

LIVING FRATERNITY

Theme: « Lord, what do you want me to do? »

In June 2013, we continue our deepening of the meaning of the text « *Lord, what do you want me to do?* » presented at *Fraternité 2012*, by Fr. Pierre Brunet, ofm.

Therefore, we undertake to now consider the experience of an accessible God, close to every one of us.

Recall: At the monthly meeting, the fraternity should have in place at the disposal of the members a Bible, at least one copy of the General Constitutions, an example of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and at least one copy of Living with Christ. Also, members should have in hand their own copy of the Rule.

Prepare well and have a good meeting

JUNE 2013 MONTHLY MEETING

Opening Prayer and Song

(According to the Ritual or chosen by the fraternity)

Reading: (choose a person who can read calmly)

The Kingdom is already here, but hidden!

Jesus proposes an experience of God being accessible to us all, *close*. The Kingdom is *for us, in us, between us, among us*. It is a new look at life (as like a small child). It is not a place, an idea, a program, but an experience begun here on earth with its point of outcome, always perceptible, visible to the naked eye, but something to seize from inside of us.

The images of the Kingdom, invented by Jesus, refer to:

Something hidden that must be unveiled (*a treasure hidden in a field* [Mt 13, 44], *a fine pearl* found by a merchant [Mt 13,46])

Question: For us, what is the hidden treasure, the fine pearl?

Something that grows without our knowledge (*a mustard seed* [Mark 4, 30-31], *the yeast in the dough* [Luke 13,20], *seed scattered in a field that grows night and day* [Mark 4, 26])

Question: What does the mustard seed or the scattered seed mean for us?

Something that demands confidence until the end of time (*the net thrown into the lake* from which the fish are sorted [Mt 13,47]; the *good seed sowed* among the weeds [Mt 13,24]).

Question: What significance can we give to the sorting of the fish or to the good seed sowed among the weeds?

A responsibility given in the absence of the master (*a king who checks* on his servants' accounts [Mt 18,23]; an *employer who hires men to work in his vineyard* at all hours [Mt 20, 1]; *a man who leaves on a journey and puts his servants in charge of his property* [Mt 25,14]).

Question: Are we these workers of the last hour or the persons who entrust others with responsibilities?

An invitation addressed to all (*a king and his invited guests* [Mt 22, 1])

Question: Our meetings, are they open to all persons interested in joining us?

An experience to prepare (*the young girls and their lamps* [Mt 25, 1])

Question: Our meetings, are they well prepared so that they privilege sharing? If not, why?

Recollection

After reading the text on the images of the Kingdom by Jesus and the attached questions, share your answers to the chosen questions. (About 20 minutes)

Continue reading the following text.

The Kingdom is also synonymous with Good News and Gospel: the opening to this experience of God and to the love of others. The Gospel is found hidden in the heart of the people *as with a ferment*. There is the paper and pen gospel and the gospel that calls to be unveiled in life.

Kingdom and Gospel call to a hidden dimension, buried, in a growing sense of responsibility, in confidence, of vigilance and of access to all.

Our Kingdom: a land to tread upon every day.

The tiredness of not having yet arrived, to always begin again, to not know what God expects, **does not hinder from searching and journeying**. Jesus seizes this way for himself as an area visited by the Spirit: he felt that God loved him. This is what gets him to leave on his mission.

Just as for us. We do not start on one idea, one project, on the certainty of a talent or a dream ... but because of someone whom we have discovered loves us.

Our Franciscan missionary charter

What releases it is the certainty that God is good (and the unique good to share). This certainty puts us on the way for the sign. *Confess that the Lord is good and exalt him by your actions; for this is why he has sent you into the whole world, so that, by words and by actions, you will be witnesses to his way and that you make known to all that there is no one almightier than him.* (Letter to the Order, 5-9)

Recollection

Let us take a moment to tell one another which word or phrase in the preceding text speaks the most to us, and if we have some time, explain the reason for the choice.

In the footsteps of Francis

(Excerpt from the Letter to the Order, verses 5-9, Excerpt from des Écrits, Claire et François, Éditions du Cerf, Paris, 2003)

Listen, sons of the Lord and my brothers, and lend your ear to my words. Lean the ear of your heart and obey the voice of the Son of God. Keep his commandments with all your heart and carry out his advice in a perfect spirit. Confess that he is good and exalt him by your actions for that is why he has sent you into the whole world, so that, by word and in action, you will give witness to his voice and that you will make known that there is no one almightier than him.

Deepening of points taken from the Rule and the General Constitutions

OFS Rule, Article 10

United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.

General Constitutions, Articles 10 and 12.2

Article 10.

« Christ, poor and crucified », victor over death and risen, the greatest manifestation of the love of God for humanity, is the "book" in which the brothers and sisters, in imitation of Francis, learn the purpose and the way of living, loving, and suffering. They discover in Him the value of contradictions for the sake of justice and the meaning of the difficulties and the crosses of daily life. With Him they can accept the will of the Father even under the most difficult circumstances and live the Franciscan spirit of peace, rejecting every doctrine contrary to human dignity.

Article 12.2

With Jesus, obedient even to death, they should seek to know and do the will of the Father. They should give thanks to God for the gift of freedom and for the revelation of the law of love. In order to carry out the will of the Father, they should accept the help which is offered to them through the mediation of the Church by those who are constituted as authority in her and by their confreres. They should take on the risk of courageous choices in their life in society with decisiveness and serenity.

Life - Objective:

During the month of June 2013, we invite you to read again the texts on the images of the Kingdom and to read the complete text from the Gospel excerpts...

Events and Information from the Church and the Order

National, Regional and Local Fraternity activities recall.

End of the meeting (a prayer to the Sacred Heart chosen by the fraternity)

At home

In order to continue our reflection, let us go and look in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the articles 541-550, 732, 1042, 1151, 1403, 1427, 1503, 1716, 1720, 2159, 2612, and 2816 which give many references to the Kingdom.

Other references: Article 10 of our Rule - in the documents from Vatican II in »*Lumen Gentium*, chapter IV, article 41, 5th par. and article 42, 2nd par.