

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

GO OUT... GO DEEP... GO TOGETHER...

*Diving deep into the missionary nature of our
Church
with papal Encyclical*

“REDEMPTORIS MISSIO”



DAY 2

Redemptoris Missio

Chapter 5

Missionary activity is nothing other and nothing less than the manifestation or epiphany of God's plan and its fulfillment in the world and in history; in this history God, by means of missions, clearly accomplishes the history of salvation.

**WHAT PATHS DOES THE CHURCH
FOLLOW IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS
GOAL?**

The first form of witness is *the very life of the missionary, of the Christian family, and of the ecclesial community*

The evangelical witness which the world finds most appealing is that of *concern for people, and of charity toward the poor, the weak and those who suffer.*

The Church is called to bear witness to Christ by *taking courageous and prophetic stands in the face of the corruption of political or economic power.*

Proclamation (main message)

**IN JESUS CHRIST SALVATION IS
OFFERED TO ALL PEOPLE, AS A
GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY.**

Faith is born of preaching, and every ecclesial community draws its origin and life from the personal response of each believer to that preaching.

St. Paul: *“We had courage in our God to declare to you the Gospel of God in the face of great opposition” 1 Th 2: 2;*

“Pray...also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak” Eph 6:18-20.

The proclamation of the Word of God has **Christian conversion** as its aim: a complete and sincere adherence to Christ and his Gospel through faith. Conversion is a gift of God, a work of the Blessed Trinity.

A dynamic and lifelong process which demands a continual turning away from "life according to the flesh" to "life according to the Spirit“

Conversion leads to the “**new life in Christ**”
- Baptism

CONVERSION



BAPTISM



INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY



JOURNEYING TOGETHER AS A CHURCH

Charity: Source and Criterion of Mission

In fidelity to the spirit of the Beatitudes, the Church is called to be on the side of those who are poor and oppressed in any way.

It is in fact these "works of charity" that reveal the soul of all missionary activity: love, which has been and remains the driving force of mission.

CHAPTER VI
*LEADERS AND WORKERS IN THE MISSIONARY
APOSTOLATE*

Without witnesses there can be no witness, just as without missionaries there can be no missionary activity.

In this essential bond between the universal Church and the particular churches the authentic and full missionary nature of the Church finds practical expression: "In a world where the lessening of distance makes the world increasingly smaller, the Church's communities ought to be connected with each other, exchange vital energies and resources, and commit themselves as a group to the one and common mission of proclaiming and living the Gospel..."

***Those Primarily Responsible for
Missionary Activity: Pope, bishops
(successors of the Apostles)***

It is also stated that the bishops
“have been consecrated not only
for a particular diocese but for
the salvation of the entire
world.”

Missionaries and Religious Institutes

Although the task of spreading the faith, to the best of one's ability, falls to each disciple of Christ, the Lord always calls from the number of his disciples those whom he wishes, so that they may be with him and that he may send them to preach to the nations (“special vocation”)

Diocesan Priests for the Universal Mission

They should have at heart, in their prayers and particularly at the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the concern of the whole Church for all of humanity.

Consecrated life

Making a total gift of self to God and in complete readiness to serve humanity and society after the example of Christ.

ALL THE LAITY ARE MISSIONARIES BY BAPTISM

Missionary activity, which is carried out in a wide variety of ways, is the task of all the Christian faithful. It is clear that from the very origins of Christianity, the laity - as individuals, families, and entire communities - shared in spreading the faith.

The need for all the faithful to share in this responsibility is not merely a matter of making the apostolate more effective, it is a right and duty based on their baptismal dignity.

CHAPTER VII - COOPERATION IN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

Since they are members of the Church by virtue of their Baptism, all Christians share responsibility for missionary activity.

Missionary cooperation is rooted and lived, above all, in personal union with Christ.

Among the forms of sharing, first place goes to spiritual cooperation through prayer, sacrifice and the witness of Christian life,

Prayer to strengthened and make fruitful



Sacrifice of missionaries



Shared and accompanied by the sacrifices of all the faithful

"It is more blessed to give than to receive"

The material and financial needs of the missions are many: not only to set up the Church with minimal structures (chapels, schools for catechists and seminarians, housing), but also to support works of charity, education and human promotion - a vast field of action especially in poor countries.

Generosity in giving must always be enlightened and inspired by faith: then we will truly be more blessed in giving than in receiving.

Cooperating in missionary activity means **not just giving but also receiving.**

The Council states: "By virtue of...catholicity, the individual parts bring their own gifts to the other parts and to the whole Church, in such a way that the whole and individual parts grow greater through the mutual communication of all and their united efforts toward fullness in unity."

God Is Preparing a New Springtime for the Gospel

Christian hope sustains us in committing ourselves fully to the new evangelization and to the worldwide mission, and leads us to pray as Jesus taught us: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10).

CHAPTER VIII - MISSIONARY SPIRITUALITY

This spirituality is expressed first of all by a life of complete docility to the Spirit. It commits us to being molded from within by the Spirit, so that we may become ever more like Christ. It is not possible to bear witness to Christ without reflecting his image, which is made alive in us by grace and the power of the Spirit.

Courage and Light of the Spirit

An essential characteristic of missionary spirituality is intimate communion with Christ.

Those who have the missionary spirit feel Christ's burning love for souls, and love the Church as Christ did.

The call to mission derives, of its nature, from the **call to holiness**. A missionary is really such only if he commits himself to the way of holiness: "Holiness must be called a fundamental presupposition and an irreplaceable condition for everyone in fulfilling the mission of salvation in the Church."

LIKE THE APOSTLES AFTER CHRIST'S ASCENSION, THE CHURCH MUST GATHER IN THE UPPER ROOM "TOGETHER WITH MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS" (ACTS 1:14), IN ORDER TO PRAY FOR THE SPIRIT AND TO GAIN STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO CARRY OUT THE MISSIONARY MANDATE. WE TOO, LIKE THE APOSTLES, NEED TO BE TRANSFORMED AND GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT.

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“REDEMPTORIS MISSIO”

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

GUEST SPEAKER:

MICHAEL HALL

DIRECTOR OF MISSION AND PASTORAL SERVICES