



HOSPITALLER MISSION WEEK

17-23 october 2016

Theme of World Mission Sunday:

Missionary church, witness of mercy

Institutional Theme:

Sent by Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom and to heal the sick



PRESENTATION. Outreach to the Spirit by practising Hospitality

As they travel through the streets of the world,
the disciples of Jesus need to have a love without limits,
the same measure of love that our Lord has for all people.
We proclaim the most beautiful and greatest gifts that He has given us:
His life and His love.¹

Dear Co-workers, Volunteers, Sisters and Brothers:

This year the Church has chosen **Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy** as the theme for World Mission Sunday.

And this is the way we are approaching and taking up this invitation as the Hospitaller Family, called to be witnesses to the living presence of the compassionate and merciful Christ of the Gospel among us all. This embodies the philosophy of a mission, viewed as a gift of God and an inescapable responsibility to History, for the good of humanity. It is a source of inspiration and a way to move forward, that has become the patrimony of our Hospitaller institutions.

And it is from this viewpoint that we have proposed the words of the Saint Luke **“Sent by Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom and to heal the sick”** (cf. Lk. 9, 1-2) on which to reflect during our Missionary-Hospitaller Week of Prayer.

Let us read this text from the perspective of **Hospitality, which is our core value, expressed in terms of Love**, outreach, service, brotherhood, solidarity, justice, defending human life, freely-given service, acceptance of others and allowing ourselves to be accepted, reciprocity, free-giving, and surprise (Heb.13,2), and other values which we will offer for your consideration every day of the week to prompt us to renew our creativity in the way we express our Missionary-Hospitaller commitment.

Values are not served to us on a silver salver, but have to be discovered. We must redeem our values, trying to ensure that they are present in every sphere of life and action, so as to prevent the deterioration of the quality of life and social relations turning society into a mass of anonymous individuals. Without values, we are not human beings.

Values spring from a living and committed relationship into which every person enters with the world in which they live. Values are always bound up with creative life, which is the life of participation, love and meeting others - the life of the Spirit². To discover that helping a person with a disability bears within it some great value it is not necessary to read treaties on compassion; what has to be done is to get down to work, to reach out to needy people and be committed to their situation. This commitment means that we have to set aside personal interests, leave behind us places which, for us, are of purely ephemeral value, and go out to find the gift of God, which is his Spirit that makes us living beings.

We greet you all, united in prayer and in the challenge to feel anointed by the Spirit in HOSPITALITY and sent by Jesus to proclaim His Kingdom throughout the world by healing the sick in the manner of our Founders Saint John of God and Saint Benedict Menni.

¹ Cf. Pope Francis's Message for the 90th World Mission Sunday 2016

² Jn 5, 22-23; 1 Cor 7-14



HUMANIATION - Monday 17

Expressed as: *care, viewed as a personal encounter, the dignity of the human person, friendship, listening to different languages, harmony, joy, sociability, tolerance, goodness, giving priority to the dignity of the person. Extending a warm welcome embraces every dimension of the person: healing and caring.*



READINGS

Lk. 10, 25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



REFLECTION

"A Hospital which provides treatment, but which does not care for its patients is likely, in my view, to become an inhuman and de-humanising Hospital, in the broadest possible sense of the term. Is it not a fact that we 'treat' people in great numbers, but that we 'care' for them very little? Is it not true that we busy ourselves with so many things, that we gradually tend to lose sight of the whole purpose of the Hospital, namely, to help people and to care for and minister to those who suffer?"

"We who believe in God's mysteries, who believe in God through faith and not through formal ritualism, have to acknowledge the fact that our loving service to our neighbours springs from the fact that we are Christians. Following the footsteps of our Founder, our neighbours are people who suffer. This means that our life has taken on an unmistakable direction, and keeping to this path requires painstaking effort; and if we have swerved off course, albeit very slightly, it requires great effort to get back on course again. But have we any other choice? It is this victory, this 'blood' bond that exists between us and the sick that I call humanisation'; a bond which demands quite another type of kinship — first and foremost, kinship with God, kinship with one another, with our communities, and with the world in which we live.

