



Clelian
**MISSIONARY
YEAR**
To Love Is Our Mission!



GFASC – Missionary Year – Reflection 5

Let the Spirit Lead You (To love is my mission)

To love everything I do is to be a missionary. I offer all to Jesus and I work in his name. I remain before Him in adoration and prayer, and I will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit and have the sentiments of Jesus. Then my actions will be marked by goodness and mercy and we will be called “Blessed.”

Word of God – Matthew 5: 1-12

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Word of the Church (*John Paul II*)

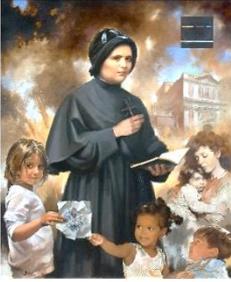
It is not possible to bear witness to Christ without reflecting his image, which is made alive in us by grace and the power of the Spirit. This docility then commits us to receive the gifts of fortitude and discernment, which are essential elements of missionary spirituality....Now, as then, we must pray that God will grant us boldness in preaching the Gospel; we must ponder the mysterious ways of the Spirit and allow ourselves to be led by him into all the truth (cf. Jn 16:13). (*Redemptoris Missio*, 87)

...You must be like the first Christians and radiate enthusiasm and courage, in generous devotion to God and neighbor. In a word, you must set yourselves on the path of holiness. Only thus can you be a sign of God in the world and re-live in your own countries the missionary epic of the early Church....Unless the missionary is a contemplative he cannot proclaim Christ in a credible way. He is a witness to the experience of God, and must be able to say with the apostles: "that which we have looked upon concerning the word of life, we proclaim also to you" (1 Jn 1:1-3).

The missionary is a person of the Beatitudes. Before sending out the Twelve to evangelize, Jesus, in his "missionary discourse" (cf. Mt 10), teaches them the paths of mission: poverty, meekness, acceptance of suffering and persecution, the desire for justice and peace, charity - in other words, the Beatitudes, lived out in the apostolic life (cf. Mt 5:1-12). By living the Beatitudes, the missionary experiences and shows concretely that the kingdom of God has already come, and that he has accepted it. The characteristic of every authentic missionary life is the inner joy that comes from faith. In a world tormented and oppressed by so many problems, a world tempted to pessimism, the one who proclaims

the "Good News" must be a person who has found true hope in Christ. (*Redemptoris Missio*, 91)

Blessed Clelia Merloni



Mother Clelia often used soliloquy in her meditation, advising herself as if she were speaking to another person, perhaps as a means of hearing herself speak of what she has lived in profound solitude. She dialogued with Jesus in prayer and always maintained deep union with Him, even in moments of desert-like aridity. If her heart and senses were unable to feel the presence of the Lord, her mind enlightened by faith told her that He was always present. How many times she had to sacrifice her own human reasoning to leave room for faith. (*Diary*, Presentation, p. 10)

“As soon as I woke up I looked lovingly at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and implored Him to keep me close to Him and bless me before the enemies of my soul come to torture me. I entreated the Holy Spirit to give me understanding of the wise maxims in the Gospel so that my poor soul might live the life of the saints and my spirit might understand the honor, glory, and spirit of God, hidden in tribulations and humiliations, so that my heart might desire and love them as the source of greatest glory.” (*Diary*, p. 76)

“Beg the Holy Spirit; entreat Him to fill your poor heart with His divine grace. Jesus wants you to lower yourself and become small, because He grants His graces to the humble.” (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 44-45)

“If you invoke the Holy Spirit, who is divine wisdom, He will come into you and fill you with His light” (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 43).

“Try a little to distance yourselves from worldly distractions, and to spend a few half hours in recollection and prayer before Jesus in

the Blessed Sacrament. You will see how enlightened your mind will be, how much your soul will be refreshed and comforted!" *(Spiritual Anthology, p. 38)*

Sharing

If you desire life and life in abundance, if you desire it more and more, if you want to make constant progress in order to be continually purified, if you want to grow, step by step, then pray and pray still: pray without ceasing!

- *Is prayer important to you? How do you pray?*
 - *Do you allow yourself to be led by the Holy Spirit? Do you listen to his voice? Or do you let your own will and self-interest guide you?*
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Pledge

Find a time in your day to dedicate to personal prayer. Entrust your life to God, asking the Holy Spirit for divine wisdom, and your entire day will be illuminated.

Let us pray with Mother Clelia

O divine Holy Spirit, enlighten me, inflame me, and work in me such a transformation that I may say of You what St. Paul said of Jesus Christ: I live, but it is no longer I who live, it is the Holy Spirit who lives in me.

Live, divine Spirit, live in my heart, reign in me fully in time and in eternity. So be it. *(Diary, p. 74)*

"Near to you is the Holy Spirit, the true Comforter of souls." (MC)

