



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)*

Sixth stage (May 2013)

BIBLICAL REFLECTION - 6 «...to send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons » (Mk 3,14-15)

When Jesus chose the Twelve, he did it, first of all, so that they may «stay with him», which means sharing and learning his way of life. But secondly, he also chose them «to send them», that is with an evident missionary aim. This implies that familiarity with Jesus cannot but drive us to an *ad extra* commitment. Evidently, this commitment is twofold. The first aspect is preaching, that is the announcement which stems from faith, given that «faith comes from hearing » (Rom 10,17). The second is expressed as the driving out of demons. In modern terms this could be interpreted as a social commitment. In fact, the possessed is no one else but the one who is not a master of himself.

Then, the missionary commitment does not only mean the announcement of the Gospel, but it also means helping man to find himself and his individual, familiar and public dignity. Thus the missionary cannot remain indifferent when faced with social injustices because the man, to whom the Gospel is to be preached, cannot be broken up into water-tight compartments. And Jesus loved and loves man in his totality. This can be seen from his words to the woman who was a sinner «your faith has saved you», (cf. Lk 7,50), to the blind man (cf. Mk 10,52) and to the leper cf. Lk 17,19).

THE EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND MISSION of Monica – a young of Italy

I have been brought up in a little village in the south of Italy in a family of non-practicing believers. After my Confirmation, when many of my friends had already stopped frequenting parish activities, deep down in me, I felt a desire to keep searching for God, who, I was told, “loved me madly”. As an adolescent, I remember that this curiosity induced me to sit among the benches in Church to speak with Him for a while and to try to make out what He had to tell me. Then, I got to know about Catholic Action through a priest, who really loved this Association. This was truly just the right shake-up for me! And I have never gone back. CA has helped me to set out on a serious journey in search of God.

At this critical moment, when our faith is being put to the test, we need “a bigger dose” of hope. In my nothingness, I believe, that our mission today is to try to give a reason for our hope and to say a word of resurrection in circumstances when daily life only says words of death. I wish that everyone could be contaminated by True Joy because, for me, this has been the answer to the many difficulties which I encounter in my life.

For this reason, I will never leave CA, even though in my little village CA is finding it difficult to survive... CA has taught me that God’s Kingdom does not come through good superiors or through the waving of a magic wand: to say it through a play on words, it comes through “the service of people who serve”. I heard this phrase, which I treasure, from a friend who was quoting Beato Alberto Marvelli. And this phrase “recharges me”.

Blessed Laura Vicuña Martyr for purity!

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Biography

Born in Chile, 1891. At 10, she made her First Communion, and thereafter, she made the purpose of love God with all her might. She strives to make Jesus known and for repair the offenses against Him. Seeing her mother into a state of sin, she gave her life for her conversion. She felt seriously ill and she was called to the Father's Presence at 12. We invoke her intercession as a martyr of purity!

Prayer

Give me the grace and help to adhere to the sweet will of the Father with a pure heart.
Amen.

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

It is difficult to define faith in the Holy Spirit because the Spirit, by its own definition, blows wherever it wants and is God's freedom and creativity. Also because, in the Church's tradition we have often partly forgotten Him, as we have a clearer image of the Father who creates and of the Son who lives, dies and rises. Even in the classical paintings in our Churches, the Spirit is depicted as a dove - faint, volatile, small and fragile. In the Acts of the Apostles, His descent is described as the coming of burning "tongues of fire" but even these were like arrows and could not be caught.

When we say we believe in the Holy Spirit, we are saying that we believe that God cannot be encompassed in any ideology or in any pre-constituted scheme. He is creative and free to choose the ways and the means of showing His love for us. None of us can say "God is not there or God cannot arrive there".

Tradition says that the work of the Spirit is to give us wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. These are all gifts which help us to discern. They are gifts which touch the mind and the heart and endow us with a creative fidelity and an ability to understand and to see beyond appearances. Thus God's imagination and freedom are not expressed in a magical way but rather in a very ordinary way. They empower our imagination and freedom and make them "spiritual", that is, docile and burning to open up to the world and to love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit because we believe that God instills gifts in us and helps us to use them for the common good. We believe that our hearts can bring out that which we ourselves never expect and which, at times, we do not even know that we could do. We believe that there are no limits or walls which can stop God and His love.

We ought to believe that the Holy Spirit in a manner known only to God offers to every man the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery. Gaudium et Spes 22

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