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**PROGRAMMATIC LINES**

**PASTORAL YEAR 2017-2018**

**"LET US NOT LEAVE THEM ALONE! ACCOMPANYING PARENTS IN EDUCATION OF ADOLESCENT CHILDREN "**

The Holy Father Francis, in his opening speech at the Ecclesial Convention of the Diocese of Rome (*Basilica of St. John Lateran, Monday, June 19, 2017*), has indicated some key words set by Him as the foundation of every accompanying that wants to be effective and with much fruit: "*In fact. Connected. In movement. Integrated education. Yes to adolescence, not to competition. Austerity*". Everyone is asked to read, meditate, understand in the Holy Spirit the talk of Pope Francis. In these *Programmatic Lines*, we will confine ourselves to only make explicit what is implicit, more evident what is just mentioned, so that everyone feels personally involved in this genuinely evangelical work of support and aid for a harmonious growth of new generations, from which the future of humanity is. Forming in Christ and for Christ is the highest work of charity.

**IN CONCRETE**

Let us enter the Gospel. Jesus is the concrete man. The Pharisee, the scribe, the Sadducee, the chief priests and the elders of the people are all not concrete. It is right then to ask: In a world of not reality, why is Jesus the man of concreteness? What is his secret? Jesus is the man of concreteness because he is full of the Holy Spirit and in Him and for Him he always grows in wisdom and grace. Jesus does not see men with the eyes of the flesh. He sees them with the eyes of the Holy Spirit. In the Spirit of God he sees his mission as well as the modes of its development.

In the Spirit he sees a sick man to be healed, a dead to resurrect, a blind to give sight to, a thirsty and hungry to be filled with the justice of the Father, a prisoner of falsehood to be led into the freedom of truth and eternal light. The Holy Spirit is the eye of Christ, the mind of Christ, the thought of Christ, the historical modes of every action of Christ. Before Jesus there is also a sinner to be forgiven, but also a sin to be expiated. In the Holy Spirit Jesus knows that only by offering his life every sin can be expiated and in his great charity he offers himself as a holocaust from the cross.

The other world had a law without the concreteness of either God or man. It had a Word emptied of its inner truth of salvation and it was applied with human criteria. When this happens, it is the sign that you are without the Spirit of the Lord. You live a disguised atheism camouflaged with piety. God is not in the heart, for the man to be saved is not in the heart. Without the Holy Spirit either you are for men without the Law or you are for the Law without men. It can also happen to the Christian, whoever he is, to be for men without the Gospel or for the Gospel without men.

**RELATED**

The root of every true and healthy connection is the Word of God. The Word is what connects us with the truth of the Church. The Church with the truth of Christ. Christ with the truth of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit with the truth of the Father, with the truth of the Virgin Mary, with the truth of the brothers of faith, with the truth of those who still do not believe in Christ. If the connection with the truth of the Word of God and of Christ Jesus leaps, the connection with the truth of the Church, of Christ, of the Spirit, of the Father, of the Mother of Jesus and with every other man leaps. Everything is from the truth of the Word.

The Word is what connects the truth of time and of eternity, of the present and of the future, of morality and sociality, of the institutions and of the modes of their service. If you introduce a single falsehood in the Word, all connections will end up being polluted. A single mistake in the truth can compromise the accompanying work for the new generations. Since today the Word has been declared out of the question, useless in relation to the connections, the fruits of this declaration will be bitter. In falsity there is no connection of life, because life is from the truth.

Whoever wants to be connected according to truth with every person or reality or thing or institution of this world, he must make every effort to be connected according to truth with the Word of God and Jesus. Christ the Lord was connected with the heart of every man because He was connected in the Holy Spirit with the heart of the Father and with his will. Then it is right for each of us to ask: how much am I connected with the Word of Jesus? Do I grow in it from truth to truth? Do I let myself daily be led in its most perfect understanding by the Holy Spirit? These are questions that ask for honest answers.

**IN MOVEMENT**

As a new life is the fruit of the man and the woman's hearts put together, fused into one another, so the birth of a new man to humanity is always the fruit of the love of a man and a woman who are fused into one another. Today being many families separated by divorce, the movement of growth is compromised. The adolescent lacks the harmony and communion of the love of father and mother, from which he draws the energy to grow and give complete fulfilment to his development. Divorce is a factor of non-growth that cannot be ignored.

An adolescent is fed both with the virtues and the faults of his father, mother, siblings, friends, and companions. Even if not always the sanctity of the environment generates holiness, however, vice always and transgression attract and conquer the heart. In a family where Christ Jesus is not in the centre with his Word, his truth, his grace, never might there be an orderly growth movement. A tree in a desert grows badly. If in the family the spiritual desert reigns even in the heart of the adolescent, the desert will begin to take shape. Are families today a life garden?

