

MARISTAS EN CAMINO

Catechetics 2/12

15 August 2012

The goal is what gives meaning: 1. BRAZIL

There are many experiences on our journey, people, learnings, which continue to give meaning to the journey, it is certain that what helps us to move on is our goal. Where am I going? Why do I go? These are questions which have to do with our motivation and indeed with the energy we put into reaching our goal. In the following catechetics we will speak on this theme.

Where are we going? The first response is: to Brazil. There are others that we will discover but just now let's concentrate on the geographical.

What do you know about Brazil? Brazil is a biggest country in Latin America and the fifth biggest in the world with more than 8.5 million km². It is also in fifth place in the number

of inhabitants nearly 193 million. It has a great ethnic and cultural richness. It is also known for its biodiversity and its commitment to conserve that. The Amazon region is the home of 60% of the biodiversity of the planet!. Brazil has grown a lot in the past few years. It also has many challenges, above all in the social area.

Without doubt a very interesting country awaits



us. Brazil will be the stage of 3 great events at world level: The WYD 2013, the Football World Cup 2014 and the Olympic games in 2016. Visit and comment in your group on some of the

Religion in Brazil

Following. 65% of the Brazilian population recognise themselves as Catholic, that is to say 123 million and with this the greatest Catholic population in the world. The Evangelical groups

have increased significantly in recent years, as well as the number of atheists and agnostics. The Brazilian church is alive, joyful and in general committed in social projects, human rights, the diverse cultures and the protection of the environment.

Our five contents

PILGRIMAGE - JOURNEY

DISCIPLES OF JESUS

MISIONARIES

THE VOICE OF THE POPE

THE WAY OF MARY



PILGRIMAGE - JOURNEY



The meaning of the pilgrimage: decide on the journey.

The first step in any pilgrimage is the decision to leave. This decision coincides with the desire to change something in me, in my relationship with others and above all with God. Cardinal Martini says that we are called to see life as a pilgrimage to the Father. We don't live for death but for life and life is what leads us out to an encounter. Begin the journey, leave your 'home' is a decision like that of Jesus to go to Jerusalem. Decide to leave behind our securities and comforts presupposes a basis of faith, of confidence. From the first step the goal is in view. Everything changes with the first step, in this way we convert our desires into reality, even though we don't reach the fullness of our desires. We can recall how significant was the time of the middle ages, where it is known that they would be months and even years away having taken the decision to go on pilgrimage.

What are the securities that you are disposed to leave behind? Have you decided to change something in your life? Have you taken the first step? What motivates you to go to Rio?

DISCÍPLES OF JESUS



Prayerful listening to the Word of God

Read and meditate Lk 9, 51: "When the time had come for him to leave this world Jesus made the firm decision to begin the journey to Jerusalem". In this text of Saint Luke we have a big break. In the next ten chapters it goes on to speak about the journey to Jerusalem. As we said in the first catechetics the other two synoptic writers (Mk and Mt.) are also on this theological journey, but Luke gives it special emphasis. It is at the same time a geographical journey and a spiritual journey. Go up to Jerusalem is Go to the Father, it is to walk in the light of faithfulness to the misión received from Him, in a 'yes' greater than death. This phrase sums up the life of Jesus, and also His death. Luke makes it clear that what is going to happen however disagreeable it might appear is expressly accepted by Jesus, maybe as the only way to convince them that what he had done and taught was correct, it was the will of the Father And also His in perfect syntony.

Is there an experience like that in your life? Is there any decision that changed your life? Have you seen this in any person? What have you gained from this meditation? .

MISIONARIES



"Go make Disciples of all nations"

When we speak of misión we refer to **actions or words that make Christ present** in distinct situations, times and cultures. This is the reason why the church exists: to make Jesus present, to bring the Good News which He announced to the ends of the earth. The misión is not just an idea, nor a thing, but a Person. It is a living experience of an encounter with Jesus which is to be communicated. It is Jesus who sends, who accompanies all who hope in Him! Jesus is the One sent by the Father. He is the misión of God. The language itself helps us to understand that we are engaged in His misión which is love. The good that He has given to us is transformed into the good we do for others.

In the encyclical *Rendemptoris Missio* Pope Juan Pablo II, says: "I see the dawn of a new missionary era, which will become radiant and rich in fruits if all christians respond generously to the requests and challenges of our time" (RMi 92).

