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 **APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT**

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# PROGRAMMATIC LINESPASTORAL YEAR 2016-2017

**THE JOY OF LOVE: THE PATH OF FAMILIES
WELCOMING, ACCOMPANYING, DISCERNING, INTEGRATING**

*"We give up the ‘enclosures’ that “shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune, and instead to enter into the reality of other people’s lives and to know the power of tenderness" (AL, 308). "This impels us to develop a family ministry designed to welcome, accompany, discern and integrate. A ministry that allows and makes possible the appropriate framework so that the life entrusted to us may find the support it needs in order to develop* (From Address of the Holy Father Francis at the opening of the Ecclesial Convention of the Diocese of Rome, Basilica of St. John Lateran , Thursday, June 16, 2016).

The heart of the Holy Father has only one desire: that each child of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, is a real *instrument of Christ* for the salvation of his brothers. He will be an *"instrument"*, by letting himself be completely transformed into Christ, so that Christ is the one to act in him, with him and for him. St. Paul affirms this truth with a phrase loaded with strong Christ density: *"I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Gal 2,19-20).*

Entering the biblical meaning of the Holy Father's words, it becomes easy to find the truth of his desire. Having grasped the truth, it must be realized with readiness of obedience to the Holy Spirit, who alone bestows ministries and charismas, pointing to each specific routes along which one will have to walk to accomplish the Father's will. Pope Francis says what to do today. The Holy Spirit says who will have to do one thing and who another and in what way they must be done. Obedience of the Christian is always to the Church and to the Spirit. It is to the Spirit who speaks through the Church, but also to the Spirit who speaks to him through the bestowal of gifts, charismas, ministries and the manifestation of his current will: *"An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and said: Stand up and go 'towards the south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza; which is desert"* (Acts 8:26).

**Giving up fences**

A fence is the Upper Room before the descent of the Holy Spirit: *"On the evening of that day, the first of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews"* (John 20:19 were closed). When the doors are wide open, is fear overcome and is the fence torn down? The time when the Holy Spirit descends a Christian not animated by the Spirit of the Lord will always be a creator of theological, moral, ascetical and pastoral fences. Without the Spirit of God in him, the flesh and its works will win and reign in him: *"Fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like that"*. Who wants the fruits of the Spirit, must be filled with Him, to walk in his motion: *"Love, joy, peace, magnanimity, benevolence, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control"* (See. Gal 5.18 to 26 ). Who wants to give up his many fences will have to grow like Jesus in wisdom and grace. Without a strong spiritual life, we will be trapped and closed in fences as in a coffin.

**Accepting to make contact**

You do not make contact with the world in front of us for motions of charity, mercy and great spiritual transport. Acceptance is most pure obedience to the Lord's command. Jesus' words are clear: "*All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*" (Mt 28.18 to 20). For us of the Apostolic Movement, obedience is a word uttered by the Virgin Mary: *"The world has forgotten the Word of my Son Jesus. Do you want to remind it?"* Only in this dynamic of obedience you come into contact with the world. To us obedience to the Mother of God must never be reduced to get in touch with the world sporadically. It is our own life, which is the light of the world and salt of the earth. To general obedience, particular and personal obedience, given each by the Holy Spirit must always accompanied. To the Apostolic Movement obedience is threefold: to the Church, the Mother of Jesus and the Spirit. If only one of them is missing, obedience is missing.

**Knowing the strength of tenderness**

The tenderness of the Lord is his mercy. We can put it into light through two of the Father’s behaviours towards both the son who had returned and the other that did not want to get into the festival hall: "*While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found. The older son became angry and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him: My son, but now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found*"» (Lk 15,20-24.28-32). The Father knows how to wait with love for the lost son, go and meet preceding him in the same love, give him back all the dignity of a son and make great merry. He knows how to go out and meet the other son that does not know tenderness, in order to convince him to accept his brother. Tenderness is also the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is closely linked to the gift of piety, which is the delivery to God of the personal life so that the Lord, in Christ, through the work of his Spirit, can carry out for us the works of his mercy and faithfulness to love.