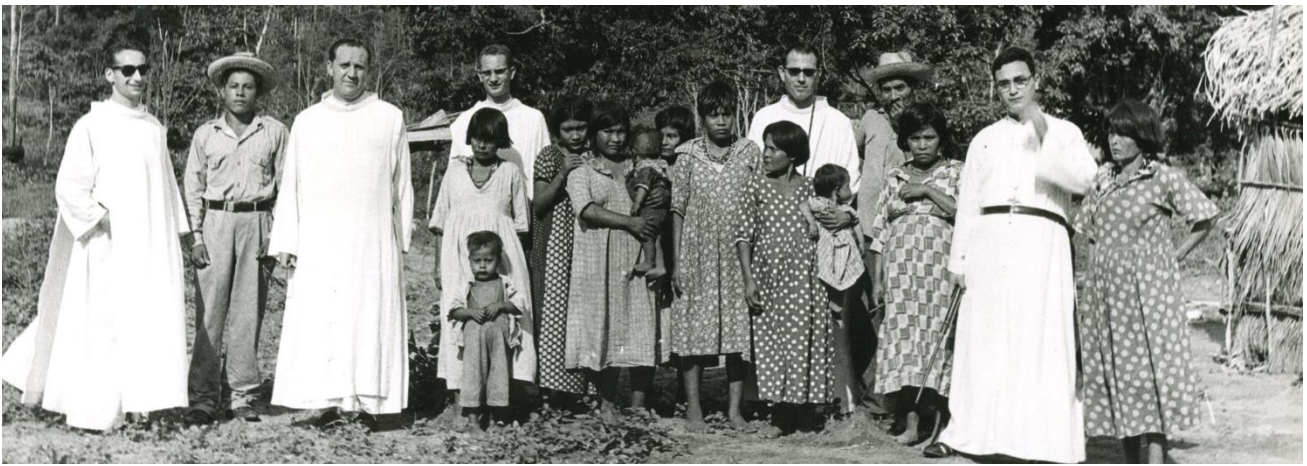
As living members of the Church, she encourages us to ensure that our works and activities continue to go on proving to be privileged places of evangelisation, of witness to authentic charity and human development".

((Document of Bro. Pierluigi Marchesi: Humanisation, on humanising our life and our Centres)

PRAYER

Come Creator Spirit, fill us with the strength and the courage of Jesus. Without your encouragement we shall never succeed in believing in him; we will not dare to follow in his footsteps; the Church will never renew herself; our hope will come to nothing. Come and give us the vital encouragement we need to be agents of HUMANISATION!





RESPONSIBILITY / HISTORICAL AWARENESS -

Tuesday 18

Expressed as: *being faithful to the ideals of our Founders, Saint John of God and Saint Benedict Menni, of the Order and the Congregation, ethics (bioethics, social ethics, managerial ethics), environmental protection, social responsibility, sustainability, justice, the fair distribution of resources. Loyalty, commitment, skill, trust, truthfulness, authenticity, generosity, transparency, courage and boldness, self-control, self-discipline, reflection and study.*



READINGS

Mt. 25, 31-40

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?"

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."



REFLECTION

"... Under those circumstances it was necessary to have another way of understanding human relations, and that was what the Church was able to offer, organising a number of effective channels for communicating goods at the service of, and particularly for the benefit of, the poorest people. It was no political rebellion, fomented by gladiators or slaves, but a means of transforming people's awareness and consciences and human relations, in the heart of a Church which set up a service to provide social care, on the outskirts of an Empire which was full of poor people, free men and luckless slaves, in a system of plenty, but which was fast failing. Against this background, the Christians knew how to show solidarity and found ways of fashioning solidarity effectively, and also how to benefit of many pagans, too."

