



*Cavanis Lay Fraternity
Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE
Via Col Draga - Possagno (TV)*

INVISIBLE MONASTERY 02nd December 2021

There are dates, in the life of each one of us, that mark a significant transition, a decisive event, determinant; remembering them does not mean making a ritualistic and formal effort, but drawing strength, from the wealth of memory, to continue with renewed enthusiasm on our path. The Congregation of the Schools of Charity will celebrate, next year, a great Jubilee for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Father Anthony Angel Cavanis and it will live this time as an extraordinary and unprecedented occasion of grace. If we look at such event from a perspective of faith, we cannot fail to see how God has providentially predisposed things to respond to the cry of “many poor children”. That child, born in Venice on January 16, 1772, would have been, with his brother Mark Anthony, the instrument that God had to use to help the poverty and the need of so many young people. The same God who had heard the lamentation of his people in Egypt and had come down to free them, arousing Moses as a guide, he also heard the cry of the Venetian youth at the end of the 18th century and had bent down to help them inspiring the work of the two Cavanis brothers. Therefore, looking at their initiative, it makes us certain that even today God will be able to hear the cries of pain that rise from our poverty and He will be able to give us an answer. Fr. Anthony also invites us to be docile instruments in the hands of the Providence because we too could be called to act in order to give the answer that God has predisposed to give to so many brothers who are in need.

As FLC we unite ourselves in the joy of the Congregation and assure our prayers, because the Jubilee Celebration could allow us to renew our commitment in our journey of faith and strengthen our Cavanis identity. This time of preparation, which precedes the opening of the Jubilee year, coincides with the liturgical season of Advent which concurs to create interiorly that availability to expectation and watchfulness which are the necessary conditions for drawing those graces that the Lord waits to give us.

Mary, Mother and Queen of the Schools of Charity, pray for us!

A reading from the book of Apocalypse of Saint John Apostle (3, 14-22)

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation: “I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Asteroid B612, of Fr. Diego Spadotto, in www.cavanis.org, 15th October 2021

In the novella “*The Little Prince*”, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, tells to have met a child who came from a very small planet, barely bigger than a house, **the asteroid B612**. This little boy, who looks at the cosmos

from a far and lost asteroid, does not ask questions that interest people who consider themselves wise, but he has a precious little secret to reveal to those who are interested in **relationships and communication**.

Here is his secret: **“you can only see well with the heart. What is essential is invisible to the eye”**. Communication and relationships are not synonymous but they are like two sisters, they always move together. The complex world of relationships and communication with themselves, with others, with nature and with God, can be understood and tackled better with the gaze of the heart.

This is also Jesus’ way of communication and relationships. The crowds are a constant presence in Jesus’ ministry. He prefers short relationships and face to face dialogue. He has a heart for everyone's suffering. He sees with his heart the lilies of the field and the birds of the air that neither sow nor reap. He has words of comfort and denunciation against all abuses of authority and falsities.

Do not live complaining because lamentation and regret are not good building materials. They rest on the dangerous ground of mistrust and renunciation.

In communication and relationships, authority is gained in the field, with attitudes and behaviors of responsibility, trust, clarity and firmness, if necessary. Our history and the daily life of relationships and communication is made up of broken and re-tied lines, we find difficult passages that cost us effort and tears to persevere and continue to be weavers of fraternity and truth.

Today, fascinated by social media and networks, we can easily forget the evangelical values in communication and relationships. Communication and relationships are often reduced to the quantitative, immanent, horizontal or superiority dimension, they are not of freedom, equality and security, they are not healthy, beneficial and therapeutic.

If our communicative language does not arise from experience, it does not even produce it, and in the end it is sterile. The actions in which we engage in must be the consequence of the thought that has determined them, knowing that there will always be an enemy on the clock ready to sow discord that everything you do not put to good use today is destined to become ashes tomorrow. Suspicion, indifference, sophism, falsehood, unfortunately, are part of relationships and communication.

(...)

In the world of **“liquid modernity”**, relationships with others and communication are a source of uncertainty and anxiety. There is a huge need, today, for authentic and peaceful relationships between the sexes because the relationships between men and women have been loaded with anxiety, with fear of being dominated and manipulated, with accusations and rejections and more and more frequently with verbal and physical violence. We have forgotten the lesson of the Little Prince: **“you can only see well with the heart. What is essential is invisible to the eye”**.