As educators do not educate in the Gospel by remaining out of the Gospel, so in the family and in society the persons that form cannot educate in virtue, by living in vice and the transgression of the Word. We educate others, by educating ourselves. The educator who is educated every day on virtue, truth, grace and holiness becomes a model and example, even if in the short period it seems that his commitment does not produce any fruit. Whoever wants to accompany both parents and adolescents in the path of life must be himself full of virtue and of the Holy Spirit. It is the obligatory way for everyone.

**INTEGRATED EDUCATION**

The first integration to be created is in the adolescent who is to be formed. Man is one, but composed of soul and body. The two realities might never walk apart. The body manifests the truth of the soul. The soul grows in the holiness of the body. The integration of the person, or the creation of unity and true communion between heart, will, mind, desire, aspiration, soul, body and spirit, must be the first of the integrations. One cannot think of a man in stagnant compartments for each of his parts. You educate the person, never a part of it.

The person might be integrated if the persons are integrated: father, mother, brothers, friends, pastor, catechists and every other pastoral worker. All this must be the essential, indispensable element to integrate Church, school, society, family and every other training "agency", including sport. Another more than necessary integration is that of specific skills, the result of charismas, ministries, vocation, mission, science, doctrine and specialization. Perfect communion in everything ensures that man is in the true image and likeness of the God who is Communion.

The world of crushing, division, separation, divorce and disunion exist today. These are all works of the flesh. It is the sign that people have not worked enough to create the new man. Only the Church can create the new man because she alone can immerse him in truth, in light and in the grace of Christ Jesus. She alone can show him the beauty of the new man, because her children are called to this: being new men to show every other man the regenerating, sanctifying and renewing power of Christ Jesus in his Holy Spirit.

**ADOLESCENCE, NOT COMPETITION**

Whoever wants to educate others must show every other man that he is in the truth of his age. Truth is not the same for every age. There is the truth of the old man which is a guarantee of wisdom and knowledge, without gaps or imperfections. Foolishness, ignorance, vice, intemperance and not complete government of all his acts are not becoming an elderly person. He must be the perfect light of truth. From the height of his morality founded on the Law of the Lord he must be a model and example for all those who depend on Him, that is, for every other generation inferior of years to his.

But there is also the maturity of the adult. It is the maturity of who always knows how to take right and holy decisions, not just for his own good but for the good of every other man. The adult differs from the elderly because his wisdom always needs the wisdom of the one who is placed high, his elder. Not having the fullness of wisdom because he has not yet run through the ages of life, he still lacks the intelligence and acumen that is always fruit of the Holy Spirit, but also of a constant and slow maturation of his spirit and soul. One matures even in wisdom.

The adolescent is like a small tree that needs a support pole. As the young tree is tied to the pole so that it can grow straight, without the wind bending it, so it must be for the adolescent. He must always be linked to the wisdom of a mature man, father and mother and also of the elder, grandfather and grandmother, so that he can grow in the harmony and truth of his being. No one can build on non-existence. If who must support the adolescent is the non-existent concerning truth, wisdom, knowledge, morality, light; all reliance will be deleterious, dangerous and harmful.

**AUSTERITY**

Let nobody get into a panic before this word, "Austerity". Well understood, it is the holiest, truest word, richest in light. Let us ask: What is austerity for Jesus? It is his remaining always anchored, planted, bound to the will of his Father. Austerity can also be defined as rigidity. For Jesus rigidity is remaining in the Word of the Father, without diverting either to the right or to the left, without adding and removing anything from it. Austerity and rigidity for Jesus are the delivery of his life to the Holy Spirit so that He is the one to lead it up to the cross.

It is understood that austerity, rigidity is both universal and particular or personal. One thing is the authority and rigidity for a pope, a bishop, a priest, a deacon, a confirmed, a baptized person, a catechist, an alms operator, another is that of an elder, an adult, a young man, another one still is that of a father and a mother and finally another is that of a public agent. Without the universal austerity and rigidity, which is remaining anchored to the Law promulgated by God and Jesus, never might there be personal austerity and rigidity. The universal is always the foundation of the personal one.

Since the adolescent lives in different places and in different environments, if in the place where he lives and in the diversity of environments he finds neither universal nor personal rigidity, it will be difficult for anyone to be able to accompany him in his particular growth. Whoever does not know how to stand in the rigidity of the personal body or ministry, who does not respect the universal and particular austerity and rigidity of the other, never might he be a company helper of a young life that walks toward its maturity. Today, having all the codes of austerity and rigidity been abolished, accompanying becomes impossible.

**With the Virgin Mother, the Woman entirely of God**

The Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, has been from the very first moment of her conception to her assumption, in body and soul in Heaven, all of her God and Lord. This was her "Austerity" and "Rigidity". Nothing, either of her body, or of her soul, or of her spirit or of her thoughts, was of Satan. She is all virgin for Him whom she confesses Holy and Almighty. May this be also for us our "Austerity" and "Rigidity": being always and everywhere consecrated to the mission She entrusted us for the remembrance and the proclamation of the Word of Her Son Jesus. May the Adherent of the Apostolic Movement never fall into the temptation of freeing himself from this obligation liberally assumed by him for love, in the service of salvation.

**Theme of catechesis**

The catechesis in this Year of grace of the Lord 2017-2018, for those Dioceses in which their Pastors did not offer particular themes to be treated, which are also mandatory for Adherents of the Apostolic Movement, will reflect on what the Holy Father has indicated to the Diocese of Rome: ***"Let's not leave them alone! Accompanying parents in the education of teenage children."*** With catechesis, the faith – drawn from the Word of Scripture and the sound doctrine of the Tradition and Magisterium of the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church - illuminates the only people of God, of whom the Apostolic Movement is part. One faith, one Light and one people. It will be the task of the Central Council to indicate concretely, in accordance with its own directives, the implementation program of these programmatic lines and the sources to be used.

**A look at the past**

Looking at the past is not needed to exalt or to pride or glorify us before men for what has been done. Being all the fruit of God's grace, it has only one end: praising, blessing, thanking and magnifying the Lord for the abundant grace he poured upon us. But also to make a profound and thorough examination of conscience, through which each of us will have to highlight his many non-answers to grace and plead humbly forgiveness from the Lord. It is the obligation of every Adherent of the Apostolic Movement to amend his life from laziness, sloth, superficiality and mere presence of the body, but not of spirit, absence of soul and heart, when performing his works. One feels sorry for the unfulfilled good and asks God for more grace to respond to the best of his expectations.