(Entrañable Dios, Xabier Pikaza y Jose Antonio Pagola p. 127)

✝ PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit and remind us of the fine words spoken by Jesus. Without your light and your witness to it we will gradually forget the good face of God; the Gospel will become a dead letter; the Church will never be able to announce any good news at all. Come and teach us to listen to Jesus alone, as responsible men and women who are able to transmit Jesus' Word to others.





QUALITY – Wednesday 19

Expressed as: *excellence, humanity, professionalism, motivation, a model of union with our Co-workers, professionally always up-to-date, good at teamwork, efficient managers, faithful to service and lovers of beauty.*



READINGS

"Charity and Science work together and necessarily help each other in the provision of that care that must be shown to the sick" (B.M. Constitutions 1882, n° 83.)

Mk. 8, 22-26

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him.

He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?"

And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking."

Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."



REFLECTION

Organization and resource-use. Our Founder knew how to be a precursor for the provision of assistance and care in his age, and did this by laying down criteria for organizing and distributing resources. Like him, we are also being asked to introduce avant-garde innovations into our society. In our age, even more than in his, organization and management must be an important component of the contribution we are making.

One of the mottoes of our Centres could be this: show our capacity to work by the proper allocation of available resources, giving pride of place to each of our institutions' most specific features. At the level of each Centre, this will guarantee their future, as far as our services and units are concerned, they must be designed to provide integral and comprehensive assistance to the sick and needy.

(Caring for the Sick and Needy in the Manner of St John of God. Charter of Hospitality. 5.3.1.1.)

PRAYER

Come Spirit of Truth and show us how to walk in the truth of Jesus. Without your light and your guidance, we will never be able to free ourselves from our mistakes and lies; nothing new and truthful can possibly come from us, and we will be the blind leading the blind. Come and convert us into Jesus' disciples and valuable witnesses!





RESPECT / ETHICS – Thursday 20

Expressed as: *respect for others, humanization, the human dimension, mutual responsibility between Brothers, Sisters and Co-workers, understanding, viewing things holistically, promoting social justice, involving our guests' loved ones, loyalty to our origins, faithful to the duty, tenacity honour, uprightness, protagonists of the present and builders of the future.*



READINGS

Heb. 13, 1-8

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.



REFLECTION

We have to work to ensure that the Church as such is configured entirely according to the principle of mercy. The Church should make herself known as the place in which people can see freer, and more intense relations in the face of the suffering in the world, as the place which is most sensitive and committed to all the physical, moral and spiritual wounds of suffering men and women today. We will also have to do many other things, too, but if the Church is not structured by compassion, whatever she does will be irrelevant and may even be dangerous, because that would easily deviate her away from her mission to introduce God's compassion in the world. Compassion is the only thing that can make the Church more compassionate and more credible today.

(Entrañable Dios, Xabier Pikaza y Jose Antonio Pagola p. 23)

† PRAYER

Come Spirit of the Father and teach us to cry out to God, "Father", as Jesus did. Without your warmth and your joy we shall live as orphans who have lost their Father; we were born with God with our lips, but not with our hearts; our prayers will be so many empty words. Come and teach us to pray respectfully, using the words of Jesus himself.





SENSITIVITY TOWARDS THE EXCLUDED – Friday 21

Expressed as: *boldness, solidarity, fraternity, sensitivity, subsidiarity, compassion, fellowship, joy, generosity, understanding, tolerance, courage, calm, gentleness, tranquility, interculturalism, cooperation, participation, nonviolence, peace, empathy, service, the centrality of the person.*



READINGS

Mk. 5, 1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then

people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighbourhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him, But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.



REFLECTION

"When you enter a village, heal the sick and say "the kingdom of God is at hand".

This is the great news, God is near, encouraging us to make life more human. But it is not enough to merely state a truth to make it attractive and desirable. We also have to think again about how we act on it: to find out what can lead people today towards the Gospel, and see how they can see God as something new and good?

