



# HOSPITALER MISSIONS WEEK

16 - 22 October 2017



## World day theme

*Mission at the heart of the Christian faith*

## Institutional theme

*Hospitality – the consequence of the Christian faith*



## Receptiveness to the Spirit by practising Hospitality

*“Mission is the heart of the Christian faith”*

### Dear Co-workers, Volunteers, Sisters and Brothers:

Every year, on the Feast of Pentecost, the Pope issues a message for World Mission Day.

In it, he offers us: a) a reminder of some of the fundamentals of the mission, b) a summary of the Pope’s main intentions regarding the mission (insights which are developed more fully in other previously published and more official text, such as encyclicals or exhortations); c) one or two lines on one or other particular aspect or matter, or some idea of relevance to the current year, or some particular point that the Holy Father wishes to stress.

His Message for the 2017 World Mission Day includes the main constituent elements of the mission, as clearly indicated in the title of the message: Mission at the heart of the Christian faith. The roots of the mission lie at the very heart of the Christian faith, and the heart of the Christian faith may properly be described as a mission.

This is why the first missionary is Christ himself. The Church, which perpetuates the work of Jesus, is by nature a missionary Church, and her function is to proclaim the Gospel, God’s good news (no. 1 of the Message). The mission is therefore a return to our origins (to fundamentals): Jesus is the only true missionary, the first missionary; his disciples (Christians) are missionaries by proxy (nos. 2 and 3). One person alone is the missionary: Jesus. Therefore all are missionaries: all the disciples, disciples-missionaries, as Francis likes to call them. The mission is the Christian’s responsibility, the responsibility of every Christian - a task for some particular group of Christians, of a kind of elite body within the Church. It is the duty of all.

One point which Pope stresses in particular this year refers **to young people**.

Only one person is the missionary: Jesus Christ. Therefore all of us – all Christians – are missionaries. And these include, in particular, our young people (no. 9). The preparatory work for the forthcoming Synod on Young People, the Faith the Gospel and Vocational Discernment, is an opportunity for young people to perform this missionary duty, which is their responsibility as Christians, in society and in the Church.

The second point on which the message places stress is **the transformative power** of the proclamation of the Gospel. Evangelising does not leave things as they were before. Evangelising is transformative, as the message puts it so beautifully: proclaiming and receiving the Gospel changes the minds and hearts of people and societies. It changes the structures of societies and cultures.

Our Order’s Hospitaller-Missions Week is entitled HOSPITALITY - the consequence of the Christian faith. The Pope’s message will shed more fundamental and theological light on this motto: the mission is everyone’s work, the central task of the Church, which has its roots in the work of Christ himself.

**We greet you all, united in prayer and in the challenge to feel that we are anointed by the Spirit in HOSPITALITY and sent by Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom by practising Hospitality throughout the world, healing the sick in the manner of our founders, Saint John of God and Saint St Benedict Menni.**



## Introduction

### *Mission and the transformative power of the Gospel of Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life*

“The Church’s mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. Jn 14:6). He is the Way who invites us to follow him with confidence and courage. In following Jesus as our Way, we experience Truth and receive his Life, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love.

God the Father desires this existential transformation of his sons and daughters, a transformation that finds expression in worship in spirit and truth (cf. Jn 4:23-24), through a life guided by the Holy Spirit in imitation of Jesus the Son to the glory of God the Father. “The glory of God is the living man” (Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses* IV, 20, 7). The preaching of the Gospel thus becomes a vital and effective word that accomplishes what it proclaims (cf. Is 55:10-11): Jesus Christ, who constantly takes flesh in every human situation (cf. Jn 1:14).”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. Nos. 1 y 2



## Biblical text: Jn. 1,14-18

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“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son who is close to the Father’s heart who has made him known.”.



## Reflection

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John of God expressed and lived hope<sup>2</sup> in the following manner: *"hope in Jesus Christ alone who, in exchange for the tribulations and sufferings we bear in this miserable life for his sake, will give us eternal glory through the merits of his sacred Passion and through his great mercy"* (3 DS 9).

He expressed this very well when he said: *"my most beloved and respected brother in Jesus Christ, I often do not leave the house because of my many debts,... nevertheless, I trust solely in Jesus Christ, who will bring me out of debt, for he knows my heart."* (2 GL 7.8; Cf. 1 DS 6 b.; 2 DS 7.20).

