Mary and Evangelization

What does evangelization mean? Simply, it is the task which Christ entrusted to his Church when He said to his disciples: “Go throughout the whole world and preach the Gospel to all people” (MK 16, 15). To evangelize is to proclaim the Good News of the infinite love which God has for us and which he manifested to us through Jesus Christ. And how does that proclamation take place? It is not only to preach or to speak about the Gospel. To evangelize is all that the Church does so that the light of the Gospel can penetrate the lives of men.

It is a complex and gradual process which also includes the testimony of life, the conversion of the heart, participation in the community and the sacraments and, ultimately, that the evangelized man likewise becomes an evangelizer and missionary (Evangelii nuntiandi). These are the steps of evangelization.

And now: What does Evangelization mean for us? What can we do to become instruments and protagonists (main characters). I believe our contribution is: to be and to build family; and also the proclamation of God’s paternity and our own paternity. Another fundamental contribution to Evangelization is to offer it to the Church and to the world of today: our original image of the Blessed Virgin.

The Virgin Mary

Our communities are profoundly Marian. They see the Virgin as the great Advocate for their needs before God. But her devotion requires to be illuminated and completed. Father Kentenich showed us the true image of Mary: She is not only an Intercessor before God, but also the great Model and Mother-Educatrix of the people of God. That is manifested in an original way in the three graces in the Shrine:

The grace of a home which roots us not only in her maternal heart, but which leads us to the heart of God the Father and in Him makes us feel as beloved children.

The grace of inner transformation which inspires us to educate ourselves and to become new men according to the model of Christ and Mary.

And the grace of an apostolic mission through which She educates us to be her instruments and collaborators with God.

Mary is called “The Star of Evangelization.” She is our model and guide, the first evangelizer in history.

She is also the great Star of Evangelization of the American continent. The Gospel arrived centuries ago aboard the banner-caravel of Christopher Columbus, the “Santa Maria” – a more than symbolic name. Since that 12th of October, the Blessed Virgin has led the evangelization feat of our continent. And in the crossbred face of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the vital merging between the faith coming from overseas and the sensibility of the indigenous people took place. When Mary imprints her image on the tilma (cloak) of the Indian Juan Diego, She, Christ and the Gospel become Latinamerican.

With Father Kentenich, we are convinced that God is changing his method. Up to our century, the Virgin remained on the second level. But in our time, God places her – more and more – on the first level. This is how God changes his tactics: clearly, He wants Mary to pass – in an extraordinary way – to the first level of our visual camp. With it, God wants to attach the entire world to the person of the Blessed Virgin, He wants the entire world to consecrate itself to Mary, that the entire world seals a Covenant of Love with Her.

Questions for reflection

1. How can we collaborate with evangelization?
2. What role does Mary play in my apostolic task?
3. How have I experienced the three graces from the Shrine?

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