



Cavanis Lay Fraternity

Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE

Via Col Draga - Possagno (TV)

INVISIBLE MONASTERY 02nd June 2021

Preparing the contribution that we will use to renew the invisible bonds of communion that bind us, consider the texts of the Pentecost liturgy. In the account written by saint Luke and reported in the Acts 2: 1-11, the experience of Pentecost is described through biblical allusions that recall the event of Sinai (in particular the descriptive elements that characterized the theophany of Sinai, such as the rumble that is from heaven, the impetuous wind, the fire) and the community of disciples gathered "all together in the same place" (2,1) remembers the people of Israel encamped in front of the mountain (cf. Ex 19,2). Hence it derives the first aspect of the gift that the community of believers receives at Pentecost:

"the sending of the Spirit - notes J. Dupont - replaces the promulgation of the law; the covenant that was founded on the Mosaic Law is replaced by a new covenant, based on the presence and action of the Spirit in the hearts. Such covenant is no longer linked to obedience to the commandments imposed from the outside, but to an intimate transformation brought about by the Spirit that inspires, in those who have received it, a filial attitude towards God".

But this intimate communion between God and man that is realized through the Spirit of the Risen One also generates relationships: it creates a community which is the Church. The gift of the Spirit is a gift that arouses unity and communion among men. And Luke underlines the universal character of the koinonia inaugurated by the Spirit. The claim of Babel is overturned (Gen 11: 1-9): what man cannot achieve in the logic of an autonomous conquest, that is the unity of languages, is accomplished as a gift from God, through the Spirit that opens to the understanding of other in the diversity of languages.

I like to place our experience of FLC (*Cavanis Lay Fraternity*) in this spirit and perceive it as a gift of the Spirit to contribute, despite the poverty of what we are, to the great commitment to building the Church through the specificity of the charism aroused by God in the venerable brothers Fr. Anthony and Fr. Mark Cavanis. It is nice to recognize oneself as a gift of God for the other and it is important - above all - to recognize this responsibility and not disregard it. We live this time in

prayer: for the Church, for the Congregation of the Schools of Charity, for our Lay Cavanis Fraternity.

May the Lord bless us and accompany us.

From the holy Gospel according to Saint John (John 15, 26-27; 16, 12-15)

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you”.

"Tradition is to keep the fire not to conserve the ashes" (G. Mahler)

(Fr. Diego Spadotto, C.S.Ch., in www.cavanis.org, 20.05.2021)

Fr. Anthony and Fr. Mark Cavanis, at the beginning of the 1800, the first in Italy, received the "fire" of the Spirit "which freed them from the ashes of a decadent and retrograde mentality that considered the poor and the youth as "social burdens" and not as the protagonists of their life and society. In the video message for the National Week of Institutes of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis thus encouraged and directed consecrated persons to rediscover the "fire of the Spirit" and to free themselves from the ashes of mistrust and fear, to take courageous initiatives according to their own charism:

- Do not get lost behind tendencies or fears, the founding charism must be kept "on journey and expansion".
- Do not get lost in "formalisms" and "ideologies". Continuously spread the restlessness of comprehending the richness of consecrated life and make it bear fruit. Not just in theory but in practice.
- In dialogue with reality, so as not to become sterile. When this dimension is lost, the consecrated life becomes sterile.
- Keep alive the foundational charism on journey, growing and in dialogue with what the Spirit is saying in history, in time, in places, in different eras and in different situations. The foundational charism cannot be kept alive without apostolic courage, discernment and prayer, in dialogue with the Holy Spirit and not in monologues with oneself.
- “Don't be afraid of limits, borders and peripheries! Right there the Spirit will speak. Every consecrated person puts himself "within the reach of the Holy Spirit".

In the "*Pastoral Guidelines for the Celebration of World Youth Day in the local Churches*" we can find the portrait of an adult Congregation that "walks with the young", because it has guarded the "fire of the Spirit" and has become capable of welcoming and listening to them with patience, proclaiming the Word of God to them with "affection and energy". ***The Day has been moved from Palm Sunday to the solemnity of Christ the King.*** The key words of the entire document are essentially two: Journey and Protagonism, which have become fundamental pillars of Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation "Christus vivit". The Youth Day must be planned and lived as "a feast of faith, a Church experience, a missionary experience, an opportunity for vocational discernment and a call to holiness, a pilgrimage experience and, finally, an experience of universal brotherhood. Investing in young people means investing in the future of the Church, promoting vocations, initiating in an effective way the early preparation of the families of tomorrow. It is a vital task for every local Church, not simply an activity that is added to the others".