*"...This letter will let you know in what dire straits and in what very great need I am (although I still thank Our Lord Jesus Christ for everything) because.... so many poor people flock here that very often even I am afraid we shall not be able to look after them all; however, Jesus Christ sees to everything and provides them with food."* (2 GL 3)

*"Jesus Christ is faithful and constant; and because he looks after everything, may thanks be rendered to Jesus Christ for ever. Amen Jesus."* (2 GL 9) *"After our work we must give thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ, who shows so much mercy towards us"*. (2 DS 18)



## Petition

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Let us bring before our Lord, our homeless brothers and sisters - some who, as a result of a broken home, have left their families in search of a better life which they have never found; others, who have left everything behind, to evade the oversight of their parents which they see as curbing their freedom, because their parents have failed to take on their full parental responsibilities. Others still, who have become homeless as a result of being rootless, and have acquired habits or dependencies which are undermining their health. Lord Jesus, we bring them all of them to you, praying that they will touch the hearts of those who feel more blessed, so that they will reach out to help these people in need of shelter.

**Lord hear us ...**



## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you.

Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> The Missionary Dimension of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God. Ch. 2. 5.4. Hope



## ▶ Introduction

### *Mission and the kairos of Christ*

“The Church’s mission, then, is not to spread a religious ideology, much less to propose a lofty ethical teaching. Many movements throughout the world inspire high ideals or ways to live a meaningful life. Through the mission of the Church, Jesus Christ himself continues to evangelize and act; her mission thus makes present in history the *kairos*, the favourable time of salvation. Through the proclamation of the Gospel, the risen Jesus becomes our contemporary, so that those who welcome him with faith and love can experience the transforming power of his Spirit, who makes humanity and creation fruitful, even as the rain does with the earth. “His resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force” (*Evangelii gaudium*, 276).

Let us never forget that “being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a Person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, 1). The Gospel is a Person who continually offers himself and constantly invites those who receive him with humble and religious faith to share his life by an effective participation in the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection. Through *Baptism*, the Gospel becomes a source of new life, freed of the dominion of sin, enlightened and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Through *Confirmation*, it becomes a fortifying anointing that, through the same Spirit, points out new ways and strategies for witness and accompaniment. Through the *Eucharist*, it becomes food for new life, a “medicine of immortality” (Ignatius of Antioch, *Ad Ephesios*, 20, 2).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. Nos. 3 y 4

## Biblical text: Lk. 4,17-21

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And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

## Reflection

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Faith led John of God to accept the saving presence of God so deeply in his life that it was God Himself who led him. His nickname 'of God' revealed this. John no longer belonged to himself, but to God. He no longer lived for himself, but only for God and His Kingdom.

From this experience of faith seen as the conscious acceptance of the presence and the salvation of God in his own life, John took on the attitudes that he subsequently recommended in his letters:

*"God before all the things of the world"* (The beginning of his letters).

*"All this must be borne for God's sake, because if you come here you must suffer all this for the love of God.... You must offer God deep thanks for everything, both the good and the bad.... "* (LB 9).

*"Because the good things people do are not theirs but belong to God: honour, glory and praise to God, because everything is his. ... "* (1 GL, 11).<sup>4</sup>

## Petition

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Lord Jesus, who became man and trod the paths of human suffering: we commend to you our brothers and sisters who have failed to build up their lives, who are troubled and feel different from others in the way they think, feel, behave and relate to other people, and in their ability to adapt to social and professional life. We pray that You, whose love knows no bounds, will give us your sensitivities and attitudes, so that we do not pass by on the other side. Fine-tune our sensitivities so that, thanks to them we can discover your face in them, understand their language, and recognise their dignity, so that we can respond boldly to help alleviate their sufferings and to bring them light, comfort and hope along the path of life. **Lord hear us ...**

## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you. Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

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<sup>4</sup> The Missionary Dimension of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God. Ch. 2. 5.2. Faith



## Introduction

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“The world vitally needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Church, Christ continues his mission as the Good Samaritan, caring for the bleeding wounds of humanity, and as Good Shepherd, constantly seeking out those who wander along winding paths that lead nowhere. Thank God, many significant experiences continue to testify to the transformative power of the Gospel. I think of the gesture of the Dinka student who, at the cost of his own life, protected a student from the enemy Nuer tribe who was about to be killed. I think of that Eucharistic celebration in Kitgum, in northern Uganda, where, after brutal massacres by a rebel group, a missionary made the people repeat the words of Jesus on the cross: “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” as an expression of the desperate cry of the brothers and sisters of the crucified Lord. For the people, that celebration was an immense source of consolation and courage. We can think too of countless testimonies to how the Gospel helps to overcome narrowness, conflict, racism, tribalism, and to promote everywhere, and among all, reconciliation, fraternity, and sharing.”<sup>5</sup>