We certainly fall short in our love for the contemporary world and we fail to understand how to reach through to touch the hearts of men and women today. It is not enough merely to preach from the pulpit. We must learn to listen more, to reach out and be welcoming, showing concern for the lives of those who are suffering... this is the only way in which we will find humble and good words which will lead people to the Jesus whose unfathomable love will place us in contact with God, the Good Father of all.

(Portadores del evangelio. José Antonio Pagola)

PRAYER

Come Good Spirit and convert us to the project of the "Kingdom of God" inaugurated by Jesus. Without your renewing power no one will convert our weary hearts; we shall not find the courage to build up a more humane and human world according to God's wishes; in your Church, the least will never be the first; we will continue to spend our lives sleepily in a religion which sometimes forgets the excluded. Come and make us Co-workers in Jesus' project!!





SERVICE – Saturday 22

Expressed as: *Cooperation, creativity, trust, respect, cordiality, participation, enthusiasm. Humility, acceptance of our limitations, learning to receive, obedience, submission to God's will, giving thanks, gratitude, joy, readiness to serve, equality, justice, charity, courage, conversion, honour, denunciation, solidarity, humanity, reciprocity, consolation, hope.*



READINGS

Jn. 13, 1-17

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?. Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,[b] but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean." When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord

and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.



REFLECTION

True greatness consists of serving. For Jesus, the most important person is not the man or woman who occupies an important post, but the one who lives by serving and helping others. The first in the Church are not the members of the hierarchy but the simple people who live helping those they meet along the way. We must never forget this.

For Jesus, his Church should be a place in which everyone thinks of everyone else. A community in which we are concerned about those who might need us. For Jesus, this is not a dream but something of such great importance that he gave the people a graphic example of what he meant.

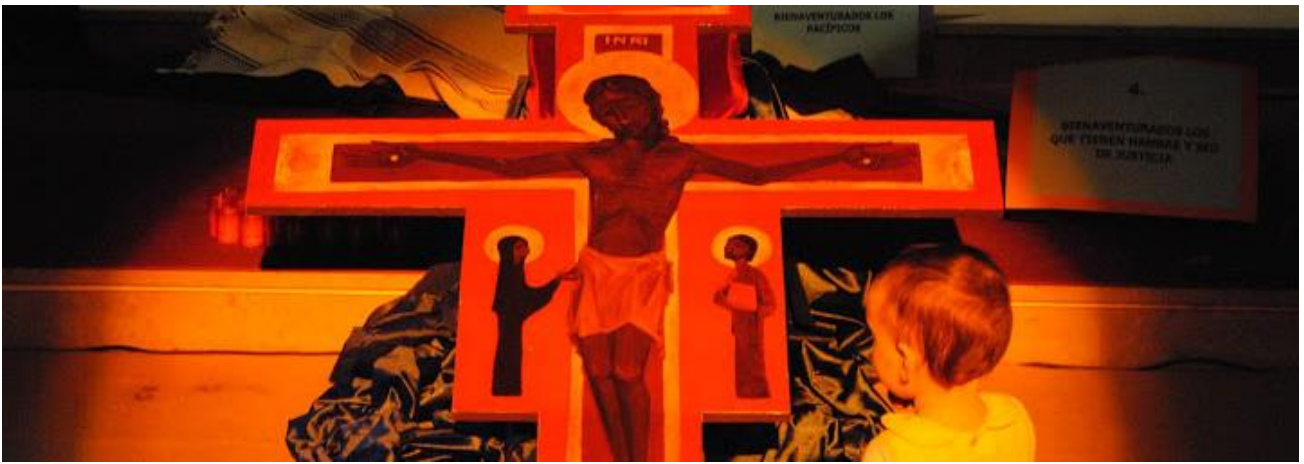
First of all, he took a child and placed him in the centre of the group so that everyone could see him. At the heart of the apostolic Church this child must always be present as a symbol of the weak and those with disabilities, those in need of support, defence and shelter. They must not be left outside, standing at the door: they must be made the focus of our attention.