Once again, we speak of our capacity to go out, to leave behind, to go where we are needed, where God wants us to be. Go beyond myself. Be generous.

The voice of the Pope:

“Always be joyful in the Lord!” (Phil 4,4) PART 2.



We continue with the message for youth which the Pope wrote in 2012 for World Youth Day.

Dear Young people:

1. Our hearts are made for joy

A yearning for joy lurks within the heart of every man and woman. Far more than immediate and fleeting feelings of satisfaction, our hearts seek a perfect, full and lasting joy capable of giving “flavour” to our existence. This is particularly true for you, because youth is a time of continuous discovery of life, of the world, of others and of ourselves. It is a time of openness to the future and of great longing for happiness, friendship, sharing and truth, a time when we are moved by high ideals and make great plans.

Each day is filled with countless simple joys which are the Lord’s gift: the joy of living, the joy of seeing nature’s beauty, the joy of a job well done, the joy of helping others, the joy of sincere and pure love. If we look carefully, we can see many other reasons to rejoice. There are the happy times in family life, shared friendship, the discovery of our talents, our successes, the compliments we receive from others, the ability to express ourselves and to know that we are understood, and the feeling of being of help to others. There is also the excitement of learning new things, seeing new and broader horizons open up through our travels and encounters, and realizing the possibilities we have for charting our future. We might also mention the experience of reading a great work of literature, of admiring a masterpiece of art, of listening to or playing music, or of watching a film. All these things can bring us real joy.

Yet each day we also face any number of difficulties. Deep down we also worry about the future; we begin to wonder if the full and lasting joy for which we long might be an illusion and an escape from reality. Many young people ask themselves: is perfect joy really possible? The quest for joy can follow various paths, and some of these turn out to be mistaken, if not dangerous. How can we distinguish things that give real and lasting joy from immediate and illusory pleasures? How can we find true joy in life, a joy that endures and does not forsake us at moments of difficulty?

Reflect and share.

*“Always
by joyful
in the
Lord”*

PHILOSOPHY:

“Even the longest journey always begins with the first step.”

Chinese proverb

IN MARY'S WAY

Walking with Mary who journeys (adapted from: Dolores Aleixandre srcj).

¿What was it that urged Mary to go on her journey to visit Elizabeth with such haste and decision? According to the Gospel of Luke the words which she **Heard** appeared destined to confirm her confidence : "Look, the woman they call sterile is six months pregnant, because with God nothing is impossible". Mary heard more than what the words expressed, she was not happy just to receive the message: She needed to rejoice with Elizabeth, bless God together, share their joy, make it possible for the children in their wombs to meet for the first time. She wanted to care for Elizabeth, help her in her work, place herself at her service.

The Society of Mary was accepted in 1836 when it was accepted that many of the first Marists would go to evangelize Oceania. Today we have beautiful testimonies in the letters of Father Juan Claudio Colín which he exchanged with the first missionaries. He never went there (a journey to the Pacific Islands which lasted nearly a year in a ship) he was occupied with the new foundation, the Constitutions etc. His letters were his way of travelling and of serving, they crossed seas and mountains. He used them as a way of arriving where he himself could not be physically present, to animate, console, awake consciences,



ces, to render the life of each one joyful and let them know that they were loved, guided and animated.

We ask Mary for her spirit of availability to help us to visit others with attention and love. Today we have much more facilities than the first Marist missionaries, just one e-mail attentive to the needs of someone can be a way of visiting and bringing consolation.

This catechetics has as title and centre 'to leave our home' to begin a journey in this case the pilgrimage to Río.

What will be your first step? What concrete attitudes and decisions could help you to begin your journey?

Practical information

Fuinal date for registration for the MARIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GET TOGETHER (17 TO 22 July) preceding the WYD 2013 in Río de Janeiro is October 31 2012. The places are limited!

Search for the catechetics and other information on the web page www.maristyouthinternational.org a site for Young people where they can share experiences, reflections materials... building links with youth centres accompanied by the Marist Fathers all over the world. Welcome to the whole Marist Family!

TO ALL WHO ARE ON HOLIDAY, HAVE A GOOD TIME AND A GOOD REST!