**Life entrusted to us**

Life is a gift of God entrusted to our care. How must it be respected? How do you make it human? How must it be lived as true Christians? The first respect is given from the observance of the Commandments. Never might there be respect and never its custody where the commandments of the Lord are not observed. Each commandment disobeyed is a mortal wound. It must also be aided and, supported. It is made human with the observance of the commandment of love: *"You shall love your neighbour as yourself."* In a simple way that is how it is translated: *"The Lord has given you a lot of life, give a lot of life to your brothers. He gave you little life, give a little life. Life becomes human by sharing it with others."* Without sharing our life is inhuman. It is lived as true Christians with the perfect observance of the Sermon on the Mount. Everything is from the obedience to a commandment that comes from God, which must always be lived in listening to the Church and to the Holy Spirit. Nothing in the Christian is from his heart. Everything is from the heart of the Church and God, to give realization to the Word of Christ Jesus.

**Welcoming**
It all starts with the welcome of the Word of the Lord. St. Paul thanks God because those in Thessalonica had done just that, *"We give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe"* *(1Thess 2:13)*. Without the acceptance of the Word of Jesus Christ, as our true Word, and without the welcome for us of the Word of the Virgin Mary, every other welcome is deprived of salvation. Every true fruit for the Christian ripens only on the tree of obedience to God. In disobedience, the disciple of Jesus himself is a death operator. The other must be welcome from the Word and we abiding in the Word. Christ welcomed us from the Word of the Father. We welcome from the Word of Christ. Obedience to the Word is our only code of welcome.

**Accompanying**To accompany from the Word to the Word, it is necessary that the accompanying person himself is accompanied. Being helped by the Holy Spirit, the disciple of Jesus will always guide according to the will of God. On the contrary, never might the Christian lead according to truth and justice if he is freed from the Spirit. He will walk as he pleases, at times and not according to real life laws. Whoever wants to understand this divine principle, it is sufficient that he compares the accompaniment of Jesus in the understanding of the mystery of God, of his love, mercy, compassion, truth, justice, fidelity, Law and Statutes; and the one worked by scribes, Pharisees, chief priests and elders of the people. Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit, taken by the hand, moved, guided, supported and enlightened by him. All others start from their hearts.

**Discerning**

Christian Discernment is twofold. The first takes place between the interpretation of the Word according to God, in the Holy Spirit and the interpretation according to the man, in which the Spirit of God does not reign and does not dwell. The second is in what the Lord, through his Spirit of truth, personally asks every man so that he carries it out. Without these two discernments, which must be permanent and without interruption, the entire path of the Christian is lived out of the canons of truth and justice according to God. This is the discernment that St. Paul gives as the first moral rule: "*I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another*" (Rm12.1-5). Everything in the disciple of Jesus must be from the actual will of God for his life, the same way that all in Christ was from the actual will of the Father.

**Integrating**Integration for the disciples of Jesus is, first of all, working as one and only body of Christ to form the body of Christ, making it grow in an ever greater holiness and enhancing it with new children for our God and Father. The Christian is a real saviour in Christ. He saves preaching the Gospel and forming the Church as the true body of Christ. That is how St. Paul reveals the perfect truth of Christian integration: "*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues* ​​(1Cor 12,4-11.27-30). "There is *one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ* (Eph 4,4-7.11-13). It is the body of Christ that forms the body of Christ, that goes into the world, that proclaims the Gospel and witnesses it in front of every man. Everything must be done as the body of Christ. According to methods and evangelical ways, integration is working to bring every man into the body of Christ, so that he lives as the body of Christ, until reaching perfection.

**The Mother of the Redemption, the Woman with the tenderness of God**

The Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Redemption, is the Woman of the tenderness and mercy of God. At the wedding in Cana She asked each to perform his specific work. She experienced the ministry of science. She sees what's missing and who has to take action to give an effective solution. Her knowledge of the Holy Spirit says to her that only Christ can do the miracle. She goes to her Son with the Mother's authority. She knows that Jesus needs the help of the servants and tells them to get in total obedience. Work of the body as a body for the coordinating science of the Virgin Mary. This mode is required to the Apostolic Movement: working as a body, letting each be served by the charisma and the gift of the Spirit of the other. Loneliness is poverty and misery. In it, the work will always be ineffective.