(¿Por qué lo olvidamos? - José Antonio Pagola 20 de septiembre de 2012 Internet)

† PRAYER

Come Spirit of Love and teach us to love one another with the same love with which Jesus loves us. Without your presence living among us, the communion of the Church would be broken. The hierarchy in the people would become increasingly detached from one another; division would increase, dialogue would cease, and intolerance increase. Come and enliven our hearts and our hands with the fraternal love which makes us SERVE, and thereby be more like Jesus!





Spirituality – Sunday 23

Expressed as: *pastoral care and service, evangelization, offering spiritual support to members of other faiths, the community, cooperation with parishes, dioceses, other faiths. Loyalty, faith, personal commitment, faithfulness to the essence of things.*

READINGS

1 Cor 13, 1- 8

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned,[a] but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.



REFLECTION

“When you enter a house, the first thing you may say is ‘Peace to this house’”

The Good News of Jesus is communicated through total respect, through a fraternal and friendly attitude that disseminates peace. It is wrong to try to impose it from above or by threats and resentment. Failing to treat people with love only because they do not accept our message, runs counter to the Gospel. But how can they accept it if they do not feel that they are being understood by those of us who approach them in the name of Jesus?

(Portadores del Evangelio. José Antonio Pagola)

† PRAYER

Come Liberating Spirit and remind us that Christ frees us in order to make us free but not to allow ourselves once again to be oppressed and enslaved. Without your strength and your truth our joyful discipleship of Jesus will only create a slavish mentality; we will not know the love which brings life, but only our own selfishness which destroys it; we shall stifle within us the very freedom that enables the sons and daughters of God to grow, and sooner or later we shall become victims of fear, cowardice and indifference. Come Holy Spirit and infect us with the freedom and UNIVERSALITY of Jesus!





Gal. 5, 22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law."

Reading. The gifts of the Spirit. 1 Cor, 7-14

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

« Set out! ». Portadores del Evangelio, José Antonio Pagola

Even though we sometimes forget it, the Church is marked by Jesus his command to set out and proclaim the Gospel. It is therefore dangerous to see the Church as an institution that was founded to nurture and develop its own religion. The original desire Jesus is best reflected by the image of a prophetic movement travelling to history in response to its marching orders: reaching out beyond herself, thinking of others, serving the Good News of God to the world. As Benedict XVI, said, "the Church is not here for herself but for humanity".

This is why the temptation to become inward-looking and seek our own interests, our past, our doctrinal achievements, our practices and our customs is so dangerous today, particularly if we do so by hardening our relations with the world. What would a rigid, narrow, inward-looking Church be, without prophets of his Jesus or bearers of the Gospel?

Letters of BM

Saint Benedict Menni wrote that "Hospitality knows no bounds, is it not know how to say 'enough', and wants to fly all the way around the Earth from one end of the world to another." To be able to look at reality with an attentive and compassionate heart requires a special sensitivity towards the different kinds of suffering inflicting those whose faculties have been impaired in some way, and leads us to discover ways of solving them.

We have succeeded in writing some beautiful pages of our history, showing courage, solidarity and generosity. Today, too, many beautiful pages are still being written in the silence of our daily deeds...

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2016

Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love. She "is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12) and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young or old.

When mercy encounters a person, it brings deep joy to the Father's heart; for from the beginning the Father has lovingly turned towards the most vulnerable, because his greatness and power are revealed precisely in his capacity to identify with the young, the marginalized and the oppressed (cf. Deut 4:31; Ps 86:15; 103:8; 111:4). He is a kind, caring and faithful God who is close to those in need, especially the poor; he involves himself tenderly in human reality just as a father and mother do in the lives of their children (cf. Jer 31:20). When speaking of the womb, the Bible uses the word that signifies mercy: therefore it refers to the love of a mother for her children, whom she will always love, in every circumstance and regardless of what happens, because they are the fruit of her womb. This is also an essential aspect of the love that God has for all his children, whom he created and whom he wants to raise and educate; in the face of their weaknesses and infidelity, his heart is overcome with compassion (cf. Hos 11:8). He is merciful towards all; his love is for all people and his compassion extends to all creatures (cf. Ps 144:8-9).

