

Mother Myriam's Message: 8 December 2012

Rome, 8 December 2012

The Word of God: An Open Door To Faith



*D*ear Sisters,

On October 7, 2012, at the opening of the Synod “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Faith” Pope Benedict XVI, speaking at St Peter’s Square, invited all the Catholics to invoke a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Our General Chapter will take place in the Year of Faith. By allowing ourselves to be guided by the same Spirit of Pentecost, we too, have started our journey to an encounter with Christ with resolve in our hearts to consecrate an intense time with him in prayer and in an attentive listening to his Word. It is this same *Spirit who makes our prayers conform with that of Christ and disposes us to the Word.*¹

The New Evangelization has a dynamic and active force which propels us to the future and makes us move forward with confidence despite the hurdles that beset us. It is the courage to dare to take a new and different path under the altered present conditions within which the Church is called to live and announce the Gospel. This Gospel is the measuring standard of our life and we are challenged to be “*the salt of the earth and the light of this new world which is ours.*”²

How should we proclaim Christ today? What signs, what words must we use to make ourselves heard in this ever-changing world?

¹ BL# 42

² Cf Mt 5 : 13-15

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All things pass away, but not the Word of God.³ It changes our attitude and gradually transforms us. God is ever faithful. The signs of his presence are there for us to discover and receive into our life that we may in turn transmit it to the people of our time. We live in an age of intense secularization, an era that has lost its capacity to hear and understand the Word of the Gospel as a living and life-giving message. In our present-day global culture, secularization is presented as a positive image of freedom, the possibility of imagining life and human existence as devoid of any link to God.



To transmit the word of God we must have a renewed, sincere, attentive and enduring listening to the Word... “ *We must never forget that all authentic and living Christian spirituality is based on the Word of God proclaimed, accepted, celebrated and meditated upon in the church.*”⁴

What does it mean to listen ? Whom are we listening to? How do we listen ? These are among the many questions we should ask ourselves if we want to be listened to when we go out to announce Jesus Christ. We should listen and allow ourselves to be molded by the Word of God which speaks to us today through creation, through events as well as through the prophets and through God’s Son who is the Word himself.⁵

It is imperative to announce the Gospel today to a world so wounded by suffering, miseries and violence. It has become urgent to open our hearts to people who have given up hope, that we may bring them to discover the one light that shines even in the darkest night of this world; that there is a way out from this moment of impasse in our history. That light is Christ himself and his Good News.

³ Cf Mt. 24 :35

⁴ Verbum Domini # 121

⁵ Cf Hebrews 1: 2

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Transmitting our faith means taking the necessary means to bring about a meeting of humankind with Jesus Christ at all times, in all places. The New Evangelization entails a personal and community conversion. Indeed, in order to transmit the faith, agents of the new evangelization are called to holiness by following Christ, by a life of faith which is active in its charity. Charity in itself is a proclamation of the Gospel.

We have just entered the Advent Season. During this time of expectant waiting, a personal and communal journey is proposed to us. The journey is two-fold: a personal waiting for the Savior for each one; and waiting as a community united in vigilant readiness to welcome Him who is meant to come in the fullness of time. The Advent mystery invites us to entrust ourselves into the hands of the Potter: God who forms us every day. Advent time is the time for us to make space in our life that the Lord may find a place to come and be born in us.

“Man needs the light of God. He needs the light of faith to truly know the reality and walk along the road of life.” (Benedict XVI)



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

“The life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone...”⁶

Today, we are the ones whom the Lord sends to our brothers and sisters who live in the darkness of secularization and relativism to announce to them that He is the true Light; that He alone can give the happiness that all of us yearn for.

⁶ Jn 1: 4-5;9

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Blessed Virgin Mary, when you received God's message announced by the Angel, you welcomed it with full trust, without hesitation, by offering to God your body and soul to accomplish his loving plan for humanity. Through you, the Word was made flesh.

Today, you remind us that the gift of Advent is the time for us to walk along the road leading us to that encounter with Him who comes to walk with us on the way, bringing joy and peace to all humanity. Tell us, Mary, how we should prepare ourselves for the "advent" of the Lord. Make us attentive in listening to his Word. Teach us to offer him the entire space of our life so that today, through us and in us, the Word may once more become flesh and make his dwelling among the men and women of this age!

Virgin Mary, our "model in the faith", be our guide along the path of faith during this Advent season, and lead us to encounter Christ, the Word-made-flesh who became God-with-us!



Our Sisters Assistants, Secretary and Treasurer join me in greeting you:
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed Year 2013!



Sr. Myriam Kitcharoon.