

# MARISTS ON A JOURNEY



Catechetics 4/12

October 15 2012

## The goal is what gives meaning: 3. A MEETING WITH THE POPE AS MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

We prepare ourselves to go to Brazil not because of the country, or because of the particular event, World Youth Day, but rather because we wish to respond to the call of Pope Benedict XVI as head of the Church successor of the Apostle Peter, Vicar of Christ.

This is a journey in faith as members of the Catholic Church. In a world wishing to abandon the religious element in life, hundreds of thousands of young people witnessing to their faith in joy, openness and generosity, desiring to meet the Pope who has called them to strengthen their faith, are a sign to the world that they belong to the Church, especially to the Catholic Church,

“The year of faith” began just a few days ago, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. This is a very important moment in the history of the Church, where the Church seeks to renew itself from a Gospel stand point and rediscover her



identity in dialogue with the world, adapting a more humble and open attitude of dialogue.

In this way, happy to be Church we wish to deepen our sense of being so..... (to be continued in Catechetics 5).

## YEAR OF FAITH: “The door of faith is always open” Benedict XVI

### When?

From **October 11th 2012 to November 24th 2013.**

### For what?

To give a new impulse to the mission of the whole Church.

### What is the Church’s mission?

The same as that of Jesus: To give life to the whole of humanity in Jesus’ name through a personal encounter and a loving relationship with Him.

### What is the central theme?

**BELIEVE** in Jesus as Lord, renew and strengthen our faith.

### For whom is it destined?

For all Christians.

### How?

By participating in Parish and Diocesan activities, WYD, Prayer, Study etc..

Learn more about this:

<http://www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/es.html>

### Our 5 contents

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## PILGRIMAGE – JOURNEY



### **The meaning of Pilgrimage: Rome, remembering the martyrs and meeting the Pope.**

Rome, from the first century is one of the most important places of pilgrimage. In Rome we find the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul who died for their faith in Jesus Christ..... and with them thousands of martyrs. Venerate their tombs especially that of Saint Peter really means going to the foundation of the Church: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church" (Mt 16, 18). We come to his tomb to venerate him and we place ourselves in front of the catedra to confirm ourselves in our faith. The cátedra (seat from where the Master teaches) is a sign of the power of teaching which Jesus gave to the Apostles to guide His people. Thousands of pilgrims come to Saint Peter's Basilica each year to visit the tomb of the first Apostle and to greet and listen to his successor, who is the visible head of the Catholic Church.

*Have you visited Rome? What do Rome and the Pope mean to you? Why do you believe that the Church's authority is important? Do you remember something that you have heard from one of the Popes?*

## DISCIPLES OF JESUS



### **PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO THE WORD.**

The Biblical texts that speak about vocation, always entail a personal relationship, a mutual getting to know each other which continues to grow into a level of friendship. The disciples don't just follow Jesus because of his teaching, or his miracles, they develop a deep relationship of friendship with him. The following of Jesus only makes sense when there is a deep relationship with him and a commitment to His Project (the Reign of God). This Reign of God manifests itself in a very privileged place, in the common practice of sharing the table which meant a sharing of life in Jewish culture and the re-establishing of links of friendship. (comensalidad). We invite you to read these two passages of Scripture: Mark 3, 14 y John 15, 12-17. The Project to which we are called, can only be understood if there is a personal encounter with Jesus. One of the teachings most dear to the heart of Pope Benedict is the insistence on the fact that the Christian faith is not an ethic, no matter how praise worthy that may be, but rather an encounter with a living person, with Jesus, in whom all life finds its meaning... "¡Life begins here!"

*What have these texts got in common? Have you had a personal encounter with Jesus? What can we do to cultivate a relationship of friendship with Him?*

## MISSIONARIES



The Synod of Bishops for the 'New Evangelisation' has recently begun in Rome (October 7 to 28). The Pope has called Bishops, Priests, Religious and Lay people from all over the world to reflect on the transmission of the faith. This is without any doubt good news, that the Church is searching for efficient ways of making the mission of Jesus present, of announcing the 'Good News'. We call this Evangelisation which is the reason for the Church's existence. The Gospel, like Jesus is ever new, unique, but we certainly need new ways of entering into dialogue with the world which is very different from a few years ago. This is an urgent call from the Holy Father.

"New Evangelisation" means: an adequate response to the signs of the times, to the needs of people and to the different situations which exist today, the different cultures with which we identify and through which we search for the meaning of our existence. New Evangelisation means, above all, the promotion of a culture deeply grounded in the Gospel; it means discovering the new person (man) existing in us thanks to the Holy Spirit who gives us Jesus Christ and the Father.

We pray for the success of the Synod of Bishops and world missionary efforts.



## THE VOICE OF THE POPE:

### «Always be joyful in the Lord!» (Phil 4,4) PART 4.

We continue with the Pope's message to young people for WYD 2012.

Preserving Christian joy in our hearts

At this point we wonder: "How do we receive and maintain this gift of deep, spiritual joy?"