## Biblical text: Lk. 10,25-37

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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

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<sup>5</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. No. 5

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 travelling 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

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The creative force of the Spirit drives us on **to build up Samaritan communities** based on love and forgiveness, in which communion is experienced, reaching beyond the common life alone; a life in which interpersonal relations are healthy and deeply-rooted, and where every one of us welcomes in each other, with all our gifts and our frailties, and where co-responsible participation is encouraged in the same life and mission project and in the quest to seek God’s will. In this way we shall strengthen our bonds of membership and become prophetic signs for the world of today. It also requires us to rethink the styles and the structures of community life, making them more outreaching and flexible, and able to make different responses which are appropriate to current needs.<sup>6</sup>



## Petition

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Lord may we overcome fear and division, driven by the steadfast desire to fight with the weapons of truth, justice and love. Renew our enthusiasm for good when faced with the threat of evil, and let us fight so that a new age will dawn, when hatred and discord will no longer cause divisions between peoples. May understanding and a sense of brotherhood fashion the hearts of all. Give rise to noble and constructive ideals in the hearts of all. Help us, Lord, to cooperate in the art of peacemaking, so that our prayers and our Hospitaller service may build up a world of love, respect and brotherhood. **Lord hear us...**



## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you. Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

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<sup>6</sup> Recreate Hospitality paths of revitalisation. Document of the XX General Chapter, no. 2.9 HSC





## Introduction

*Mission inspires a spirituality of constant exodus, pilgrimage, and exile*

“The Church’s mission is enlivened by a spirituality of *constant exodus*. We are challenged “to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel” (*Evangelii gaudium*, 20). The Church’s mission impels us to undertake a *constant pilgrimage* across the various deserts of life, through the different experiences of hunger and thirst for truth and justice. The Church’s mission inspires a sense of *constant exile*, to make us aware, in our thirst for the infinite, that we are exiles journeying towards our final home, poised between the “already” and “not yet” of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end unto herself, but a humble instrument and mediation of the Kingdom. A self-referential Church, one content with earthly success, is not the Church of Christ, his crucified and glorious Body. That is why we should prefer “a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security” (*Ibid.*, 49).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. Nos. 6 y 7

## Biblical text: Gen. 18,1-8

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“The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, ‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measure of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.”

## Reflection

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“Abraham left his tent to meet his guests. He did not wait passively for them to come closer to his tent to seek help, but he went out to meet them. Abraham’s hospitality was outreaching, because the patriarch left his house, and moved outside to seek his future guests and to attend to them. He did not ask them who they were, or their social, cultural or religious background, but welcomed them in without discrimination. That is when the rapture occurred, the reaching-out beyond himself.”<sup>8</sup>

## Petition

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There are many people fleeing and emigrating to escape from war and persecution in their home countries in the quest to find other people who will welcome them in and support them.

Let us pray for the refugees and migrants: Lord, show them your mercy so that they can find hospitality and what they need to live in dignity; with the fraternal help of those who take them in, may they find the means, the courage and the hope they need to begin to start a new life again, and find ways of providing for themselves according to the law of the Creator. **Lord hear us ...**

## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you.

Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

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<sup>8</sup> No olvidéis la Hospitalidad. Una exploración teológica. Francesc Torralba. Crft. Capt. 6. N.1



## Introduction

### *Young people, the hope of mission*

“Young people are the hope of mission. The person of Jesus Christ and the Good News he proclaimed continue to attract many young people. They seek ways to put themselves with courage and enthusiasm at the service of humanity. “There are many young people who offer their solidarity in the face of the evils of the world and engage in various forms of militancy and volunteering... How beautiful it is to see that young people are ‘street preachers’, joyfully bringing Jesus to every street, every town square and every corner of the earth!” (ibid 106). The next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in 2018 on the theme *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, represents a providential opportunity to involve young people in the shared missionary responsibility that needs their rich imagination and creativity.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. No. 8

## Biblical text: Heb. 13,1-7

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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.