**Theme of catechesis**

This year, catechesis, except where otherwise stated by the bishops of the respective dioceses that must always be greeted with immediate obedience of faith, will take care of the family. The theme is the one indicated by the Holy Father to the Diocese of Rome: **"The joy of love: the way of families. Welcoming, accompanying, discerning and integrating."** The theme must be read in the light of the day of the Lord of the Gospel. always a current flows from the Gospel present divine light capable of illuminating every member of the family, pointing to each one the right way to go.

**A look into the past**

The look to the past for us is real soul-searching. We read the whole book of our lives in order to see in it the evil from which the Lord has delivered us and to raise him a hymn of thanksgiving and praise. But also the good that we did not do, so that we ask the Holy Spirit for more strength, more light and obedience to his every motion. It is also seeing delays in our sanctification, which is necessary to the Spirit of the Lord, so that he can work with us according to immediacy of inspiration.

* **So far eight Ecclesial Conventions of the Apostolic Movement have been celebrated**. They were signed by: H.E. Card. Angelo Scola, then Patriarch of Venice (Catanzaro, 2006); H.E. Card. Carlo Caffara, archbishop of Bologna (Catanzaro, 2007), HE Card. Mauro Piacenza, then Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy (Catanzaro, 2008); H.E. Giuseppe Marciante, auxiliary bishop of Rome (Rome, 2009); H.E. Msgr. Mario Toso, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Rome, 2010); Msgr. Miguel Delgado Galindo, Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity (Catanzaro, 2012); H.E. Msgr. Filippo Santoro Archbishop of Taranto and President of the CEI Commission for Social Problems and Work, Justice and Peace (Rome, 2015), H.E. Mons. Nunzio Galantino, Secretary General of the CEI (Rome, 2016). Each edition has benefited from the intervention of the pro-tempore Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace, respectively H.E. Msgr. Antonio Ciliberti and H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone. Over the years the Archbishops of the region Calabria H.E. Msgr. Vittorio Mondello, H.E. Msgr. Santo Marciano and H.E. Msgr. Salvatore Nunnari have also taken part. A particular memory takes us back to the times when the Holy Father, at the end of the General Audiences, hailed "the participants of the Convention of the Apostolic Movement": thus H.H. Francis on 27/05/2015 and 20/04/2016, and earlier H.H. Benedict XVI, 24.11.2010 *("I extend a cordial welcome to the Italian-speaking pilgrims. In particular, I greet the participants at the convention promoted by the Apostolic Movement and urge them to continue on the path of personal holiness, the starting point of all evangelization").*
* To the national conventions, **three more conventions of the Apostolic Movement were added for the area of ​​northern Italy and Switzerland**: in Corsico (MI) in 2010, with the intervention of H.E. Msgr. Mario Delpini, Auxiliary Bishop of Milan; in Schaffhausen (Switzerland) in 2011, with the sheech of Mons. Josef Rosenast, Vicar General of the Diocese of Sankt Gallen; in Triuggio (MB) in 2012, on the occasion of the VII World Meeting of Families.
* Moreover the **Meeting** for the 35th anniversary of the Apostolic Movement must be remembered, held on 30.12.2014, at the Palasport of Jovinus in Catanzaro, on the theme *"To spread the gospel of joy."* The appointment, wanted by the President, saw the presence of Archbishop Mons. V. Bertolone, the emeritus Archbishops Mons. A. Cantisani and Mons. V. Rimedio, civilian institutions, delegations from all over Italy and a large number of festive and joyful public.
