

MARISTS ON A JOURNEY

Catechetics 1/12

15 th July 2012

Welcome!

A great encounter awaits us in Río!

Today we begin our pilgrimage to the World Youth Day as a Marist Family. This is the first of a series of catechetics which seeks to start us on the road as from now. Before making the physical journey in July 2013 we invite you to begin now. This will lead us to our own heart, our own centre where God has placed His tent. For us who are disciples of Jesus even the most personal aspects of our journey have a community dimension. Hundreds of thousands of Young people will go to Rio as members of the Church, to meet up with Pope Benedict XVI who has invited us to listen again to the call of Jesus, to be missionaries of hope and of life in this world, above all in those

places of greatest need. How beautiful are the journeys which we share with other people whom we love ... and this is what we are beginning today. Many of us already know each other whether it be in our own youth groups or those of us who met in the WYD in Madrid in 2011, we will get to know others in Brazil. Love is already the foundation, the love of Jesus, the love of Mary who has made us a family. This will be confirmed when we meet in Rio



or in some preparatory meeting.

¿Ready? Lets move forward, a beautiful journey awaits us....!

!!! Catechetics ???

The Word catechetics

comes from the idea of resonance. Today it is mainly used to denote christian instruction, however it has a wider meaning and speaks of the accompaniment in the

faith which helps us to make our own the resonance with God, to embrace the **mystery of His presence in our lives** in the Word of God, in the sacraments, in the teaching of the church,... in the whole of creation

There will be five themes contained in the catechetics.

PILGRIMAGE – JOURNEY

DISCÍPLES OF JESÚS

MISIONARIES

The Voice of the Holy Father

THE WAY OF MARY



- We will also use this chanel as a means of communicating information:

- > about Brazil and Río de Janeiro,
- > about WYD,
- > about some themes related to the organization

PILGRIMAGE– WAY



where are you going?
where is the world going?
What is Jesus proposing?



FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS:

Understanding life as a journey – a way belongs to the history of humanity and also to the history of religions. When we look at the history of the nomads we find that they have ritualized their journey as a seal of their relevant spirituality. All people at a given moment have felt the need to move on towards the transcendent. For a long time this has been termed a pilgrimage (from the latin *peregrinatio journey to a foreign land*, and very soon it was used in the religious context 'travel to a Holy Place'). The first places were the sepulchurs, the graves of their ancestors or religious leaders .. Of more that seven hundred years ago!!

DISCIPLES OF JESUS



PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

The three Synoptic Gospels (above all Luke) constantly make not only geographical reference but also theological reference to the "journey" or **The Way** of Jesus towards Jerusalem to give his life as a sign of fidelity to the Father and in loving solidarity with all men and women. The Word journey is mentioned 97 times in the New Testament of which more than half (51) is the work of Luke (Gospel and Acts of the Apostles) Jesus calls himself "The Way" (Jn 14,6), the true WAY of life. The first christians were

recognized as people of the Way as testified by Paul himself (Acts 22,4) who says that he persecuted unto death those of the "Way".

Pope John Paul II used the text of the Disciples on the road to Emmaus for one of his messages to Young People. Take your Bible, read Luke chapter 24, versus 13 to 35 and dedicate a moment to personal and community prayer.

What is the Way of Jesus? What stops us from recognising Jesus walking by our side? What helps us to recognize Him? When do we encounter "fire" (joy, meaning, strength) on our journey? What moments of sharing the Bread are significant in our christian experience? What are Jesus' attitudes as a companion on the Way?

MISIONARIES

"GO, MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS"

The theme of WYD in Rio in 2013 is taken from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28, 19) and makes a reference to the Continental mission which the Holy Father together with all the Bishops of America and the Caribbean launched in the Sanctuary of Our Lady, **Nuestra Señora Aparecida**, in Brazil. The theme of the mission is very extensive and very interesting. What does mission mean? Why does the Church carry out missions? Do you believe that the world is in need of mission? These are some of the questions that we will seek to answer here.