## Reflection

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"Hospitality implicitly requires the virtue of faith, in the sense of trust in others, and in the goodness of others. The host believes in the guest and the guest believes in the host, and this two-way faith and trust becomes the condition that makes it possible to practise hospitality. Without faith it is not possible to practise hospitality, even though the word "faith" is not necessarily used here in the religious sense. When a person is afraid of another, and feels intimidated by that person's presence or is afraid of losing their privacy as a consequence of the other's entry into their family home, that person cannot practise hospitality."<sup>10</sup>



## Petition

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We bring before you today all those who are in difficulty, particularly those who have mental and/or physical disabilities, and children who have been abandoned for this reason. May our commitment to bear witness to God the good Father, and through our daily service, enable them to acknowledge You and feel Your mercy, and know that they are accompanied and capable of facing all life's adversities, **Lord hear us ...**



## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you. Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

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<sup>10</sup> No olvidéis la Hospitalidad. Una exploración teológica. Francesc Torralba. Crft. Prólogo



## Introduction

### *On the mission with Mary, the Mother of Evangelisation*

“Dear brothers and sisters, in carrying out our mission, let us draw inspiration from Mary, Mother of Evangelization. Moved by the Spirit, she welcomed the Word of life in the depths of her humble faith. May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own “yes”, conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time. May she obtain for us renewed zeal in bringing to everyone the Good News of the life that is victorious over death. May she intercede for us so that we can acquire the holy audacity needed to discover new ways to bring the gift of salvation to every man and woman.”<sup>11</sup>

### Biblical text: Lk. 1,26-38

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be

<sup>11</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. No. 10

holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.”



## Reflection

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“It is always a paradox and a mystery that the Wholly Other, the all-powerful God, needed the body of a woman to be welcomed into history, to reveal Himself definitively. His bodily presence in the world took a vulnerable form which required Mary’s womb to be able to develop and grow as a man. Mary’s body therefore became the home of the incarnate God, God’s first reception facility in the world. Mary played hosts to God in history, and not she alone, for so did Joseph, who welcomed him into his family.”<sup>12</sup>



## Petition

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Our world has developed to an extraordinary degree in terms of technology, efficiency, effectiveness, and individualism, which has led, very often, to forgetting others, particularly those who have given us so much. We have forgotten that we have been called to be the “guardians of others”, neglecting the elderly, or viewing them as a burden. Lord, awaken us by the call to be the “guardians of our elderly brothers and sisters”, to make them feel that they are the very *ratio* of our society and that they have a full part to play in it. **Lord hear us ...**



## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you. Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

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<sup>12</sup> No olvidéis la Hospitalidad. Una exploración teológica. Francesc Torralba. Capt. VII. N1. María: Icono de la Hospitalidad.



## Introduction

### *The service of the Pontifical Mission Societies*

“The Pontifical Mission Societies are a precious means of awakening in every Christian community a desire to reach beyond its own confines and security in order to proclaim the Gospel to all. In them, thanks to a profound missionary spirituality, nurtured daily, and a constant commitment to raising missionary awareness and enthusiasm, young people, adults, families, priests, bishops and men and women religious work to develop a missionary heart in everyone. World Mission Day, promoted by the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, is a good opportunity for enabling the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization.”<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2017. No. 9

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

 Reflection

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**St Augustine, in his sermon 235** tells us. "Remember this, my brothers... have faith, and the One whom you cannot see will be with you... and if you want to have life, you must do what they – the disciples on the road to Emmaus – did to recognise the Lord. They offered him hospitality. Our Lord appeared to be a man travelling on a long journey, but they held him back. And when they reached their destination, they said to him, "Stay here with us, for it is late in the day, and night is falling". You must play host to him, if you wish to acknowledge him as your Saviour. Their hospitality restored to them what their lack of faith had taken from them." (Lk. 24,13)

 Petition

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Lord, we pray for all those who are committed to work on behalf of others, leaving their homelands and travelling the world: our Hospitaller Family – Sisters, Brothers, volunteers, benefactors, professionals and others ...

Help us and help them, Lord, to learn to give of our time, our service, and to give material, spiritual and human support to those in need of it, and may the presence of the Holy Spirit motivate us to leave our comfort zones in order to perform acts of mercy and practise Hospitality, with our brothers and sisters in need. **Lord hear us...**



## Final prayer

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Loving God, show us our place in this world as instruments of your love, so that we can be Hospitality and practice it for all our fellow men and women; for no-one is unknown to you. Enlighten the powerful, and the wealthy, so that they avoid the sin of indifference, seek the common good of all, come to the aid of the weak, and care for the world in which we live.