* The **Secular Institute "Mary Mother of the Redemption"**, over the years, has greatly increased the number of consecrated. At the beginning of each pastoral year, in the parish Mary Mother of the Church in Catanzaro, the archbishop H.E. Msgr. Bertolone presiding over the Eucharistic celebration welcomes the votes of new consecrated, those who renew their vows during the first five years of the profession and of those who reach the perpetual profession. Today, consecrated are 56. Every first Thursday of the month they offer to all the faithful an animated Eucharistic adoration in the parish of Mary Mother of the Church in Catanzaro.
* **We have enriched our website**: www.movimentoapostolico.it. In the social media landscape, the Movement has its own Facebook and Twitter profiles in Italian, English and French, and is present in Italian in Google and Instagram. In particular, the writings of the Inspirer and the feature "The Gospel of the Day", a theological commentary on the Gospel passage of the Sunday Mass, are routinely consulted on the web. Furthermore, the periodical "Apostolic Movement", a cultural and religious formation subsidy now available in online format, is now in its 33th year of uninterrupted publication.
* At the invitation of the Catanzaro-Squillace Archbishop, the Apostolic Movement and the Centre of Studies Verbum have edited **two cycles of meetings of Family and society, in keeping with the Synod events of 2014 and 2015**. The 2014 program was entitled "Family today: What it is. What its purpose is. How it works". In four subsequent meetings, the speakers Mons. Costantino Di Bruno, fr. Gesualdo De Luca, fr. Francesco Brancaccio and fr. Nicholas Rotundo have conversed respectively with prof. Egidio Chiarella, Professor Maria Primo, Professor Anna Guzzi and Dr. Benedetto Caroleo. The second round of meetings, articulated in the pastoral year 2014-2015 with the title "Family and modernity", was opened by prof. Pasquale Giustiniani and continued with the evenings conducted by Father Gesualdo De Luca, Mons. Costantino Di Bruno, Father Edward Palma, Father Flavio Placida, Father John Scarpino and Father Nicholas Rotundo. Both programs took place in the House of Culture of Catanzaro, thanks to the collaboration of the Province of Catanzaro.
* The Apostolic Movement, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Catanzaro-Squillace, the Verbum Study Center and the International Catholic agency Zenith, offered **a project on "Food, Eucharist and solidarity", in reference to the theme of the Expo in Milan**, divided into four sessions: *"Food and the fellowship among men." Cultivating, preserving, transforming the earth* (Alberghiero High School of Soverato - CZ); *"Food, health, ethics". For a right use of the fruits of the earth”* (City Council Room of Sellia Marina - CZ); *"The bread of life." Food, Eucharist and Solidarity"* ("Mary Mother of the Church Parish"- Catanzaro). The series of meetings ended with the meeting on the theme: *"Food: A path of humanity from production to distribution,"* at the Biodiversity Park of Catanzaro, chaired by the Archbishop. Among the speakers: the Catanzaro-Squillace Archbishop Mons. Vincenzo Bertolone, the central assistant of the Apostolic Movement Mons. Costantino Di Bruno, the Zenith.org director Antonio Gaspari, prof. Pasquale Giustiniani of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Naples, the president of Coldiretti Calabria Peter Molinaro, the director of the Regional Scholastic Department Diego Bouchè, the president of Journalists in Calabria, Giuseppe Soluri.

