



MESSAGE OF FR. GENERAL ON WORLD MISSION DAY

Pax Christi

Dear Brothers!

On the fourth centenary of the foundation of the Congregation of “*propaganda fide*” - so precious to St. John Leonardi - and motivated by the desire to promote the missionary mandate in new territories, on this 96th World Mission Day, which occurs close to the memory of St. John Paul II, eminently missionary pope, I address to all of you the words of his greeting at the beginning of the pontificate: “Allow Christ to speak. Only he has the words of life, yes! Of eternal life. ” (October 22, 1978, AAS 70, [1978])

Let us allow Christ first of all to speak to our inner man. Let us allow Christ to interrupt us on our personal and community lives. Like Peter, let's ask him: "Where are you going, Lord?". Thus, He can reveal to us where he wants us to make him present. Thus, He may open up the horizons of our earthly pilgrimage, day today's work place for the construction of the Kingdom of God!

Let us ask him, personally and as a community: Where do you want me, your minister, to make present your paschal mystery? In which land, place, existential margins, do you want to bring salvation through our fraternal life offered in sacrifice "*pro multis*" (for many)? Where do you want to be crucified "for the second time" with the testimony of our life, with our daily *martyria* (Martyrdom)?

Certainly He will give us his strength like the apostle Peter, He will honour us, like Mary with his power of love, and He will give us a new heart and pure lips to bring His Word to every man. He alone can enable us to speak to today's men and women where they live, suffer and hope, walking with them, incarnating His Word so that every man and woman can open the doors of the heart to the Risen Christ!

I believe that the secret of this mission, to which we are called, is handed over to us by the Holy Founder in those words of him, so simple and brief: "Take care not to put barriers to the Holy Spirit"! So let us allow this wind to pass through us and drive us: the strong wind while fear or idleness block us; the mild and caressing wind while discouragement or the weight of responsibility for the salvation of the brothers entrusted to us assail us. Let's launch our sail by the breath of the Spirit!

It is the Spirit who made apostles of Christ, a small group of men, afraid and closed in their own personal interest in saving their lives, valiant to the point of martyrdom. "The same Spirit that guides the universal Church inspires simple men and women today for extraordinary missions" (Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Day 2022). This Spirit makes us ready and apostolic! The spirit puts in our hearts the same passion of Christ for the works of the Father. The spirit puts in our hearts the joyful readiness of Christ so that the days and nights are marked by the care of the brothers and by the prayer addressed to the Father, the fulfillment of every mission, of the Son and of those who conform to him!

Let us renew the firm will to follow Christ totally, let us become his living and effective presence, let us allow him to make us good news of salvation and hope by living in perfect charity at the service of God and of the Church.

May the Holy Spirit, the patronage of Mary, Queen of the Missions and our Celestial Patroness and the help of St. John Leonardi guide and support us.

Rome, 22 October 2022

Most devoted

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OMD Rector General