



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)*

### **Third stage (February 2013 )**

**BIBLICAL REFLECTION - 3 « Take nothing for the journey , neither staff, nor haversack, nor bread, nor money » (Lk 9,3).**

Jesus' order is very radical. It is based on the possibility of voluntary and occasional support by others. But his words also mean that we must never forget the primary aim of our mission, which definitely is not materialistic and much less for self interest. The mission is undoubtedly not intended for anyone who loves comfort, but involves the generous self-giving, as Jesus tells us, «for the sake of the Gospel» (Mk8, 35).

This also means that we have to be prepared to face all negative experiences, misunderstandings and maybe even persecution. Paul's case is symptomatic, as he carried out his mission «through hard work, by suffering imprisonment, flogging, and being exposed to death ... numerous voyages, danger in the city, in the desert, at sea» etc. (cf. 2Cor 11,23-28), «so that Christ may be proclaimed» (Ph 1,18). The fact is that, as the announcement of the Gospel does not originate from humans, very often it goes against the current and so one needs to strengthen to persevere in carrying it out. Besides, there is a basic precedence: «If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you». (Jn 15,20). But it is worthwhile, even if we have to declare that we are «unworthy servants » (Lk 7,10), for the sower «reaps fruit for eternal life» (Jn 4,36).

#### **THE EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND MISSION of Mira – young of CA in Romania**

I was born in Romania, a Christian Orthodox country and I belong to the Byzantine Rite Catholic Church, a church which is in a minority and which at the time of communism was greatly persecuted and finally even abolished.

In my family there were Orthodox Christians and Greek-Catholics. During my adolescence I decided to choose the faith wherein I wanted to serve the Lord.

The nice thing in my life is that my life of faith started nearly at the same time when Catholic Action was established in my diocese, the Clj-Napoca, in Transilvania, in the west part of Romania.

With my Catholic Action friends I have discovered that loving God and his Church means also spreading the Gospel message wherever needed. And so I became a little missionary in my diocese, collaborating in the spreading of CA and in helping it to grow. Together we have been to Kenya where we have met the Christian brethren of the diocese of Marsabit and the Fidei Donum priests from Iasi in the desert at Maikona.

At the end of last year, the Lord called me to go to the Holy Land to carry out some voluntary work. I stayed for a full year in Bethlehem, in the city where Jesus was born.

The life journey of a young Christian is not always an easy one. If you are lucky to be born in a free country, you have to learn to face many temptations; if you live in a developing country, you have to learn to seek God among all the suffering and the daily missing needs; if you are privileged to be a Christian in the Land of Jesus, you have to learn to respect the faith of others and to live in peace with them.

But if the Lord has chosen us to be the generation of the third millennium, it means that He has full trust in his young people and in our ability to overcome life's battles using as our weapons truth and not lies, generosity and not egoism, peace and not war, love and not hatred!

## SAINT TERESA OF THE ANDE Contemplative Christ!



### Biography

Born in Chile in 1900. Since the age of 6 she participated almost daily at the Holy Mass. Her constancy in the Eucharist reveals her inner thirst to meet Christ. Many people say that before entering to the Carmel, at 17, she lived a holy life, which attracted souls to God. She was always aware that her prayer and sacrifice were able to improve and purify the world. Currently on her tomb we see her words: "Love is stronger." We pray for her intercession for us to learn to be contemplatives of Christ!

### Prayer

May I find in my soul, with your intercession, the desire to worship and glorify Jesus without pause. Amen!.

<http://www.rio2013.com/en/world-youth-day/patrons-and-intercessors>

If there is a Father, there is a relation, therefore there is a son: we believe in Jesus Christ the only begotten son of the Father. In the Bible and in the liturgy, Jesus is referred to with these two words: "the first begotten" and "only begotten"; and it is strange, because these two words do not go together, the first begotten is so because he has brothers after him and the only begotten is so because he is the only son!

The fact is that Jesus is a very peculiar Son and our Fathers in faith have taken great trouble to find the proper words to express this in the Creed: begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, begotten not made ...

Jesus is not "a" son, but He is "the" son: He is the one who stands before the Father in full obedience and in full freedom, up to the point that He is one with Him. When we say we believe in Jesus Christ his son, we are not saying that we believe in another god, but in the fact that, in God, difference and relation are equal to the identity: we know very well that when we wish someone well we desire to be with that person as much as possible and we try to get to know him/her better. When we love truly, we, so to say, wish to become that other person! And among us humans, this equilibrium between, being different and in love, and, the desire to be in communion, sometimes provokes problems. We become intrusive and jealous of what the other does without us, in our absence or when we are not near to protect him/her ...

We believe that full freedom and full communion coexist in God and that, in the Son, whom we have seen walking in the streets of the world and about whom we read in the Gospels, we see God's face. He is the way which helps us to see, know and love the Father. We believe that the Son has taken human flesh so that we too may learn the rule, that there is a difference between creating a relationship of communion which leads to a closer identity and trying to imprison the other. We believe that the Son has thus become the first begotten of many brothers who are able to love.

*"...so that, as sons in the Son, we can cry out in the Spirit: Abba, Father !"*  
*Gaudium et Spes 22*

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/youth/index_en.htm)