- Upon indication of the Catanzaro-Squillace Archbishop, on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy, the Apostolic Movement and the Verbum Study Centre organized a series of reflections on the theme **"For a culture of mercy - Dialogues between church and society in the Jubilee itinerary "**, structured in 4 events hosted in 2016 in the "Petri Room" of the Catanzaro bishopric:

1. "Mercy and Communication", in collaboration with the Order of Journalists Calabria. Interventions: Father Giovanni Scarpino, director of the Diocesan Office for Social Communications; Father Gesualdo De Luca, Regional Assistant A.M.; Dr. Giuseppe Soluri, president of the Order of Journalists. Conclusion: H.E. Msgr. V. Bertolone.

2. "The medical profession, ministry of mercy." Speakers: Dr. Rossana Talarico, president of Catholic Medical Association of Catanzaro, and Father Alessandro Carioti, ecclesiastical assistant Catholic Medical Association of Catanzaro.

3. "Knowledge at the service of mercy". Speakers: Prof. Giovanbattista De Sarro, director Dip. Health Sciences, University of Catanzaro Magna Grecia; Prof. Francesco Transfer, professor of General Pathology, Magna Grecia University of Catanzaro; Priest Father Domenico Concolino, chaplain Magna Grecia University of Catanzaro.

4. "What place for mercy in the globalized economy?". Speakers: Dr. Paul Abraham, president of Chamber of Commerce of Catanzaro, Lawyer. Nunzio Raimondi, president Institute of Criminological Sciences of Rome; Priest Father Nicholas Rotundo, professor Faculty of Theology of 'Southern Italy.

* In the spirit of the **Jubilee of Mercy**, continued commitment of the Apostolic Movement in the **service of charity**, which is seen especially in the ordinariness of the mission often hidden carried out in parishes and in everyday life environments: several members bring remembrance of the Gospel by engaging in dining halls for the needy, visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, helping to school disadvantaged children and in sponsorships. Some signs of this service are the support of the Movement to the diocesan family house Befotaka in Madagascar and the charitable initiatives of the diocese of Khammam (India). In this year the Apostolic Movement has also participated with its own contribution to the "Oasis of Mercy" built by the Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace. Then, a help was sent to the Diocese of Ibarra (Ecuador), hit by the violent earthquake of 16 April.
* On the occasion of the **Jubilee of Mercy**, April 20, 2016, the Apostolic Movement has experienced an intense pilgrimage at St. Peter's in Rome, taking part in the general audience of the Holy Father Francis. 1800 were the members involved, who then in the afternoon, in the Conciliation Auditorium took, part in the work of the eighth Convention of the Apostolic Movement, dedicated to the jubilee theme "Mercy: the divine seed that transforms history". The Catanzaro-Squillace Archbishop H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone took part, while the speech was delivered by the Secretary General of the CEI H.E. Mons. Nunzio Galantino.
* A **Jubilee pilgrimage** is scheduled for September 10, 2016 in Calabria, at the Shrine of St. Francis of Paola.
* Among **the publications edited by theologians who live the spirituality of the Apostolic Movement**, the following titles were added in 2015-2016: Dominic Concolino, *God and the incapable numbers. On the relationship between mathematics and ecclesial life.* Ed. Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli 2015; Flavio Placida *Communicating Jesus. Themes of contemporary Catechesis.* Ed. Urban University Press, Rome 2015; Giuseppe Carrabetta, *Augustine of Hippo: the Church mystery and presence of the whole Christ*. Ed. Cittadella, Assisi 2015; Nicholas Rotundo, Towards *a new economic policy for humans. The moral position B.J.F. Lonergan.