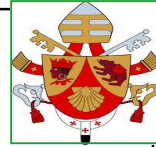
In this first catechetics we want to link into the voice of the Holy Father, who in his message speaks to us of a very interesting mission.

"Always be joyful in the Lord."

Each year the Holy Father writes a message for Young people. Last March he wrote on the theme "Always rejoice in the Lord" we will take some passages from this for the next catechetics as a Word to enlighten us on our journey.

The voice of the Holy Father:

« Always be joyful in the Lord!» (Flp 4,4)



Dear Young People:

This year the theme for World Youth Day is taken from the exhortation of Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians "Always be joyful in the Lord": (4,4). In reality, **Joy is a central element in the Christian experience.** We also experience intense joy in each World Youth Day, **the joy of communion**, the joy of being Christians, **the joy of our faith.** This is a characteristic of these encounters. We see the attractive strength which it brings to our world, marked very often with sadness and lack of tranquility, joy is an important testimony to the beauty and trust of the Christian faith.

The church is called to bring **joy to the world**, an authentic and enduring joy, that which the angels announced to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth (cf. Lc 2, 10). **God** has not only spoken, has not only fulfilled prodigious signs in the history of humanity, but has become so close to us **that He has become one of us**, living the various stages of the life of the people. In the present and difficult context, many young people around us have an immense need to feel the Christian message of joy and hope. I would like to reflect with you on this joy, reflect on the journey to find it, so that you can live it with ever greater depth and be messengers of joy among the people around us.

Reflect and share:

What draws your attention from these first paragraphs of Pope Benedict's message?

Have you experienced the kind of joy that the Pope speaks about? Have you seen it in someone you know?

Have you thought about the church being called to bring joy to the world?

Do you experience this? Some examples.

What is the relationship between vocation and mission?

From the philosophical point of view:

"The utopia is on the horizon. Take two steps, she will distance herself two more and the horizon will run ten steps further on. So, for what does the utopia serve? It is for this:

It helps us to keep on moving.

IN MARY'S WAY

Carlo Caretto, in his book on Mary, refers to a cruel experience in the desert. A woman was beaten, stoned to death by the people in the village for having been unfaithful before marriage and having conceived a child. This experience helped him to understand what Mary experienced after the annunciation.

“On that night I felt for the first time that I had come close to the **mystery of Mary: for the first time I felt that she was not just a statue raised up as queen on an altar; but I saw her as my Sister close to me, sitting on the beach of this world, with sandals like mine, her legs tired. I felt she was by my side, very weak, indelible in her marvellous and unmistakable pregnancy**”.

After her encounter with

God, Mary is alone, with her great mystery, a secret she could not share with

anyone, because no one would understand. She entered into a great solitude. In accord with the text from Matthew God himself intervenes to help her overcome her solitude. He communicates the mystery of her life to Joseph in a dream, in this way the difficult situation for Mary and Joseph was resolved. (Cf. Mt. 1, 18-25)

It was also mentioned in God's promise that Elizabeth would give birth to a Son, the mystery in her womb. Mary then visited

Elizabeth with the hope of being able to talk with her. Before she could say



anything about what had happened, Elizabeth sensed the Divine mystery in Mary and filled with the Holy Spirit exclaimed, Cf. Luke 1, 42).

Taken from the book of Fritz Arnold sm

“Like Mary, Towards Christian Maturity in the Twenty-First Century” Columba press 2001.

What can I do this month to begin “my journey” to Río?

What ideals light up my heart to offer support to my group/ neighbourhood and what concrete actions (one or two) will I do in them?

Practical Information

Take note:

World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: July 23rd to 28th 2013. Visit the official site: www.rio2013.com

Marist days together in preparation: July 17th to 21st 2013.

Marist Festival: July 22nd The Young people invited are those who have participated in the programme of preparation of the Marist Sisters, Marist Missionary Sisters, Marist Brothers and Marist Fathers.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! INSCRIBE NOW WITH YOUR LEADER!

Final date for inscriptions October 31st 2012. Until the next catechetics!