**Year XXXIV n. 15 July 16, 2017**

**Those who carve images**

Contemplating the heavens and the earth and what there is in them, man must come to the confession that their Creator is infinitely greater. His Word reveals the Lord much more than his works. This tells us that He is the only God, the only Lord, the only Creator not only yesterday, but also today. He wants something and it happens, he commands and everything obeys. He orders and things are done. He utters a word a billion years before and it is punctually done in visible and invisible things, near and far, in time and eternity, before time and after. All faith must be given to God's Word. Since it also prophesies the life and death of man, life and death attest that it is perfectly true and it is always fulfilled. It affirms that death is in the transgression of the Commandments and there will always be death for every violated commandment. It states that there is life in obedience and there will be life for every listening. He warns that if we do not walk in the Word, there will be eternal death for us and there will be eternal death for all those who do not believe in his Law.

Isaiah is the prophet that reveals God in the purest omnipotence of his Word: *“Truly with you God is hidden, the God of Israel, the saviour! Those are put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against him; Those go in disgrace who carve images. Was it not I, the Lord, besides whom there is no other God? There is no just and saving God but me. Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other! By myself I swear, uttering my just decree and my unalterable word: To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear”* (Cfr. Is 45,1-25).

Who are those who carve idols? Those who erase the Word of the Lord and deliver themselves to the word of man. Every word of man not in conformity with the Word of God is an idol. Who relies on idols will be confused and put to shame. Idol can be any one of our homilies, theologies, books, teachings and sciences. Where the word of God is replaced by the word of man, there is an idol factory, there. All of our schools, gymnasiums, meetings, assemblies, reunions, performances at all levels could become a forge of idols. They are also builders of idols all those who modify the Word of the Lord in a very small part. Today, the idol factory seems to have multiplied infinitely its workers. But what is most surprising is the non-resistance, non-opposition, no reaction, no contrast for the defence of God's truth. There is like a race to whoever today builds his idol, capable of attracting even those who yesterday kept far away. It is said that hell does not exist and everyone embraces this idolatry. There is a cry that calls everybody to pass to the adoration of a single God, and no one dares say a word against this falsehood. It is prophesied that before God there is equal dignity for every sexual tendency - thus justifying even paedophilia and every other crime against nature - and all remain like mute dogs unable to bark. The true God is denied his judgment on good and evil, true and false and all become worshipers of this lie of death.

Today there is not a single Word of the Gospel or Scripture that is preserved in its very pure truth and all lounge on falsehood. It is as if a deadly torpor had conquered minds and hearts. Christ is denied as the one and only universal Mediator of Salvation and Redemption between God and mankind and no one dares oppose this hellish idolatry. Since life is only in the Word of God, all those who build idols are enemies of mankind. Those who destroy Christ and his Word, not only do they destroy the Church in her sacramental mystery of salvation, but also themselves. What is the need of a pope, a bishop, a priest and a Christian without Christ? What is the use of an ecclesial structure if salvation takes place without the Church? What use are the theological universities themselves, if the Word of God is useless concerning the life of man?

It is sad to see the children of the Church that surrender to idolatry. But much sadder is noting that many institutions from her own children are transformed into idol factories because they are thought labs without the thought of God and his Word. Once the men of God had a sharp instinct. They smelled the odour of idols even in tiny changes of the Word. Today, this instinct has been lost. All of us can be worshipers of idols and all their manufacturers. If the whole Word of the Lord is not filled with the Holy Spirit it is idolatry disguised of truth. That the whole world becomes idolatrous, does not excuse us if we become it. Everyone has the obligation of remaining planted in the purest truth of the Word of Jesus the Lord. Between the word of idolatry of the man and the Word of truth of Christ Jesus, one must always choose the Word of Jesus. It is only his Word that orients towards the eternal encounter with God in the visibility in the eternal heavens.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, in you the Eternal Word was made flesh and through the flesh he manifested the pure face of the Father, ensure that we too, through our body, which is his body, Christ the Lord can manifest to the world the face of his Father. You will help us and we will become the manifestation and revelation of the God entirely hidden in Jesus the Lord.

***Father Costantino Di Bruno***

***"Accompanying parents in their children education"***

*Reflections from the Speech of H.H. Francis at the Pastoral Convention of the Diocese of Rome (19 June 2017)*

With the customary presence of the Holy Father the Ecclesial convention of the Diocese of Rome began; this year its theme was: *"Let's not leave them alone! Accompanying parents in the education of their teenage children."*

Pope Francis has pointed out as guidelines to be developed in ecclesial work some aspects that we will resume in a very synthetic way.

The first is linked to *the primacy of the Spirit* and therefore the docility to his action. The action of the Spirit is vitally necessary for the *wisdom* that allows to give the universal truth of the Gospel is of the Spirit; it is valid for all time, every person and every place, an actual historical updating: *"The Holy Ghost is the great initiator and generator of processes in our societies and situations. He is the great guide to transforming and saving dynamics. Do not be afraid to "walk" with him in your neighbourhoods and think about how to give impulse to accompanying parents and teenagers. That is, in a concrete way"* (*Speech*)*.*

The second idea aims at awakening in believer consciences the consciousness of the need for a "home" or *dwelling* in a culture that made of eradication the existential rule: *"An uprooted culture, an uprooted family is a family without history, without memory, precisely, without roots. And when there are no roots, any wind will end up dragging you. That is why one of the first things we must think of as parents, as families, as shepherds are the scenarios where to be rooted, where to create ties, to find roots, where to make grow that vital network that allows us to feel as "home""* (*Speech*). For the believer the dwellings, the houses to which to return to be planted, to put roots are infinite: the dwelling of the commandments, of the Word of Christ, of grace, of virtues and also the parish house, the ecclesial flock, as places where to acquire and implement this rooting program. All these dwellings are nothing more than manifestations of that abode of abodes that is the *house of the Father*, to which it is necessary to return to have life and dignity (cf. *Lk* 15: 11-32).

Another determining aspect is the indication of a necessary, comprehensive, integral and integrated education, which enables the young man the grow in the harmony that was of Christ in age, wisdom, and grace (cf. *Lk* 2:52): *"Many times we demand from our children too much training in some areas that we consider important for their future. [...] But we do not give as much importance to the fact that they may know their land and their roots. We deprive them of the knowledge of the geniuses and saints that have generated us. [...] I know that it can be repetitive but I feel it as something that the Holy Spirit presses in my heart: for our young people to have visions, to be "dreamers" and to be able to face with boldness and courage future times, it is necessary to listen to the prophetic dreams of their fathers* (cf. *Jl* 3.2)*"* (*Speech*).

Then the Holy Father insisted on the need not to fear the adolescent phase as a traumatic time in itself, but to be able to prepare to orient young people at this time of important choices by giving them veritable principles that help them to discern what deserves the use of their energies: *“Adolescence is not a disease we must fight. It's part of normal, natural growth of our boys' lives. Where there is life there is movement, where there is movement there are changes, research, uncertainties, there is hope, joy and even anxiety and desolation. Let us situate well our discernments within predictable life processes. There are margins that you need to know in order not to be alarmed, not even to be negligent, but to know how to accompany and help to grow. Not all is indifferent, but also not all has the same importance. Therefore, we must discern what battles are and what are not to be done."* (*Speech*). St. Paul gave the Philippians these indications so that they knew in which direction to direct their life: "*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things*" (*Phil* 4: 8). And the Apostle reminded the Romans again: "*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*" (*Rm* 12: 2 ).

To pursue this end, it is not possible to be irrespective of a mighty rooting in Christ, which alone will allow the young man the integration of the languages the Pontiff speaks of (thinking, feeling, doing): *"To this end, it is necessary to teach to think what you feel and do, to feel what you think and do, to do what you think and feel. That is, integrating the three languages​​"* (*Speech*). In the Acts Luke attests to Christ’s perfect integration: *"In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught"* (*Acts* 1: 1). And people have always recognized in the gospels the authority of Christ being the fruit of a new thought that becomes effective word and history (cf. *Mk* 1,27), and his compassion, it also transformed from mere "feeling" into an effective, resolving word of a history lacking in life (cf. *Mk* 8,2ss.).

*The means to be able to achieve these ends is indicated by the Pope in an education to austerity: "Educating to austerity is an incomparable richness. It awakens intelligence and creativity, generates possibilities for imagination and especially opens up to teamwork, in solidarity. It opens to others. There exists a kind of "spiritual greediness". That attitude of greedy people who, instead of eating, devour everything around them (stuff themselves by eating). I think it is good for us to educate us better, as a family, in this "greediness" and give room for austerity as a way to meet, throw bridges, open spaces, grow with others and for others. This can only be done by whoever can be austere; otherwise he is a simple "greedy person""* (*Speech*)*.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, you have indicated in the way of remembrance and rooting in the Gospel the only way to recover that filial dignity of which the Word made flesh has coated man by means of his sacrifice and to be able to live of true communion. Ensure that we listen to the voice of the Spirit and, through the intercession of the Angels and the Saints, we let ourselves be rooted in the vine that is Christ, the Head and ecclesial Body, and as authentic branches we also bear fruit of eternal life, remaining and growing in the Word of the Gospel and in the Dwelling of Grace.