* Cantagalli, Siena, 2015; Francis Cristofaro, Galileo Galilei. *Acquitted in the Supreme Court*. Herkules Books, Policoro 2015; Nicola De Luca, *Light in the fragment. The joy of the Gospel on the net*, Tau Editrice, Todi 2015; Emmanuele Rotundo, *Christology and soteriology in Peter Lombard's sentences*. *A study conducted in the light of the discussion on incarnation and redemption in the twelfth century*. Cittadella, Assisi 2015; Francesco Brancaccio, *At the edge of the universe, at the center of creation. Man and nature in the dialogue between science and Christian faith*. Ed. San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo 2016; Emmanuele Rotundo, Christological Humanism. *Reflection from a theological reading of the Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri.* Ed. Arachne, Ariccia 2016; Salvatore Bilotta, *Wisdom and Theology. Thomas Aquinas and J. H. Newman compared*. Cittadella, Assisi 2016; Giuseppe Carrabetta, *The Priest. The mercy of Christ among men*. Cantagalli, Siena, 2016; Francesco Cristofaro, *A thought for Maria. Marian prayers*. Tau Editrice, Todi 2016; Don Massimo Amelio, *The loan in the Christian tradition: a controversial issue*. Cantagalli, Siena 2016. The book of Father Giovanni Scarpino is recommended, *''Go, save, convert". The Apostolic Movement. Origins, history, mission*. Ed. Ares, Milan 2015: the work, the result of scientific work carried out by the author for the doctoral thesis in pastoral theology and communication at the Pont. Lateran University, has the preface by His Eminence Card. Stanislaw Dziwisz, the presentation of H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone and the testimony of Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno.
* Two publications provided the cue of important **diocesan events in the theological field**; they were willed and chaired by the Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace: the presentation of the book by Father Nicholas Rotundo, *Towards a new economic policy for man?*, on the occasion of the Convention on "New frontiers of economic ethics. What perspectives?" (08.10.2015); the presentation of the book by Father Giuseppe Comi, *The Family: paper truth or truth of life* (23.02.2016).
* The fervent work of youth pastoral and of support to the evangelization attended by the Apostolic Movement thanks to the **original musicals** of Cettina Marraffa, continues. Having freely staged the musicals "And let there be light...", "Under your shadow a song" (note in particular the mounting in the official program of the WYD in Madrid) and "Meditating the Passion" (staged also in Lourdes for the Italian national pilgrimage of 2010); the year 2014 saw the debut of the great work **Esther - the musical**, with the participation of over 150 young people, at the Politeama theater in Catanzaro on 4 and 5 October. May 27, 2015 the musical was repeated once again with great success, at the Conciliation Auditorium in Rome, in the program of the VII Congress of the Apostolic Movement.
* The systematic program of **youth training** continues. In 2014-2015, to facilitate the reception of the letter *Evangelii Gaudium*, some young people of the Apostolic Movement have taken care of 10 original reflections on the document, accompanied by videos, poems and testimonies. Each meeting has given the cue to an assistant priest to conclude with a brief discussion. In 2015-2016, a systematic program of **"Meetings of young people"**, has been organized in preparation for the GiM2016 meeting (Youth in Movement), about mercy, scheduled on August 3 in Sila. These meetings were times of prayer, joy, songs, but mostly of reflection on the Word of God.
* The two **Meetings of young people** organized in 2015 and 2016 have proved very successful and fruitful events. The first was held on August 1, 2015 at Palumbo Sila (KR). The second took place on August 3, 2016, when nearly a thousand participants gathered at the amphitheater of the Sila National Park in Monaco Location Taverna (CZ), in keeping with the theme of World Youth Day dedicated to "Blessed are the merciful".

