



Clelian
MISSIONARY
YEAR
To Love Is Our Mission!



GFASC – Missionary Year – Reflection 8

TIME IS WORTH HEAVEN (Clelia Merloni) **(To love is my mission)**



“But why do you waste so much time foolishly? Don’t you know, daughter, that time is worth as much as heaven, since heaven is the reward God Himself assigns to the good use of time? A single moment used well earned paradise for the good thief, despite the sins of his earlier life; when our life, too, attains such holiness as to make us worthy of paradise, a single moment well used might earn us a new level of glory and eternal happiness, that is, a new heaven within heaven itself.” (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 72)

TIME IS WORTH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST (Clelia Merloni)

“Time is worth as much as the Blood of Jesus Christ; this Blood is the price with which we have been redeemed at every moment of our life. If this Blood is thus called precious, time too must be called just as precious; for who could state the value of this Blood, one drop of which would have sufficed to redeem a thousand worlds?” (*Spiritual Anthology*, pp. 72-73)

Mother Clelia invites us to prayer, sacrifice, and reparation: “In your isolation, pray for the Supreme Pontiff, for the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy, for religious Congregations, for your daughters. Offer the merits of the most precious Blood to the Eternal Father for the conversion of sinners, for all troubled souls, for the eradication of heresy, for the souls in purgatory. Pray for your relatives, friends, enemies, benefactors, persecutors, etc. You have to pray, imploring grace for those whom divine justice is already poised to strike,

offering the merits of the Precious Blood to the Eternal Father. This you must do on your knees and with your arms outstretched.”
(Diary of Mother Clelia Merloni, p. 137)

POPE FRANCIS

“Don’t fool yourself thinking that you are masters of our time. You can be masters of the moment that we are living, but time belongs to God and He gives us hope for living it. . . .May the Lord give us the grace to walk in wisdom. This, too, is a gift: the wisdom that in the moment brings us to pray and to discern, and in time, which is God’s messenger, makes us live in hope.” *(November 25, 2013)*

“Our life is made of time and time is God’s gift, and it is therefore important to make use of it by performing good and fruitful actions. . . . Among the many things to do in our daily *routine*, one of the priorities should be reminding ourselves of our Creator who allows us to live, who loves us, who accompanies us on our journey.”
(Meeting of Pope Francis with German Altar Servers in pilgrimage in Rome, August 5, 2014)

“May Jesus, our Passover, grant strength and hope to doctors and nurses, who everywhere offer a witness of care and love for our neighbours, to the point of exhaustion and not infrequently at the expense of their own health. Our gratitude and affection go to them, to all who work diligently to guarantee the essential services necessary for civil society, and to the law enforcement and military personnel who in many countries have helped ease people’s difficulties and sufferings.” *(Urbi et Orbi, April 12, 2020)*

WORD OF GOD

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace. (*Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8*)

SHARING

Mother Clelia helps us to live each day using our time well. In her Diary she says:

“Jesus does not want me to murmur nor allow myself to be overcome by irritation against those who do wrong; on the contrary, I must sympathize with their blindness, pray for their conversion, and employ all the diligence of my zeal to bring them back to God, whose sons and daughters they are as well as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Jesus wants me and those who live with me to sympathize with the needs of the poor, assisting them with our alms and even depriving ourselves of our own possessions in order to relieve them. He wants me to sympathize and make others sympathize with the pains of all the afflicted and console them with good and gentle words, rejoicing to be able to raise up the dejected soul of a brother and spread a little balm on his pain.” (p. 187)

Pledge:

- *Try not to waste time with things that do not last in eternal life; rather, create your heaven now.*
- *Each day examine how you used your time, with what spirit you carried out your responsibilities. Did you find time for prayer? Were your words edifying or did you waste time with useless chatter?*

Prayer

Lord, I offer you the sadness and suffering coming from concern or fear for tomorrow. I want to live today well, to live in your presence and walk in your joy and love. Increase my trust in you. You are the Lord of my story and of my life. Lord, Father All Good, take my life

and that of all people, with our pain, our fears, our needs, and with YOUR powerful help give us the grace to live with faith, hope, and peace in this world tried by much sickness. Amen.

A STORY ABOUT TIME

Once there was a poor man who would stand on a street corner begging for some change. He was known by many storekeepers and passersby of the area as a meek person who did not bother anyone: he was very discreet and displayed his hat with a brief message about his situation. A very distinguished gentleman would stop by regularly to speak with him. At first, no one noticed, but after a while these visits started to attract attention.

Someone noted that this gentleman, always well dressed, never left even a penny with the poor man. So all kinds of criticism started circulating about the “stinginess” of this man. However, the poor man always seemed very happy to see him. One day, after the gentleman left, one of the nearby storekeepers asked the poor man, “How much money have you collected today?” “Very little; in fact, almost nothing.” Just then, a woman came by who left a few cents. At that the storekeeper added, with a touch of sarcasm, “Surely, however, if that gentleman so distinguished would give you just a fraction of what he has, you wouldn’t need to stand here all day.” “Oh, no, that’s not it,” responded the man. “Do you know who he is? He is the president of a large society. People stand in line for weeks to talk with him. Every minute of his time is worth a ton of money.” “And so, even more reason why he should give more.” “Give more? Every day he gives me the most precious thing he has, something that you don’t get back: a little bit of his time to listen to me and make me feel important to someone. It is something he will never get back again because time does not return.”

