



Clelian
MISSIONARY
YEAR
To Love is Our Mission!



GFASC –Missionary Year – Reflection 12 ***To love is our Mission***

INFLAMED WITH LOVE FOR THE SACRED HEART



Madre Clelia felt within her the pressing need not only to love the Heart of Christ, but also to ensure that others love Him. Her zeal to reciprocate such great love consumed her and gave her no rest. She had ever before her Jesus' request: "Make everyone know that I hunger, I thirst, and I die from my desire to be accepted by my creatures." These words were etched firmly in her soul and gave her no possibility of escape. Jesus pleaded with her, wanted her to know His desire to be loved by His brothers and sisters. He wanted them to turn to Him in the Eucharist, to be with Him even for just a moment before the Blessed Sacrament. He asked permission to inundate souls with His gifts, but without violating their freedom, the most precious of gifts. It was to affirm His will that Mother Clelia became an Apostle of Love, His ambassador, His herald among His people. She carried out His mission offering her whole self, without reserve, so that others could know and love that Love with whom she was intensely in love. (*Diary Introduction*, p. 65).

To glorify the Lord became her primary goal, even when it cost her dearly in terms of sacrifice. (*Diary Introduction*, p. 36-37)

Imagine a woman, motivated by extraordinary love and dedication, who gave her entire life and all that she had for a work dedicated to the Sacred Heart. In this passionate venture, she sought to involve other women who desired to love God and to love and serve Him in their neighbor. (*Diary Introduction*, p. 14-15)

MOTHER CLELIA INVITES US TO HAVE ZEAL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

“I most warmly recommend that you have a bit of zeal for the glory of God, because it is impossible to love God and yet make no effort to promote His glory, just as it is impossible for a daughter to be indifferent about upholding her father’s honor, or not to feel sad because of injustices that come his way, or not to rejoice when honors are bestowed on him.” (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 165)

“Wherever the fire of divine love is, it cannot remain hidden nor idle, but at once it manifests itself as the living flame of a holy zeal. Let us, too, learn to work to bring about, above all else, the spiritual good of the people around us.” (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 167)

Don’t you know, daughters, that everyone, according to the graces he has received, is obliged to work for the glory of the Lord and the spiritual good of his neighbor? Do you think that one, marked as a Christian, can be indifferent toward our divine Savior; how much less indifferent should we be who are consecrated to God and whose hearts should be as inflamed with zeal as the locomotive of a train which pulls all the cars attached to it by the energy its heat produces? Is our zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls like this? (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 169-170)

If you really love Jesus, you must work for His glory. When divine love takes possession of a heart, it awakens in it a great desire to see its God known, loved, and served. (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 170)

Let’s try to use every means the Lord gives us to make Him known, loved, and served; let us be glad to seize instantly every opportunity to win souls for Him, even the loss of our possessions, our rest, our very life. In fact, we should rejoice if through such means we are able to succeed in winning over one more heart on earth to love the Lord. The more good we see that has to be done, the more we must do and never say “enough.” (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 180-181)

Avoid speaking about yourself or about that which can win you the esteem and praise of others. Act in such a way that your zeal for doing good sanctifies your conversation by consoling your neighbor in his sadness, encouraging him in his doubts, strengthening him in his weakness, lifting him up in his depression, giving him good advice, urging

him to turn to God and to virtue. If the people with whom you converse are disagreeable to you, know how to hide behind a gracious countenance the interior repugnance they arouse in you. Don't allow sadness, annoyance, or austerity to be evident in your words and actions because charity obliges us to sympathize with them and to give them good example, that they might amend those defects that render them disagreeable. (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 178-179)

I think that I lack zeal, but that which I can't do by means of zealous activity, I am totally disposed to do by means of prayer and sacrifice in union with the infinite merits of the most precious Blood of Jesus and with my daily prayer to obtain great zeal for the Glory of God. (*Diary*, p. 164)

POPE FRANCIS

All baptized people are called to witness to the Gospel of Christ in the various spheres of life, not like celebrities on tour, but strengthened only by the word of Jesus. Indeed it is Baptism that makes us missionaries. A baptized person who does not feel the need to proclaim the Gospel, to proclaim Jesus, is not a good Christian. (cf. Angelus July 15, 2018)

The baptized have "the duty of witness" because "without witness one cannot proclaim" the Gospel of Christ. We might feel "inadequate," "but must not be discouraged," because as Jesus Himself says in the Gospel, "I am with you always, to the close of the age." (cf. *Regina Caeli*, May 24, 2020)

THE GFASC FAMILY

The Great Family of the Sacred Heart, made up of lay persons who desire to live this spirituality, are guided by Mother Clelia, who gave the Sacred Heart of Jesus first place in her life. In today's world, the prophetic witness of an evangelical life is urgent. We must be very generous in

dedicating our time and best efforts to the work of the Church and the proclamation of the Kingdom.

Mother Clelia incarnated the love of the Heart of Jesus and handed on her charism by founding the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She left her daughters the task of bringing her charism to all as a message of salvation. Today we entrust this charism, a gift of the Holy Spirit, to GFASC as well and to all those who wish to live it and become apostles like the first Apostles, apostles of Love, and apostles of Reparation.

CONSIDER

- How are you doing? How do you carry out your mission to proclaim Jesus? What means do you use to make Him better known and loved?
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PRAYER

Leave me, O Jesus, Your Love: it is all that I want. Everything else for me is nothing. Even the very immortality of my soul would be nothing if I were deprived of Your Love. I would prefer to be annihilated from this moment on rather than lose the hope of being loved by You. I want to love You with all the intensity of my heart, loving nothing else but You, and loving all other things in You and for You. (*Mother Clelia*)

