



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)*

eighth stage (July 2013)

BIBLICAL REFLECTION - 8 «I did not hesitate ... in public and in your homes» Acts 20,20

The mission, which first and foremost is the witnessing of faith, can be carried out in all sorts of places without distinction. The most important thing is that one carries out one's duty, «the mission that the Lord gave me» (Acts 20,24). In Philippi, Saint Paul attended meetings of people outside the city besides a river and then he went to private houses (cf. Acts 16,13.15.40. This he did also in Troas: 20,7-8), and then in Athens (cf. Acts 17,16-21). He passed from the Synagogue («with Jews and the pagans who believed in God ») to the square («everyday with those he met ») to the Areopagus with philosophers, Epicureans and stoics, while at Ephesus he used the educational facilities available (cf. Acts 19,9). Evidently, the word of the Gospel does not restrict itself to specific localities but is adaptable to any locality and situation because it is above our usual limitations of time and space. In fact, the same things applies to the category-time criteria, since every moment is opportune, be it on specific days (like Saturdays for the Jews) or any other day, or rather «night and day» (Acts 20,31). Evidently «the Word of God is not chained» (2Tim 2,9), ever if he who announces it is in fact chained.

THE EXPERIENCE OF FAITH AND MISSION of Joan – a young woman of Kenya

I was born in a strong Catholic background. My grandmother and mother introduced us to church at a very young age, though we were not baptized as young children since my mother was from a different denomination. I did my Catechisms for 3 years in primary school and at church. During this time I was a young C.A. I am lucky to have been introduced to church at that age. As a child when I was not in school I was at church revising bible verses and singing songs that we would sing at church on Sundays. About 6 years ago, I was sent by my diocese to represent the youth at a C.A seminar. "Formation of Formators" was the theme of the seminar. This was my introduction to C.A as a young adult. I have never turned back. It is wonderful to serve God; it feels peaceful in my heart whenever I do an act that pleases God. In my country Kenya, CA is found in one Archdiocese, which is Nyeri, comprising of 6 dioceses. Most people are poor and have no food, we reach out to these people and talk about God and give them food and clothes. I have represented the youths and CA of my country in many nationale and international conferences. Being a Catholic Action member as young person is not easy though. Most people believe it is an association for the elderly. CA is not as vibrant as it was before. However, it was the first association of the Catholic Church in Kenya. Now there are more associations, like CA but with different names. It is hard growing up in a country where patriarchal laws dominate, gender roles and so many expectations from the society, ethnicity and tribal clashes. My culture is communal and against individualism. It prohibits autonomy of self. For a young person especially a woman, one needs strength to go on with life I find this in Catholic Action. Catholic Action has helped me to become a better woman and gave me a different perspective of who I am. Not to take things for granted and to do what God has decided for me. When I look back I see every step of my life as planned by God, for instance my education. When I was growing up, I dreamt of going to university, but coming from a humble family, I could not go since it is expensive, but through believing in God and with the help of his servants, my friends, I am finishing and graduating in October. I still believe that I will get a job and further my studies. For the young people out there, my message is don't give up, don't give in and don't give out; you are in the right place. Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." I owe God so much and being His ally is all I can do and as my motto and C.As says "Prayers Action and Sacrifice"

Immaculate Conception Our Lady of Aparecida Protector of the Church and families

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Biography

In the year 1717, three fishermen, in their way to launch their nets to fish in the waters of the Paraíba River, found the image of Our Lady. Due to the many miracles and increased devotion She was proclaimed patron saint of Brazil in 1930 and years later it was erected in her honor, a great basilica which hosts millions of pilgrims every year. WYD invokes as the Protector of the Church and families! in her honor

Prayer

Mother of God and my Lady, don't cease in praying for my family. Today, I dedicate to you! Amen.

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

COMMENTARY ON THE CREED/8 Amen

Y aquí estamos pues a la palabra final: ¡Amén! Es una palabra antigua que atraviesa la religión hebrea y la cristiana; es la aceptación, la confianza, el compromiso personal. En la primer reflexión, sobre la palabra "credo", habíamos dicho como si se tratara de una de las palabras raras en singular de la liturgia, signo del nuestro ser allí como personas, en modo comprometedor, porque nadie puede decirlo en nuestro lugar.

"Amén" es todavía una vez personal, pero no individual: diciendo amén recogemos una entera historia de la fe, estamos acompañados y unidos por los creyentes de mil generaciones que nos han precedido, recogemos nuestra fe de pueblo y de iglesia. El sonido antiguo de esta palabra nos conecta a lo que nos han precedido, pero también a lo que nos seguirán: es el amén final de Dios sobre toda la historia, el amén pronunciado en Jesucristo, todas sus promesas que se han convertido en sí y se cumplirán.

Decimos amén como forma de la esperanza, como impulso hacia el futuro que nos espera, como deseo de plenitud; decimos amén pidiendo que nuestra fe crezca, que la caridad se haga la forma de nuestra vida, que la fraternidad de todos nos conforte y nos sostenga.

Decimos amén porque somos conscientes que no seremos jamás a la altura de la grandeza del don del Señor, pero contemporáneamente porque sabemos que aquel don es para nosotros y se hace a nuestra medida, un día después del otro.

Como nos dice la liturgia. "Esta es nuestra fe, esta es la fe de la iglesia, y nosotros nos gloriamos de profesarla".

It is supremely fitting, therefore, that we love those friends and coheirs of Jesus Christ

Lumen Gentium 50

MESSAGE OF BENEDICT XVI 8. "Here I am, Lord!"

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>