Mercy finds its most noble and complete expression in the Incarnate Word. Jesus reveals the face of the Father who is rich in mercy; he "speaks of [mercy] and explains it by the use of comparisons and parables, but above all he himself makes it incarnate and personifies it" (John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 2). When we welcome and follow Jesus by means of the Gospel and sacraments, we can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, become merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful; we can learn to love as he loves us and make of our lives a free gift, a sign of his goodness (cf. *Misericordiae Vultus*, 3). The Church, in the midst of humanity, is first of all the community that lives by the mercy of Christ: she senses his gaze and feels he has chosen her with his merciful love. It is through this love that the Church discovers its

mandate, lives it and makes it known to all peoples through a respectful dialogue with every culture and religious belief.

This merciful love, as in the early days of the Church, is witnessed to by many men and women of every age and condition. The considerable and growing presence of women in the missionary world, working alongside their male counterparts, is a significant sign of God's maternal love. Women, lay and religious, and today even many families, carry out their missionary vocation in various forms: from announcing the Gospel to charitable service. Together with the evangelizing and sacramental work of missionaries, women and families often more adequately understand people's problems and know how to deal with them in an appropriate and, at times, fresh way: in caring for life, with a strong focus on people rather than structures, and by allocating human and spiritual resources towards the building of good relations, harmony, peace, solidarity, dialogue, cooperation and fraternity, both among individuals and in social and cultural life, in particular through care for the poor.

In many places evangelization begins with education, to which missionary work dedicates much time and effort, like the merciful vine-dresser of the Gospel (cf. Lk 13:7-9; Jn 15:1), patiently waiting for fruit after years of slow cultivation; in this way they bring forth a new people able to evangelize, who will take the Gospel to those places where it otherwise would not have been thought possible. The Church can also be defined as "mother" for those who will one day have faith in Christ. I hope, therefore, that the holy people of God will continue to exercise this maternal service of mercy, which helps those who do not yet know the Lord to encounter and love him. Faith is God's gift and not the result of proselytizing; rather it grows thanks to the faith and charity of evangelizers who witness to Christ. As they travel through the streets of the world, the disciples of Jesus need to have a love without limits, the same measure of love that our Lord has for all people. We proclaim the most beautiful and greatest gifts that he has given us: his life and his love.

All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation which is God's gift to every person. This is all the more necessary when we consider how many injustices, wars, and humanitarian crises still need resolution. Missionaries know from experience that the Gospel of forgiveness and mercy can bring joy and reconciliation, justice and peace. The mandate of the Gospel to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20) has not ceased; rather this command commits all of us, in the current landscape with all its challenges, to hear the call to a renewed missionary "impulse", as I noted in my Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel" (20).

This Jubilee year marks the 90th anniversary of World Missionary Day, first approved by Pope Pius XI in 1926 and organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is appropriate then to recall the wise instructions of my Predecessors who ordered that to this Society be destined all the offerings collected in every diocese, parish, religious community, association and ecclesial movement throughout the world for the care of Christian communities in need and for supporting the proclamation of the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Today too we believe in this sign of missionary ecclesial communion. Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all of humanity.

May Holy Mary, sublime icon of redeemed humanity, model of missionaries for the Church, teach all men, women and families, to foster and safeguard the living and mysterious presence of the Risen Lord in every place, he who renews personal relationships, cultures and peoples, and who fills all with joyful mercy.

From the Vatican, 15 May 2016, Solemnity of Pentecost

Francis



CONCLUDING PRAYER:

God of love,
show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
to be and to practise Hospitality
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen..

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