



IFCA
YOUTH COORDINATION

**Pilgrims TOGETHER
on the way towards RIO
23-28 July 2013**

**«Go and make disciples of all
nations!»** (cfr. Mt 28, 19)

First stage (December 2012)

BIBLICAL REFLECTION- 1

These words, followed by the mandate to baptize and instruct in the faith, were the last words pronounced by the Risen Christ according to the Gospel of Matthew. At the moment when the disciples could no longer see him physically, Jesus left them individually responsible of the mission, which he had started in Israel. According to the Acts of the Apostles we find him saying words like these: «You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria and indeed to earth's remotest end » (Acts 1,8). It is the *Missio ad gentes*, the decree which speaks about the missionary activity of the Church, announced by Paul VI in December 1965 at the end of Vatican Council II. The invitation to «go» indicates that we have to come out of ourselves and move on to meet others, away from our usual circles and from our familiar environments. The mandate «make disciples» specifies that our going has a target since it aims at leading men and women of our times to establish a relationship with the Lord Jesus and thus start living in communion with him. World» (1Pt 5,9).

THE EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND MISSION of SAMER – YOUNG of NAZARETH - HOLY LAND

I was born to a Christian family, in Nazareth, the Holy Land, Christ's "Land", where Christianity had begun. When I was a child, my parents used to take me every Sunday to mass, as expected from a catholic family. Unfortunately, living here in the Holy Land is full of difficulties, especially when you live as a minority with two different nations with different religions and ideologies.

During school the interaction with the Jewish society was minimal, since there's private schools for Arabs, therefore the only difficulty was to cope and live peacefully with Muslim Arabs. After finishing high school, I moved to Tel Aviv city in order to start my academic studies. There, at university I've meet Jewish students, Muslims and only few Christians. As a minority in the society life became more difficult, my social circle grow more and included different ideologies mismatching my Christianity, then my Christian identity became less clear.

As a Christian's youth at holy land, what do we need? we need a guiding, especially when confabulations with our Christian identity shows and at the moments were we lose our faith. we need these people whom carries us and helps us to keep faith growing, that is communion. The next question was, How can we be around faithful people? what is my role as a young Christian?

As an Arabic Christian in this country, I realized that I was different than Jewish and Muslims, then I got a point where I wanted more than what the society offered me. I wanted to breath pure air, I wanted to live in a good world, I needed peace and the opportunity to live my Christianity. All that is accomplished by knowing the Will of God, which is the true light, beauty and the love that gives the world meaning.

To revive Christian life at the holy land, I with few friends offered our parochial priest help in renewing youth spirit at Nazareth, where most Christians live. The first step in reviving youth Christian spirit, was making a spiritual meeting, where we learned God's teaching and understood his will, according to God's wisdom and will, each one of us began living a new true Christian life.

Starting a new Christian life is only the first step towards holiness, surrendering in the hands of our creator with hope to reach His eternity.

No matter which pathway we choose marriage, consecrated Christians Or monastery, regardless to our specialization, professions or jobs, our only goal is Heaven.

EVERYTHING will pass away when his time comes, this human life and this body will disappear but only God remains.

We must set our heart free and listen in silence to God's will, because that's the place where God talks to us, surrendering to his love and mercy, without no regrets or doubts. Imitating our Holy Mother virgin Mary "I am the Lord's servant, let it be to me according to your word"

Keep in mind that as much as we need God, God needs us more, because He loves us more. He needs our hands, our legs and our heart – that is the best we can give to Him. He needs us for this world, to bring more light, love and peace, to reveal His Face and glory. I can only TRY to imagine how much He loves us my dear brothers.

To finish I quote the words of great person, Pope John Paul the second: "Just as salt gives flavor to food and light illumines the darkness, so too holiness gives full meaning to life and makes it reflect God's glory."

My beloved Brothers in Christ, We have to do our best - to "Work hard, pray harder" - but NEVER worry. Amen

BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI With unwavering love for the poor and to the Church!**Biography**

Born in Turin, April 6, 1901. At birth he presented respiratory failure, so he was immediately baptized. He was a friend of the poor, seeing into them Christ himself. At 18, he was enrolled in the Fraternity of the Rosary of Pollone and in the Community of St Vincent de Paul. He always loved the humiliated, devoting his life to do good. His heart was for the others. We recognize him as someone who ardently love the poors and the Church!

Prayer

Lead me to make choices in life that give preference to serve and love God and my neighbors! Amen

<http://www.rio2013.com/it/a-jornada/patronos-e-intercessores>

John Paul II POLLONE 16 July 1989

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1989/july/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19890716_popolazione-pollone_it.html

In my youth, I too was influenced by the example of Pier Giorgio and right from my student days I remained impressed by the strength of his Christian testimony.

Most particularly, I would like to highlight his commitment in the Saint Vincent de Paule Society and in Catholic Action. He still is a fascinating exponent of both groups. The particular impressing aspect of his testimony stems from his radical union with Christ, from his sincere faithfulness to the Church and from his missionary commitment. He presents us all with a proposal that has not lost any of its captivating force even today. My wish is that everyone, especially young people, may take the example of his short but illuminating life and be inspired and urged to make of his own life a coherent Christian testimony.

Dear friends, faith in Christ calls every Christian to adhere to the commandment of love with joy and generosity. Precisely, faith and charity have distinguished the young Pier Giorgio Frassati. Learn therefore how to be always attentive to the real good of your communities. Faith, lived in an intelligent and generous way, also promotes civil and social progress because it opens people's hearts to a way of co-existence based on the love of one's neighbour and on justice and solidarity. (our translation)

COMMENTARY ON THE CREED – 1

A short word, "I believe", which we use very often even in our daily life (I believe in my team! Are you saying the truth? I cannot believe you! I pray, believe me...) It is a very expressive word which has many interpretations and meanings. It can touch the depths of our hearts and can lead us to put our trust fully in someone and to trust in him, as the reason for doing what we say.

When we begin our profession of faith we say "I believe" thus expressing our total belief before God and the community of believers. We do this standing up and in a completely personal way (we use the first person singular, something which is very rare in the liturgy!) with all that this implies. Maybe sometimes, this is more a hope and an invocation (Will I be able to believe? Lord, increase my faith). At times it is a joy and a celebration (how beautiful it is to be here with you to share all this). At other times, it is an effort and a commitment (but you, Lord, do you hear or not? Are you still there? Is it true that I can trust you?).

Yet always, in this introduction when we say that we are there, that we are present with our life, the Spirit of God takes our desire and grants it. We say "I believe". God accepts our availability and everyday he helps us to model our life on that of Jesus who is his beloved Son. He helps us to learn how to see ourselves and the world as God sees them.

The same Holy Spirit constantly brings faith to completion by His gifts. DV 5

Message of BENEDICT XVI 1. A pressing call

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/youth/index_it.htm

OFFICIAL PRAYER <http://www.rio2013.com/it/a-jornada/oracao-oficial>