

The unfolding of the Program

Welcome. Greetings.

1. Announcement of the theme :

A call for everyone

This theme will permit us to deepen our status as child of God, the privilege of our baptism and approach the Scriptures and the New Testament, in particular that which concerns God made man through love.

2. A call to the experience of the subject on the theme announced:

What is a call?

Refer to what is known: a telephone call, a call through a sign, a call like an invitation, or an internal compulsion to do this or that, an inspiration...

- Ask the candidates to identify in their life a call received or heard. How did each one of you respond to this call?
- What feelings and struggles did you face in response to that call?

The call that is in question here is an invitation to holiness as a way open to all people "of good will."

Holiness: how do we define it?

In your life, did you ever say: this person is a saint? On what did you base such an affirmation?

- Is a saint a perfect person?
- Is each one of us called to holiness?
- What is the role of baptism in this journey to holiness?

3. What do our witnesses say?

New Testament:

“For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. For since we have become one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was.” Rom 6:3-5.

Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II

“The life of the Spirit whose fruit is sanctification arouses in all the baptized the desire and the exigency of following and imitating Christ. They welcome his beatitudes, listening and mediating the Word of God... They participate in a conscious and active manner in the liturgical and Sacramental life of the church in devoting oneself to individual, familial, and communitarian prayer; open to the hunger and thirst for justice; they practice the commandment of love in the service of their brothers and sisters especially the humble, the poor and the suffering.”

(Vocation and Mission of the Laity: Called to Holiness)

Francis of Assisi:

“Accordingly, while he was sleeping one night, someone addressed him a second time in a vision and questioned him solicitously as to where he intended to go. He said he was going to Apulia to fight. He was asked earnestly who could do better for him: the servant or the Lord? And Francis replied: “The Lord.” He was asked: “Why then are you seeking the servant instead of the Lord?” Francis said: “Lord, what you want me to do?” and the Lord said to him: “Go back to the place of your birth for through me your vision will have a spiritual fulfillment.” He went back without delay, for he had already become a model of obedience and by giving up his own will, he became a Paul in place of a Saul. He is thrown to the ground: heavy blows beget words of love.

(Thomas de Celano, Second Life, Chapter 2, p.366. St. Francis of Assisi. Omnibus of Sources.)

Mary of the Passion :

“Everything, yes, everything in my life has happened for my sanctification.” “At Nazareth, everything is authentic, everything is positive... There is nothing and yet there is everything. What is this everything? It is the soul’s simple gaze on the will of God and an immense love in the heart.”

(DE MALEYSSIE Marie-Thérèse. A short life of Mary of the Passion. p.64.)

And after a retreat, the daily life of Mary of the Passion was metamorphosed. Boredom and indifference were at an end. Life had now the flavor of love. Her mother was overjoyed: “I cannot tell you how happy I am! Helen has become everything I wanted her to be, and she does not plan to enter a convent.”

But one day a voice challenged her: “What do you owe Me for having made you so completely mine?” And Religious Life was set before me. “Only the total gift of myself to You can repay You for Your total self giving to me,” I replied. “And just as God’s infinite beauty had imposed itself upon my love, so now Religious Life imposed itself upon my consciousness, and even upon my desires as being the only kind of life possible for me.” (Reference same as above. p.22)

4. Reactions of the candidates to these testimonies.

- ❑ What do these different passages tell you about the call to holiness?
- ❑ Does any one of these passages mean more to you than others? Do you need any further explanations?

5. Practical applications in every day life :

I thank God for the privilege of baptism. I will be more attentive to the different calls that are addressed to me.

- I will try to live in an extraordinary manner even the most ordinary things of my daily life with greater love.
- I will pray for all my brothers and sisters of my human family that they may be attentive to the call of God which is concretely revealed through the poor, the forsaken, the sick and so on.

- **Holiness**, am I interested? What action, gesture do I concretely undertake to follow that call?

Take time now to verbalize or write your practical application regarding the reflections we have made on the call to holiness, a way open to all.

6. Prayer or an appropriate hymn:

“I thank you, Lord,
for the grace of baptism
that has made me a child of God and of the Church.
In the past, I had been deaf to some of your calls
due to lack of love and generosity.
From now on I will be more attentive
for the glory of God and the salvation of all my brothers
and sisters.
May Francis and Mary of the Passion come to my aid! ”

Or spontaneous prayer

Hymn :

Galilee Song

Everything I possess - Frank Andersen M.S.C.

A Call that is addressed to all



Holiness...

Basic Formation

Leaflet : 1