



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)*

Fifth stage (April 2013)

BIBLICAL REFLECTION - 5 «The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, for Jew first, and then Greek» (Rom 1,16)

This union with Jesus, the aim of this mission, is simply called «faith». It means presenting God's love as something which is above and beyond anything which we can do alone for our ultimate salvation. In fact, this salvation, according to the Christian perspective, is opened for us through a remarkable and unheard of gift of God offered to us in Jesus Christ (cf. Eph 2,8-10), and «believing» only means opening oneself up to this gift, accepting it with humility and gratitude, and making it your aim in life. Therefore, the announcement of the Gospel goes against all personal presumptions and against any undue moral or religious self assertion before God. It follows that this 'vertical' communication should lead us to a 'horizontal' one, which means eliminating any type of lack of sincerity with others. The idea behind the Christian mission is therefore to invite man, every man, to be interiorly free. It calls us to be at the disposition of God, whose children we have become, as well as of others, whom we recognize as our brethren. As one can see, the ideal, which we aim at, is very high, maybe a bit utopic, but great things are never achieved without some utopia.

THE EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND MISSION of WIelfried – a young of Cameroon

"See – judge – act" is the motto which guides Catholic Action in Cameroon.

I have come across Catholic Action in Cameroon in 1994 through MEJ (Mouvemente Eucharistique Jeunes – Youth Eucharistic Movement). During this meeting, I felt that Jesus had taken me by the hand and as years passed, through my experiences, through the formation which I received and by putting what I learnt into practice, I understood that Jesus has called me to bring other young people to him.

With the help of the testimonies of other young co-workers and the support given to me by several Pastors in our local Churches in Cameroon, I try to make Christ's wish come true. Through my sacrifices and through those of all the other collaborators, who work with young people, we strive to make Christ known to other young people like us.

In Africa, young Catholic Action members do not have opportunities of meeting each other. Activities which bring young Catholic Action members from the different African countries together are lacking as the meetings organized are meant only for priest assistants and youth leaders.

Today Catholic Action is not expanding as it did some time ago. I think that the reason behind this is that priests are not dedicating enough time to the formation of young people and so young people find it difficult to move from one age-group to the other. Thus urgent action is needed where young people are concerned so that they may start involving themselves in the local Church and in modern society which risks progressive degradation.

This is my prayer day after day right from the time I get up in the morning: "Lord Jesus, today I want to be with You wherever I go, in the light of the Holy Spirit ...for 3 times!

WITH THE SAINTS

Blessed Sister Dulce Ambassador of Charity!



Biography

Born in 1914 in Salvador. Since a young age she showed a profound spirit of charity. She was noted for the perseverance and the effort to care for the sick. She never close a door to a person who needed help. She entered to the Congregation of the Sisters Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God. She founded associations and inaugurated schools and hospitals. We invoke her as Ambassatrix of the Charity!

Prayer

Intercede for us, oh "good angel of Brazil" *, so that we are able to joyfully share the gifts we have received with those in need who have been presented to us. Amen.

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

COMMENTARY ON THE CREED/5

He died and was risen

We believe that Jesus lived like us. He walked along our streets, speaking our words, eating, healing, preaching and doing good. His life, like ours and like that of everyone else, takes its meaning from its final aim. It is only at the end of our lives that we will know whether we have managed to remain faithful to our dreams and our desires. Every choice and every decision starts on the day it is taken but becomes true day after day if followed faithfully and if little by little it becomes part of our life. For example, the 'yes' said on ones wedding day becomes true day by day, in the life spent together, in the children, in the common projects and in the problems which have been overcome... After 40 years of marriage, for example, very often the motivations and the ways, which unite the couple and which make them continue sharing their lives, are not the same as those when they first met, but in some way they are more genuine and stronger.

Thus Christ's life takes its meaning from its end, which is not death, but the resurrection. We believe that, throughout His life, Jesus acted according to His initial choice. He gave Himself for others (that is for us) as a sign of love, even unto death and death on the cross, the peak of His total self-giving. He gave us all His earthly life and gave out His spirit on the Cross. With outstretched hands, without any defense and with His open heart, He showed His total-self-giving and His total abandonment. And therefore, the end "certifies" this choice. The Father gave Him back the life He had given. The dead body became a glorious body; that, which appeared to be a complete defeat, became a victory; that, which looked like the end, a contradiction and darkness, became a beginning, a confirmation and light.

The resurrection is not an extraordinary miracle which concerns only Jesus as if he were a superman... The Resurrection is a confirmation that the Father recognises Christ's fidelity to offer Himself up for others. He does the same in our case if we give Him the chance. He does this not only after our death but right now by daily helping our existence to flourish.

For redeemed by Christ and made a new creature in the Holy Spirit, man is able to love the things themselves created by God, and ought to do so. Gaudium et Spes 37

MESSAGE OF BENEDICT XVI

5. Make disciples!

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

OFFICIAL PRAYER <http://www.rio2013.com/en/world-youth-day/official-prayer>