The poor and the whole earth are crying out to you: Lord, take us and keep us in your power and in your light, to protect all life, to prepare a better future, as we await the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. We praise you Lord. Amen.

## Other readings

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### Lk. 10,3-9

Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."



### Reflection

"However strange it may seem to make transformative claims following the collapse of Marxism in its various forms, the fact remains that we have to realise that the influx of foreigners and vulnerable people has to do with the unjust distribution of the wealth of the planet. As long as social and economic inequalities persist, the flow of migrants will not decline, but on the contrary, it will increase. The practice of Hospitality does not exempt us from wishing to transform the power structures which are entrenching a situation that is unworthy of so many human beings throughout the world, and indeed should drive us on to change them. The conscious practice of hospitality not only requires the host to physically welcome strangers and vulnerable people into their home, but must drive them on to perform the prophetic act of denouncing the situation which lies at the roots of these movements." (*Sobre la hospitalidad. Extraños y vulnerables como tú.* Francesc Torralba. Crft. Capt. I. N.7 La Casa. Políticas de la hospitalidad.)



### Petition

Lord, we bring to you all forms of violence that exist in the world today: people who are victims of discrimination, hatred, war and suffering. Do not allow them to give up struggling out of fear or the frailty of their faith. With your grace, give them strength and hope, and give us the courage to solve conflicts without violence and create relationships based on the spirit of love, forgiveness and peace between nations and peoples, as we have been taught by Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son. **Lord hear us ...**

## Prayers

We are following you, Lord Jesus,  
We are following you, Lord Jesus,  
But call us, so that we can follow you.  
For without you no-one can move forward.  
You alone are the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
Welcome us in, as a cosy hearth welcomes us.  
Embolden us, as the truth emboldens us.  
Fill us with life, for You are Life. (St Augustine)

### **HE HAS CHOSEN US**

God has chosen us  
to show one another  
God's loving face.  
We are God's dictionary;  
words of life  
to give voice to God's goodness  
with our own goodness,  
to give voice to God's compassion,  
gentleness, concern and faithfulness  
through our own.

*(Leo Rock sj)*

### **MERCY**

God, make us merciful  
faced with all kinds of human suffering.  
Inspire us to act and speak appropriately  
with our lonely and vulnerable brothers and  
sisters.  
Help us to be ready to help  
anyone feeling exploited and depressed.  
May your Church be a haven  
of truth, love, freedom,  
justice and peace,  
So that all who meet in her  
will find a reason to continue to hope.  
May those who seek you  
know how to discern the signs of the times  
and may we grow in faithfulness to the Gospel;  
May we lovingly seek to share  
the sorrows and the pain,  
the joys and the hopes  
of all men and women,  
and thereby reveal your path leading to  
reconciliation, forgiveness and peace ... **AMEN**

### **OPEN YOUR DOOR!**

Lord:  
You have come to our world  
and you ask us to open the door  
of our hearts  
to all humanity.

You told us that  
it is You who comes to our door  
when anyone knocks.

Your words were:  
"Behold, I stand at the door and knock;  
if any one hears my voice  
and opens the door,  
I will come in to him and eat with him,  
and he with me."

Lord:  
May we we listen to your voice,  
that voice which speaks to us  
through our brothers and sisters.  
May we open the door  
to let You in,  
and in You, all humanity.

### **JOINED HANDS**

May we be joined hands, Lord -  
Joined in prayer and in giving.  
Joined to your Hands, in hands of the Father,  
Joined to the fruitful wings of the Spirit,  
Joined with the hand of the poor.

Hands of the Gospel,  
sowers of Life,  
lanterns of Hope,  
flights of Peace.

Joined to your hands in Solidarity,  
Breaking the bread of all.  
Joined to your transfixed hands  
On the crosses of the world.  
Joined to your now glorious Easter Hands.

Outstretched hands, without borders,  
To wherever there are other hands.

Capable of linking the whole world,  
Faithful to the Third World,  
By being faithful to the Kingdom.

Tense with the passion for Justice,  
Gentle in Love.

Hands that give what they receive,  
Overflowing with gratitude,  
Always more hands,  
Always more united.

***(Pedro Casaldáliga)***

### **MY NEIGHBOUR**

My neighbour is not someone who already  
exists.

My neighbour is someone I make.

My neighbour is not a person  
with whom I share my blood, race,  
business, kinship...

I become a neighbour when, faced with a  
human being,

Even a stranger or an enemy,

I decide to step forward towards him,  
and approach him. **(Carlo María Martini)**



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