The Apostolic Movement has participated in international events cured by the Holy See Organisms. From May 30 to June 3, 2012 it took part in the 7th World Meeting of Families, held in Milan. On this occasion an Apostolic Movement’s information stand was set up at the **International Fair of the family**, from May 29 to June 2, 2012. Several members of the Apostolic Movement have been inserted in the short and long-term volunteering. All members of the Apostolic Movement of Milan and a large representation from the Central Seat and several other dioceses have participated in the meetings with the Holy Father.

In addition, with a large representative, the Apostolic Movement has taken part in international meetings with the Holy Father on the occasion of the **Year of Faith**: the **movements’ day** (18 to 19 May 2013) and the **day of catechists** (28 to 29 September 2013). October 26, 2013 several representatives of the Apostolic Movement attended the **meeting of the Holy Father with Families** in St. Peter's Square.

From 20 to 22 November 2014, President Cettina Marraffa and the central secretary Annamaria Mazza, at the invitation of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, attended in Rome the **III World Congress of ecclesial movements and new communities**, dedicated to the theme "The joy of the Gospel: a missionary joy... " and culminated in the audience granted by His Holiness Francis. The stimulus coming from the Holy Father were the outline for the organization of the meeting of the Apostolic Movement on December 30, 2014.

* **In preparation for the Ecclesial Convention of Florence in 2015**, accepting the invitation of the CEI, three "experiences" on the approach to Christian humanism, respectively connected to the activity of catechesis, the educational meetings of the Centre of Studies Verbum on the dialogue among scientific disciplines and the youth pastoral, have been sent to the Organising Committee. Later, reflection continued with the contribution of assistant priests and laity. A dossier of deepening and testimonies was produced, as a contribution of the Apostolic Movement, made available on the website.
* **Vocations** which enrich the Church keep on maturing in the Apostolic Movement: in 2012 three new priests were ordained, one in 2013, three in 2014 and two in 2015.
* The mission of the Apostolic Movement goes on both in Italy and **abroad** and the visits of several bishops from the mission areas continue. On 09/06/2014 and 06/08/2015 returned and presided over Mass with the Apostolic Movement H.E. Paul Maipan, bishop of Khammam (India). The same did H.E. Msgr. Servilien Nzakamwita (Byumba - Rwanda), on 01/19/2015, and H.E. Rev. Mons. Daniel Mizonzo, (Nkay – Congo) on 09/02/2015, receiving all a warm welcome from the adhering members.
* In the several locations, the adherents of the Apostolic Movement have been striving to live in a co-responsible way **the mission of their respective dioceses and parishes**, participating in appointments and diocesan organisms and providing the availability, according to the charisma of each, in all operating sectors: evangelization, catechism and catechesis, liturgy and sacraments, pastoral councils, Caritas, volunteer and missionary works, youth, family, culture and sick pastorals.
* Moreover, **the service of catechesis and spiritual formation** cured by the Apostolic Movement in all locations, in reference to the local pastoral plans and opened every year in various dioceses by their respective Bishops continuing, by now has been going on in an uninterrupted way for 37 years.

**On the way to the future**

The future has to be sanctified. It is sanctified seriously putting hands to the work of the personal spiritual growth. This year we will use the rule experienced by St. Paul and applied to his life with unbroken faithfulness: "*We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonour, insult and praise. We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things*" (2 Cor 6.3 to 10). If this path is not traveled day after day, let no one hope of being useful to God or the Church. In the non-holiness the body of Christ is killed, never will it be vivified.

**Appreciations**
Thanking you all, that this year have worked to raise the body of Christ in holiness, the Holy Spirit is blessed for his every motion of grace and truth.

Thanks to You, Inspirer - Founder of the Apostolic Movement, Lord Mrs. Maria Marino. You are a precious instrument of the Holy Spirit. For you His light illuminates and keeps in truth and grace of the Lord Jesus.

Thanks to you, Mrs. Concetta Venerina Marraffa. Your presence, even if it is quiet and discreet, is a powerful force that pulls and drives on the path of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to you, President, Mr. Cesare Rotundo. Your ministry is great. For you many hearts must beat as one heart, but letting everyone follow the rhythm of the heartbeat of Jesus.

Thanks to you, Central Secretary, Diocesan and Parish Secretaries, Diocesan and Parish Responsible members, Adherent and Candidate. You are the branch of Christ, in Christ, with Christ, through Christ in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, through the body of the Apostolic Movement. Vying to show respect for each other, everyone will be as an example to others for an excellent fruiting.

Thanks to you, Ecclesiastic Assistant through your discernment the souls entrusted to you will always be in the divine will. May your knowledge of the things of God increase from day to day.

Thanks to You, Priest who in the Parish take care of this little flock. Your sacrifice and all your efforts lavished for this work will be rewarded abundantly by the Lord with every grace and blessing.

Thanks to you, Deacon, who care about the work of God and serve it with love, showing him how great the love of Jesus the Lord is. May the Mother of God, the Servant of the Lord, from heaven protect you with all her help.

Thanks to you, Consecrated Secular of the Institute *"Mary, Mother of the Redemption"*. May your love for the Virgin Mary be for all a source from which to draw an ever new love for the transformation of the world.

Thanks to you, Reverend Bishops, in whose Dioceses the Apostolic Movement lives and operates. May your great kindness in accepting this gift of the Holy Spirit be transformed for you into a plentiful harvest of all spiritual fruit.

Thanks to the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, Pope Emeritus. May his proximity to the Apostolic Movement be blessed forever by the Lord, making him always feel the presence of the Virgin Mary and Her maternal heart.

Thanks to Pope Francis, Pastor of the whole Church. His service to faith and charity is great. It must be accompanied with our daily prayer to the Holy Spirit, so that He always helps him and supports him in his ministry.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, guide us from heaven so that we always remain in her heart and in the heart of her Son, in the service of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

May this pastoral year 2016 - 2017 be for all a time of real growth in faith, hope and charity. May love for one another and for all people be our daily work.

*Catanzaro, September 8, 2016.*

***The Central Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Apostolic Movement***

***Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno***