



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)

Seventh stage (June 2013)

BIBLICAL REFLECTION - 7 «Greet Prisca and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus» (Rom 16,3).

If Jesus himself did not want to work alone but chose Twelve companions, even Paul, who may be considered as the apostle/missionary *par excellence*, never lacked collaborators (*synergoí* = cooperators: Rom 16,9.21; 2Cor 8,23; Phil 2,25; 4,3; Col 4,11; 1Tes 3,2; Phm 1,24). His collaborators were men and women and in the text quoted above, the woman is mentioned before the man. Later he refers to the couple Andronicus and Junia as «apostles» (Rom 16,7)! The fact is that the Gospel and the mission have never been and should never be individual enterprises, but, like the church itself, they should be a communitarian undertaking. Any eventual disagreements, not about the Gospel but about the planning of its announcement, cannot detach us from the primary aim, that of being all together «God's collaborators » (1Cor 3,9; 2Cor 6,1), with the aim «of not lording over your faith, since we are but collaborators for your joy» (2Cor 1,24).

THE EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND MISSION of David – a young of Spain

I am fortunate in having been born in a believing and practicing family in a city where secularization has not penetrated as much as it has in other parts of Spain. In the area where I live, there is a parish which has been set up recently and where CA has been established right from the beginning. I have been brought up as a believer right from my baptism and have participated in catechism classes, school camps, youth groups and parish initiatives.

As you can see, my meeting with Christ along my life's journey was quite natural and smooth and for this I should thank the Lord everyday. During this journey there was a special moment. Whilst participating in an Easter CA Youth Celebration with the theme "Night Sentries" I had an intuition. For me Jesus was no longer just an idea; being a Christian was no longer an ideology. I discovered that following Christ is a question of Love, that love which we all receive from the Father and which we should spread around us so as to announce Jesus Christ to the world.

The good fortune which I have had makes me feel responsible for the Church's mission. As such, I do not want to follow an easy way again, where everything is plain sailing but I want to climb steep paths where the poor, the unemployed, those who follow a consumistic way of life, those who have forgotten God and all values... live, driven by the society's uncontrolled race, without heeding God's voice deep down within them.

I am indebted to Christ, a debt which I should repay with the same coin which he has entrusted to me by working in the parish, in CA and in the Church: to announce the Gospel to all those around me.

Blessed Albertina Berkenbrock Virtuous with values of the Gospel!

!



Biography

Born in Santa Catarina in April 1919. At 12 years old she was murdered because she wanted to preserve her purity. Martyrdom and the consequent reputation of holiness spread rapidly. She was a girl who developed a great sensitivity in her relationship with God and with the others. We invoke her as a virtuous on the Gospel values.!

Prayer

Through your intercession may I find the happiness that come from persevering on the way of living the values of the Gospel. Amen..

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

COMMENTARY ON THE CREED/7 In the Church

What comes to our mind when we say "Church"? Definitely, everyone gives different interpretations: the Pope, Rome, the Bishops, our parish or our group, where we feel at home and where we know many friends. We might even go back to our childhood memories – our catechism classes and our First Holy Communion, or still ... We can recall so many experiences because there are so many possible forms which the Church can take in different places and in the different stages of one's personal life, both in public and official circumstances as well as in daily and apparently small and hidden ones.

In the Church, there are aspects and dimensions which might present some difficulties to us. It could be some behavior which we do not understand, teachings which seem far from us and which we do not understand. There might be witnesses or choices we admire... The Church is a great world which has as many different faces as there are people living in it.

Yet, when we say that we believe in the Church we do not mean only this, be it affection, distance or criticism. Rather, we say that we believe in that Christ, who lived in our streets, died, was risen and ascended into heaven. He has not left us alone as he is interested in us. We believe that in the Eucharist which the Church celebrates, and in the Word which the Church proclaims, He has remained with us and makes us into one people.

He not only stays with each one of us, but he makes us one people, with all our differences, our gifts and our limitations: he unites us one to the other and all together to the whole world, so that his body may still be seen in the small and great things in life, in our streets, in our districts, in our cities and in our lives.

As Saint Paul rightly says, it is a great and beautiful mystery: we, together with our pastors and all our brethren, are the Christ's word which teaches, Christ's ear which listens, Christ's hands which care for others, Christ's feet which walk in the world. Is there anything better to do and to be?

Since the Church is in Christ like a sacrament (Lumen Gentium 1)

MESSAGE OF BENEDICT XVI 7. With the whole Church

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>