

COLLABORATING WITH THE MISSION OF GOD



Within the context of Easter, I invite you to reflect on a theme that is very fitting for this time of year: Mission. In several accounts in the gospel, we see Jesus calling and sending his disciples to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

We have talked about, studied and reflected a lot on Mission; however, I think it is good for us to refresh some very important elements when we talk about mission, as José Cristo Rey, cmf. says: *“mission of itself is to be sent, obviously this being sent responds to a task, a task assigned to a person to carry out”*.

If we remember our charismatic heritage, we see that our founders speak to us in this same way; for example, let us remember the words of the Good Father when he says: *“Let us continue to be workers for the Good God, weak instruments of Jesus, following the impulse that He gives us to fulfil his mission”*. Therefore, this is what we are, collaborators in the mission of God.

Saint Paul says: *“You are God's co-workers, and God's pasture and building”* (1 Cor 3: 9). Paul was very aware of this, and this awareness of being a collaborator with God, made him live in humility. Paul was always aware of the greatness of the mission entrusted to him, and the certainty that it is the Lord himself who called him to be his collaborator would give him the ability and strength, *“We would not dare consider that something comes from us? Our ability comes from God who has enabled us to be servants of a new covenant”* (2 Corinthians 3: 5-6). *“Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who makes the plant grow”* (1 Cor 3:7).

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In this same way, Pope Francis tells us: *“We are called to be the collaborators with God in a venture as fundamental and unique as that of witnessing with our existence, the strength of the transforming grace and the power of the Spirit that renews. Let the Lord free us from all temptation that distances us from the essence of our mission and rediscover the beauty of professing faith in the Lord Jesus”*.

Faced with the new paradigms of our world, the vision of the Church that the Pope is leading us towards, invites us to go out and embark on a different adventure, convinced that it is the Spirit who is guiding this mission of God in the world and invites us to a serious process of pastoral and missionary conversion. *“The new evangelization asks us to have another look at reality. A close look to contemplate, move and stop before others, as many times as necessary. A respectful look and full of compassion but at the same time that heals, releases and encourages us to grow”* (EG).

From this attitude of going out, of which Pope Francis speaks so much, the decisions of our 35^o General Chapter have also something to say. They challenge us and call us into a real commitment

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to the mission of God: *“We are invited to have an attitude of ongoing conversion to enter into the designs of the Heart of God that challenges us from current reality, from those who suffer most, who live Poverty or who do not know the Good News. This calls us to open up to new ways of*

organizing ourselves, to commit ourselves to the unknown and to respond to the urgencies of today. Once again we are asked to leave what we know, what we are sure of... Go out from your land... to the land that I will show you” (Gen 12: 1).

We could say that in this new organization that as a Congregation we are experiencing, we are called to open ourselves up to other realities, to leave what is known, to listen to the needs and urgencies of our world and to respond generously to the mission that we have to carry out together.

In our apostolates, which are so diverse, we are called to collaborate in the mission of God. Our consecration to Love, causes us to take the merciful and compassionate love of God to the specifics of what we are doing, starting with our own communities. From them we are sent to evangelize and to witness that this world full of violence, pain, injustice... could be different; that love is stronger than hatred or violence; that hope has more force than pessimism or negativity; that the certainty that God is with us, is able to extinguish the power of fears and to launch us into a new adventure.

We are called and sent to collaborate in the Plan of God, our mission is that, to collaborate, to actively work for the Kingdom, in the way Jesus did, the Missionary of the Father. *“As the Father sent me, so I send you also”* (Jn 20: 21). This is our mission, it is for this that we are here. We are called and sent to give life and life in abundance.

This call and this sending, invites us first to a deep union and friendship with the Lord Jesus, to nourish us with His Word and to make our own his sentiments and attitudes. As Pope Francis tells us: *“For a disciple, the first thing is to be with the Master, to listen to him, to learn from him. And this is always true, it is a journey that lasts a lifetime. If the warmth of God, his love, his tenderness is not in our hearts, how can we, poor sinners, inflame the hearts of others?”*

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We are close to celebrating the great feast of Pentecost, let us ask the Holy Spirit to be the protagonist of God's mission in the world, to recreate and revive our faith and to become true witnesses of God's love, wherever we are sent. May Mary, the collaborator with the mission of God par excellence, accompany us, encourage us and bless us each day.