

TOGETHER pilgrims on the way towards MADRID 2011

Spiritual journey in the company of CA young saints

Eighth stage (January 2011)

TIME TO MEDITATE

Matthew 5,1-12a • GIVE US YOUR SPIRIT SO THAT WE MAY BE ENLIGHTEN AND STRENGTHEN

"When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them saying:

«Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven»".

Sometimes in life, we find ourselves in situations which to us do not make sense. Things do not always turn out as they should; rather, very often it happens that reality seems to be reversed. This gives rise to different reactions: we get angry with ourselves and with the others (I have not done my best...nobody understands me ...others are not honest or sincere). We might also get depressed (things never turn out well for me...I am so unfortunate...), and so on. And yet, we should know that, in the world, things do not always work out as we wish. The fact that we work out every detail to perfection does not guarantee automatic success and very often this is nobody's fault.

Jesus teaches us that the world which God presents to us does not follow a rigid logic, rather...and more so: that the poor are blessed, that the meek shall inherit the land, that we should rejoice (and not lose our temper!) when we are persecuted and falsely accused and when apparently things work against us. Jesus teaches us that the law which God sets to direct the world is not logic but is one which is overabundant. The basic logic is not "giving to each one that which he merits or deserves". Rather, it is the giving of "the fullness of life". Not even poverty, meekness and purity help us to merit and obtain results. We have to admit that these are all graces and gifts from God. We thus realise that we need the Holy Spirit to enlighten and strengthen us. Only imbued with Christ's Spirit can we experience this attitude of gratitude and celebration to acknowledge that everything comes from God.

IN THE COMPANY OF SAINTLY YOUNG PEOPLE



BLESSÈD LUIS CAMPOS GÒRRIZ

Short biographical notes

Luis Campos Gòrriz was born in Valencia on the 30th June 1905 in a family which lived its faith. He followed his studies at the San Josè College, run by the Jesuits, until he sat for his matriculation examination. He kept contact with the members of the Society of Jesus all through his short and intense life.

In 1921 he enrolled as a student of Arts and Philosophy in the Central University of Madrid. He graduated in Arts and Jurisprudence in the same year. These were fundamental years for his cultural as well as for his human

and spiritual formation. He accompanied the Servant of God Angel Herrera Oria on many trips all over Europe. He was a member of many Catholic youth movements besides the Congregation of Our Lady Immaculate where he held various posts of responsibility. He was Secretary and later President of the Federation of the Catholic Students of Valencia, member of the Supreme Council of the National Congregation of Catholic Students and then General Secretary of the Catholic Association of Broadcasters.

In 1933, when he was 28 years old, he married Carmen of Arteche. They moved to Madrid in 1935 and in July their first daughter was born.

The following year was a crucial year in Luis' life. His wife died. Together with his daughter, he went to live in Torrente, very near Valencia where his father lived. After the first months which were relatively calm, the civil war started to rage and this took him by surprise. His involvement and dedication to his Catholic faith caught the attention of the Regime and he was considered a dangerous activist. On the 28th November, through manipulations on the part of the militants, he was arrested and after a short while assassinated. In his hand he held the Rosary beads very tightly.

His Words

«Our mission is to realize the unity that prevails among Catholics – before sowing, we need to plough»

To a friend: «I have spoken to you about Saint John of the Cross. You told me that you are not familiar with his work. You might come across it but in any case, I prefer to send you this book as a little token from me. If you already have it, do not bother about it, just pass it on to someone else. It might be beneficial for him».

A young person like us

«The testimonies we have received speak of honest, exemplary people whose martyrdom sealed lives that were interwoven with work, prayer and religious commitment in their families, parishes and religious congregations. Many of them in life had already enjoyed a reputation of holiness among their countrymen. It could be said that their exemplary behavior prepared them in a way for the supreme confession of faith that is martyrdom.

The list of those, who have been raised to the altars today for having professed their faith and given their life for it, is endless. There are thirty eight priests from the Archdiocese of Valencia, together with a conspicuous number of Catholic Action men and women from Valencia [...]».

John Paul II, Homily at the Beatification of Luis Campos Gòrriz and another 232 martyrs of the Spanish Civil War, 11 March 2001

«Cardinal Herrera Oria and Luis Campos Gòrriz were very significant for the Church in Spain and they still mean a lot if we wish to build our present and our future. [...]

Luis Campos Gòrriz is a great witness of the Gospel. [...] It is a pleasure to remember a man like him in a moment in history when all Christians, and committed lay Christians in particular, need to be strong witnesses of God in their public lives».

Mgr. Carlos Osoro, Archbishop of Valencia,
during his visit to the "Cardinal Herrera" CEU University, 22 May 2009