allow yourselves to be led on by the power of God's love. Let that love overcome the tendency to remain enclosed in your own world with your own problems and your own habits. Have the courage to "go out" from yourselves in order to "go forth" towards others and to show them the way to an encounter with God.

Reflect and share:

Can you identify with the affirmation of Pope emérito Benedict XVI that whoever knows Jesus and Loves Him, in this way he/she is announcing Him? How often do you talk with Jesus, and how much do you speak about Him? Have you experienced the strength of the Spirit go out from you? .

"Don't lose your way,
God has placed on your feet,
Something like a shoe inviting you
to climb.
Keep your footsteps in mind,
until the end of the journey,
Take time for prayer,
and especially to love
And above all love the ladders."
Pascale Signals

In Mary's way



I failed like Christ

"Well, Here I am a failure", said Father Emmet McHardy S.M. to his Spiritual director and fellow Marist. Nothing though, could be further from the truth. His spiritual director responded, "Yes, you have failed, failed like Christ on the Cross".

The example of Father Emmet McHardy is one of joyful simplicity, missionary zeal and a love for both God and the people he served with a smile. Born in the Taranaki in 1904, Emmet McHardy trained at Greenmeadows seminary and was ordained a priest within the Society of Mary. His strongest desire was to go on the Missions, and so in 1929 he was sent to the Solomon Islands.

Alone in his mission station, Emmet McHardy worked tirelessly often against local opposition. Despite his trials, Emmet maintained his trademark smile and good humour, which inevitably won the day:

"Last Saturday I went up to the big village in the mountains, Penkepono by name. Shortly after I came here I attempted to go there, but they would not let me inside the village. Of course, discretion is the better part of bravery, and all that sort of thing! But I went back, and gradually their coolness was broken down."

His time in the islands was however remarkably short, for he contracted malaria, pneumonia and tuberculosis and died, back in New Zealand, in 1933.

Although his time in the islands was short, his memory has not been extinguished. What has remained a striking feature of this Marist's life is his total dedication to the mission, served always with a generous smile. Even as he lay dying his only desire was to return to the missions and work with the people of God:

"I am grieved only that I have let the Bishop down, that I have fallen

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down a job where there is so much bene, God knows what He is doing, and if He wants to take me [then] what should we be but delighted to fulfil His holy will."

Emmet McHardy wrote six resolutions to live by, and although he lived for only 29 years, they remain poignant today. Here are three of them:

I will never forget that I am one of God's 'marked' men.

I will always remember that I am made of exactly the same stuff as the worst sinner on earth, without God's grace I would be worse than he.

I will always have a happy smile for everyone, especially for those who like me least I will try to hide my own wounded feelings behind a smile.



Mary under the Cross

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

As Jesus was dying, the Gospels tell us that Mary, his mother, stood under the cross. What's in that image? What's in this picture that invites us to more than simple admiration, piety, or sympathy? This is a mystical image and it is anything but pious. In the Gospels, after Jesus, Mary is the most important person to watch. She's the model of discipleship, the only one who gets it right. And she gets it very right under the cross. What's she doing while standing there?

On the surface, it seems she isn't doing anything at all: She doesn't speak, doesn't try to stop the crucifixion, and she doesn't even protest its unfairness or plead Jesus' innocence. She is mute, seemingly passive, overtly doing nothing. But at a deeper level, she is doing all that can be done when one is standing under the weight of the cross, she's holding the tension, standing in strength, refusing to give back in kind, and resisting in a deeper way.

She couldn't stop the crucifixion (there are times when darkness has its hour) but she could stop some of the hatred, bitterness, jealousy, heartlessness, and anger that caused it and surrounded it. She helped stop bitterness by refusing to give it back in kind, by transforming rather than transmitting it, by swallowing hard and (literally) eating bitterness rather than giving it back, as everyone else was doing. What Mary was doing under the cross, her silence and seeming unwillingness to protest notwithstanding, was radiating all that is antithetical to the crucifixion: gentleness, understanding, forgiveness, peace, light. There are times too when things have gone so far that shouts and protests are no longer helpful, darkness is going to have its hour come what may and all we can do is to stand under the cross and help eat its bitterness by refusing to participate in its energy. In those situations, like Mary, we have to say: "I can't stop this crucifixion, but I can stop some of the hatred, bitterness, jealousy, brute-heartlessness, and darkness that surround it. I can't stop this, but I will not conduct its hatred." And that's not the same thing as despair. Our muted helplessness is not a passive resignation but the opposite. It's a movement towards the only rays of light, love, and faith that still exist in that darkness and hatred. At that moment, it's the only thing that faith and love can do.