One of the Psalms tells us: "Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your heart's desire" (Ps 37:4). Jesus told us that "the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Mt 13:44). The discovery and preservation of spiritual joy is the fruit of an encounter with the Lord. Jesus asks us to follow him and to stake our whole life on him. Dear young people, do not be afraid to risk your lives by making space for Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

This is the way to find inner peace and true happiness. It is the way to live fully as children of God, created in his image and likeness.

Seek joy in the Lord: for joy is the fruit of faith. It is being aware of his presence and friendship every day: "the Lord is near!" (Phil 4:5). It is putting our trust in God, and growing in his knowledge and love. Shortly we shall begin the "Year of Faith", and this will help and encourage us. Dear friends, learn to see how God is working in your lives and discover him hidden within the events of daily life. Believe that he is always faithful to the covenant which he made with you on the day of your Baptism. Know that God will never abandon you. Turn your eyes to him often. He gave his life for you on the cross because he loves you. Contemplation of this great love brings a hope and joy to our hearts that nothing can destroy. Christians can never be sad, for they have met Christ, who gave his life for them.

To seek the Lord and find him in our lives also means accepting his word, which is joy for our hearts. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote: "When I found your words, I devoured them; they became my joy and the happiness of my heart" (Jer 15:16). Learn to read and meditate on the sacred Scriptures. There you will find an answer to your deepest questions about truth. God's word reveals the wonders that he has accomplished throughout human history, it fills us with joy, and it leads us to praise and adoration: "Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us kneel before the Lord who made us" (Ps 95:1,6).

The liturgy is a special place where the Church expresses the joy which she receives from the Lord and transmits it to the world. Each Sunday at Mass the Christian community celebrates the central mystery of salvation, which is the death and resurrection of Christ. This is a very important moment for all the Lord's disciples because his sacrifice of love is made present. Sunday is the day when we meet the risen Christ, listen to his word, and are nourished by his body and blood. As we hear in one of the Psalms: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad" (Ps 118:24). At the Easter Vigil, the Church sings the Exultet, a hymn of joy for the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death: "Sing, choirs of angels! ... Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour ... Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!" Christian joy is born of this awareness of being loved by God who became man, gave his life for us and overcame evil and death. It means living a life of love for him. As Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, a young Carmelite, wrote: "Jesus, my joy is loving you" (Poem 45, 21 January 1897).

*"Always be joyful in the Lord"*

*(Flp 4,4)*

#### PHILOSOPHY:

*"The only way to make friends is to be one."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# MARY FRIEND OF GOD



**Friend of God, friend of people.** Among the many titles of Mary here we look at that of “Friend of Jesus”, the person who according to the Gospel (Lk 1, 26-38) has dialogued intensely with God all through human history, a dialogue which has given birth to Jesus, Son of God.

In the background of this dialogue we can also think of the great ‘divine mothers’ in our religious history (Deméter, Ishtar, Isis, Lilit\*). but there is an essential difference : Mary is a historic woman who lived in Galilee between the last century before Christ and the first century after Christ. According to Luke 1, 26—38 she is the one who represents the people who love and dialogue with God, accepting Him in their lives and expressing His presence in human history.

Many Christians believe that God our Father “needs” the love of Mary to give birth to His Son in the world: He needs a person who would be the human mother freely receiving Him as her Son, who would educate him in gratitude and who would accompany him in his journey through life. For this reason we say she is the “friend” of God, plac-

ing herself at the service of God’s people, that is to say, (of the messianic life): She did not reserve anything for herself, she placed everything in the hands of God, sharing the love of Jesus.

The following are the teachings on the love of Mary.

(1) The first is her example of dialogue. She spoke with God for the good of people, at the service of life (that is, the fullness of messianic history). The followers of Mary must also listen to the voice of God, which speaks of love of life, placing life and love at the service of others.

(2) To be a Christian is to enter freely into dialogue, helping others to live, to express themselves in an autonomous manner, without any exterior imposition or interior fear. We cannot begin by exacting that others have the same desires or that they behave as we do.

(3) To be a Christian is to enter into dialogue offering freedom

where people are awakening, or are in danger of getting lost. True dialogue rejoices in equality.

Therefore where there is no freedom, no equality, we are called in love to create it on a personal and social level. As Luke says in 1, 26-38, God has raised up Mary to dialogue with her, to collaborate in union with Him in the birth of His Son.

God does not want slaves but friends. The true person does not want servants under legal impositions, but brothers and sisters, life companions with whom to dialogue, and work in shared confidence. In a world where the ideal of friendship is tending to enclose itself in small private circles, while the bigger groups are battling and cheating one another, Mary presents us with a universal journey of friendship, a life in dialogue.

Xavier Pikaza

*What stays with you having reflected on this catechetics on the following of and friendship with Jesus? What do you like best? What have you discovered about Jesus, his Disciples and especially about Mary that helps you in your preparation for Rio?*

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Have you completed your pre- inscription?

As you know, we expect that by the end of this month all those who are thinking of going will let us know. The payment can be made in December but it is very important for us to know how many are going from the different countries in order to plan the budget, items such as, translation, food etc which will vary depending on the number of participants. We expect to receive the list of pre- inscriptions by the end of October.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**