*Father Giuseppe Deodato*

**THE SEED SOWN ON RICH SOIL**

**(XV SUNDAY O. T. YEAR A)**

**IT SHALL NOT RETURN TO ME VOID (Is 55: 10-11)**

Every word that the Lord gives to man is most pure grace of salvation. If man hears, gets converted and obeys, he enters into life contained or promised by it. However, if he does not listen to it, because he is deaf or indifferent, he remains in his death, but the Lord is no longer responsible of it. Today, not only is the Word modified, transformed, altered and changed in its original truth, it is also taught that it is irrelevant to redemption. Whether you listen or not listen, obey or not obey, eternal salvation is for everyone. This false faith and false doctrine on the Word is the summit of idolatry today. Having taken the truth away from the Word of God, having declared it no more unique and only foundation of the path of salvation, every word of man can take its place. Through the prophet the Lord speaks with complete honesty to his people: listen to the Word and you live. Do not listen and you die.

**CREATION WAS MADE SUBJECT TO FUTILITY (Rm 8,18-23)**

Because of his disobedience, man has evaded the will of his Lord. The consequences are a real disaster. Not only does he use himself, his body, his spirit and his soul for evil, he uses all of creation for evil and no longer for good. Creation rebels against this wicked, bad use of death the man subjugated it to and yearns to be creation only for good, for life and for salvation. It is tired of being distorted in its original purpose. From a creation for good to a creation for evil, from a work for life to a work for death. Today we can assert that there is a culture of devastating death. If the man does not return to his Lord, does not let himself be brought back by Christ Jesus into his truth of origin, there is no possibility that creation can return to being only at the service of life. The man who is in death will use it to give death.

**A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW (Mt 13: 1-23)**

The Word is sown, the kingdom is born. The Word is not sown, no Kingdom of God might ever emerge on our land. Since all are called to become the kingdom of God, the Word must be given to everyone. Everybody will have to listen to it. Seeders of the Word are the Apostles and, in hierarchical communion of obedience to their teaching and to their Word, all believers in Christ. To the seeder the obligation to sow all the Word to everyone, always. The fruit does not depend on his work. He gives the pure Word, in heavenly truth, just as it come out of the heart of Christ and the Holy Spirit, then the man will be the one to have to make it fructify. Jesus tells us that if the seed falls on the road, on stony ground or covered with thorns, it does not produce fruit. It fructifies only if it lands on the good ground. But even on good soil it does not produce the same fruit. It now produces thirty, now sixty and now one hundred folds more. Sowing the Word, the responsibility of every single person begins. But if the seeder does not sow, or sows the Word in an altered or imperfect way, responsibility is his before God.

**THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE LIKE THE SUN**

**(XVI SUNDAY O.T. YEAR A)**

**THOSE WHO ARE JUST MUST BE KIND (Wis 12: 13-16.19)**

Man was created to be on earth the visibility of his God, in the image of whom he was created. God is holy. Man must also be holy. God loves. Man also has to love. God forgives. Man must also forgive. God leaves room for repentance after sin. Man must also leave room for repentance. God offers reconciliation to men. Man must also offer his brothers reconciliation, forgiveness, and hospitality. God died on the cross to redeem man. Man must also die on the cross to redeem man. Who wants to know himself day by day he must *"study"* God. How does *"one study God "*? "*By studying*" Jesus Christ. If God gives himself for the salvation of man, man must also give himself for the salvation of his brothers. Man must never forget his truth. This is the mission of man: manifesting in his life how holy his Lord is.

**THE SPIRIT COMES TO THE AID OF OUR WEAKNESS (Rm 8: 26-27)**

Every man was created by the Lord to accomplish a particular, unique end in time and eternity. Whoever knows the end assigned is only the Lord. Man does not know it. He has to ask Him to manifest it to him. Not only that, but also that he can help him. If we are in the grace of God and deliver us entirely to the Holy Spirit, He will pray in us and will ask the Father for us that through us all his will is fulfilled. If we entrust ourselves to Him with a constant prayer and trust Him, it will be true peace for us in our hearts. Knowing that the Spirit of God wants only our greatest good, we accept everything as his true great gift of love. If we lack a vision of faith, we will always be in the turbulence of the heart. We will wish ends not our own that could bring confusion in our lives and would be very damaging to us and to others. Everything is from the Spirit and from our faith in Him.

**WHERE HAVE THE WEEDS COME FROM (Mt 13, 24-43)**

We know from the Scriptures that the Lord has sown in His creation only words of good, truth, justice and peace. The bad word has been sown in the world by the enemy of God and man, that is, by Satan. When a man lets the bad word be sown in his heart, he always becomes a seeder of bad words in the hearts of his brothers. Can you stop seeding the bad word? Never. Can the bad word be extirpated from the hearts? Not even this might happen. What can then be done? Those who believe in the Word of life must commit all their efforts to sow the good word of God in every heart, knowing that the enemy will soon be passing and will sow the word of death. Today the sowing of the word of death is occupying all the spaces and all channels of communication. You sow the weeds by making it be exchanged for good grain. What is most terrifying is the fact that those who once were seeders of the good word, little by little are turning into seeders of the bad word. It is as if Satan no longer had any adversaries in this world.

