



SPEAKING FROM THE HEART



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The life and message of Jesus have been, from the beginning, a source of inspiration for so many people who hear God's gentle voice as he speaks to the heart, who hear words of eternal life that inspire confidence and are a source of strength and of freedom to speak and act in his name. The gentle voice heard in the heart is proclaimed as Good News when the hearer welcomes her neighbor, faces difficulties and the demands and consequences of a mission with creativity and courage.

The lives of Sister Teresa Mira, Father Palau and the blessed martyr Julio Alameda Camarero tell us an eloquent story of what it means to say "yes" to life, to learn to trust fully in God and to look to the future without losing peace.

Each of them lived their faith hand in hand with Mary, Mother and Teacher of all virtues. Their longings for holiness were fulfilled in the figure of Mary: "Wherever my teacher is, I will be ready to follow her wherever she goes." (LET. 31:2) These words of Fr. Palau are an invitation to enter the pages that follow with the eye and the ear attentive to the gentle voice heard by the heart.

HOLINESS, A UTOPIA FOR MANY, A REALITY IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Holiness is a utopia insofar as it is a perfection always desired. We can say that it is a gift that we cannot achieve by ourselves.

Etymologically utopia means 'that which is nowhere' and 'an ideal place'. This means that holiness is not exclusive to a state of life (consecrated life, priesthood or laity) but to a style, an ideal of life in which every Christian and I dare say, even a non-Christian, can achieve holiness, because the universal call to holiness is the fruit of grace and the Holy Spirit.

Holiness, according to some theologians, is nothing more than living the theological virtues to the full, and in the words of Blessed Francis Palau: "The perfection of man consists in union with the principle from which he comes. Man proceeds from God through creation, returns to Him and is united with Him through charity and the exercise of all the virtues" (Catechism of the Virtues, Lesson 6,7).

Utopia is essentially linked

to faith, hope and charity, because the theological virtues are precisely a factor that moves and impels the person to seek the ultimate goal as an ideal of life.

For Pope Francis, holiness in today's world consists in seeing it in the patient People of God: "in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness". (Gaudete et exultate, 7).

Therefore, we can say that the holiness of the third millennium is nothing more than to do good each and every day, hence each and every person can be holy in the historical context in which it is their lot to live.

Holiness is not exclusive of a state of life

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