**Apostolic Movement: Final Report on the Service carried out**

**in the Catanzaro-Squillace** **Archdiocese** – Year XXXVIII-2016/17 (Part 2 of 4)

Theologians that are living the spirituality of the Apostolic Movement have published two new collective works and several monographs: Nicola Rotundo (edited by), *"Theologians in Concert. Written in honour of Monsignor Costantino di Bruno in his 70th genetics "*, Cittadella Editrice, Assisi 2017; Gesualdo De Luca (edited by), *The family witness of the joy of love. Reflections and comments on the Amoris Laetitia of pope Francis*, Editorial Project 2000, Cosenza 2017; Flavio Placida, *"Go and tell all the Gospel of God"*, Ed. IF Press, Rome 2017, Nicola Rotundo, *Between globalization and new economy: what place for solidarity?* Assay on Social Theology, Ed. Sant'Antonio, Padua 2017; Francesco Cristofaro, *My yes to the Lord. Testimonies of priestly life*, Ed. Tau, Todi 2017; Francesco Brancaccio, *"La lacité, a chrétienne notion"*, Éd. Du Cerf, Paris 2017.

Welcoming H.E. Msgr. Bertolone invitation, some theologians of the Apostolic Movement, in collaboration with other priests of the diocese of Catanzaro-Squillace, with the Diocesan Office for Culture and with the Diocesan Catechist Office, conducted a series of meetings on faith and society with the title: *"In dialogue with the world to bring the joy of the Gospel"*. The meetings concerned the various areas of the Diocese, touching the following themes: *The Family and Amoris Laetitia*; the encounter between religions as a resource for peace; Faith, humanism and techno-science; The reception of migrants in the present historical and cultural context; Euthanasia; Church and secularity; Church and world: announcing the joy of the Gospel.

In the "Musmi" Conferences Room at the Biodiversity Park in Catanzaro, Fr. Domenico Concolino, UMC Chaplain, along with other expert speakers and with the collaboration of the Apostolic Movement, organized a series of conferences that have had a great audience attendance, on the theme: "*You are the perfect love* - 5 dialogues on family and society in the light of "Amoris Laetitia" of Pope Francis. These are the topics covered during the year: "For a culture of hospitality. Adoptions, foster children, right of origin"; "International cooperation: subjects, project, tools"; "The truth of love and soul illnesses"; "Justice of God and justice among men"; "Disability prevention: practical guidance for families"; "Family and society: a necessary relationship"; "Family spirituality, reflection from Chap. IX of Amoris Laetizia". H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone, who has much encouraged the initiative, offered the conclusions.

With the collaboration of the Apostolic Movement, Fr. Domenico Concolino, also held four "Readings on the Christian origin of the beautiful" in the Rector house of Saint Mary de Figulis in Catanzaro, articulated this way: The Creator of beauty (Gen1-2); The fall of Nice and Good Truth (Gen 3); Noah and the birth of the new beauty (Gen. 6-9); Babel and Missed Beauty (Gen 10-11).

On March 26, 2017, at the central seat in Catanzaro, with the votes of the delegates from the Italian and foreign dioceses, the A. M. Central Council was renewed for the five year period 2017/2022. Cesare Maria Rotundo was confirmed as its president.

**THAT DAY...**

Prayer...

So much prayer...

And you go on...

With a seal on the forehead,

after your yes,

the Lord has marked you

and you went to proclaim his truth,

among much suffering and humiliation.

You loved him;

you love him.

You announce life in dead and risen Christ.

You remind the ever Virgin Mary,

the Blessed among all women.

You speak of the Guardian Angel.

Away... away...

We do not know you...

We do not want your God...

And so many... so many lies...

Then and always those voices

want to tire your spirit.

You know it and you pray...

You pray more...

"Pray not to fall into temptation...".

And you go on...

With more suffering, but also with more love...

Slowly,

through so much suffering,

your Lord has corrected you,

has purified you,

has tested you like gold in the crucible.

He afflicted you, but has not abandoned you.

You know it:

He is with you

to accomplish his work of salvation

for all men of good will.

You pray...

It is one after midnight...

Everything is still...

You hear a slight whisper as of a light wind...

He calls you...

It is he...

A cross...

A light...

One hand supports you...

The mystery envelops you...

***Maria Marino***