* **Nine Ecclesial Conventions of the Apostolic Movement have been celebrated so far**. The most recent (2017), held at the PalaGiovino in Catanzaro, was dedicated to the next Synod of Youth and had as speakers the Cardinal S. Lorenzo Baldisseri, H.E. Bishop Vincenzo Bertolone, State Prosecutor Nicola Gratteri. The previous conventions were concluded by: H. Emincence Cardinal Angelo Scola, at the time, Patriarch of Venice (Catanzaro, 2006); HE Card. Carlo Caffarra, Archbishop of Bologna (Catanzaro, 2007), H. Eminence Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, then Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy (Catanzaro, 2008); H.E. Monsignor Giuseppe Marciante, auxiliary bishop of Rome (Rome, 2009); H.E. Monsignor 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. Monsignor Filippo Santoro, Archbishop of Taranto and President of the CEI Commission for Social Problems and Labour, Justice and Peace (Rome, 2015), H.E. Monisgnor Nunzio Galantino, Secretary General of the CEI (Rome, 2016). Each edition benefited from the intervention of the Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace pro tempore, respectively H.E. Archbishop Antonio Ciliberti and H.E. Bishop Vincenzo Bertolone. Over the years, Archbishops of the Calabrian Region H.E. Bishop Vittorio Mondello, H.E. Bishop Santo Marcianò, H.E. Msgr Salvatore Nunnari, have also come in. A special reminder brings us to the occasions when the Holy Father, at the end of General Audiences, greeted "the participants in the Apostolic Movement Convention": so H.H. Francis on 27.5.2015 and 20.4.2016, and formerly H.H. Benedict XVI, on 24.11.2010 ("I cordially welcome the Italian-speaking pilgrims. In particular, I greet the participants in the convention promoted by the Apostolic Movement and urge them to continue the journey of personal holiness, the starting point of every evangelization").
* To the National Conventions, **three other Apostolic Movement Conventions for the Northern Italy and Switzerland area** have been added: in Corsico (MI) in 2010, with the intervention of H.E. Bishop Mario Delpini, Auxiliary Bishop of Milan; in Schaffhausen (Switzerland) in 2011, with the speech of Monsignor Josef Rosenast, Vicar General of the Diocese of Sankt Gallen; at Triuggio (MB) in 2012, at the 7th World Meeting of Families. In recent years, several **"MeetMap"** meetings have been organized in the area of ​​Northern Italy, meetings of adhering members of various regional seats.
* **A Meeting** to be remembered is also the one for the 35th anniversary of the Apostolic Movement held on 30.12.2014 at the Palasport of Giovino 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, of Archbishops Emeritus A. Cantisani and Msgr. V. Rimedio, of Civil Institutions, delegations coming from all over Italy and a large number of festive and joyful public.
* In the **"Mary Mother of the Redemption" Secular Institute**, over the years, the number of consecrated persons has increased considerably. At the beginning of each pastoral year, presiding over the Eucharistic celebration in the parish Mary Mother of the Church in Catanzaro, Archbishop H.E. Monsignor Bertolone welcomes the vows of the new consecrated persons, of those who renew their vows during the first five years of profession and of those who reach the perpetual profession. Today, the consecrated are **56**. Every first Thursday of the month they offer all faithful an animated Eucharistic adoration in the parish Mother Mary of the Church in Catanzaro.
* The commitment of the Apostolic Movement continued in an intense and constant way in the **service of charity**, which is first of all expressed in the ordinariness of the often hidden mission in parishes and daily life environments: several adhering members have lent their work in canteens for the poor, in visits to sick at home, in clinics, hospitals, nursing and elderly homes, in school assistance to disadvantaged children, in distance adoptions and with signs of solidarity for affected areas of the earthquake. To coordinate the service in some of these sectors, volunteer groups have been systematically organized. Some signs of this service are the support of the Movement to the Befotaka diocesan family home in Madagascar, to the charitable initiatives of the diocese of Khammam (India) and in favour of some students in Douala (Cameroon). The Apostolic Movement also participated with its own contribution to the initiative "Oasis of Mercy" willed by the Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace.
* Upon the invitation of the archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace, the Apostolic Movement and the Centre of Studies Verbum have conducted a **series of meetings on the relationship between Family, Church and Society**, in keeping with the 2014 and 2015 synod events. The programme had the title of "Family today: What Is It. What is it for? How does it work". In four subsequent meetings, the speakers Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno, fr. Gesualdo De Luca, fr. Francesco Brancaccio and fr. Nicola Rotundo dialogued respectively with proff. Egidio Chiarella, Maria Primo, Anna Guzzi and Dr. Benedetto Caroleo. The second cycle 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 led by Fr. Gesualdo De Luca, Monsignor Costantino Di Bruno, Fr. Edoardo Palma, Fr. Flavio Placida, Fr. Giovanni Scarpino, Fr. Nicola Rotundo. Both programs were based at the House of Cultures in Catanzaro, thanks to the collaboration of the Province of Catanzaro.
* The Apostolic Movement, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Catanzaro-Squillace, the Centre of Studies Verbum and the Zenith International Catholic Agency, offered **a project on *"Food, Eucharist and Solidarity"*, referring to the theme of the Milan Expo**, articulated in four meetings: *"Food and communion among men"*. *Cultivating, preserving and transforming the earth* (Alberghiero Institute in Soverato - CZ); *"Food, Health, Ethics"*. *For a just fruition of the fruits of the earth* (Municipal Council Room of Sellia Marina - CZ); "*The bread of life". Food, Eucharist and Solidarity"* ("Mother Mary of the Church" parish - Catanzaro). The cycle of meetings ended with the appointment on the topic: *"Food: a journey of humanity from production to distribution"*, at the Biodiversity Park of Catanzaro, chaired by the Archbishop. Among the speakers were Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace, Monsignor Vincenzo Bertolone, the Central Assistant to the Apostolic Movement, Msgr Costantino Di Bruno, the Director of Zenit.org Antonio Gaspari, Prof. Pasquale Giustiniani of the Pontifical Theological Faculty in Naples, the President of Coldiretti Calabria Pietro Molinaro, the Director of the Regional School of Education Diego Bouchè, the President of the Order of Journalists in Calabria, Giuseppe Soluri.
* Furthermore, upon indication of the Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace, on the occasion of the Jubilee on Mercy, the Apostolic Movement and the Centre of Studies Verbum organized a series of reflections on the theme **"For a culture of mercy - Dialogues between church and society on the Jubilee itinerary"**, structured in 4 appointments hosted in 2016 at the "Petri Room" in the Archbishopric of Catanzaro. The themes were dealt with by theologians (Fr. Giovanni Scarpino, Fr. Alessandro Carioti, Fr. Domenico Concolino, Fr. Nicola Rotundo) in dialogue with significant representatives of journalism, medicine, university and economy: "Mercy and Communication"); "Medical profession, ministry of mercy"; "Knowledge in the service of mercy"; "What place for mercy in a globalized economy?"
* Sight to family look was resumed in 2016-2017, with the cycle of meetings held at the Biodiversity Park in Catanzaro, promoted by Father Domenico Concolino in collaboration with the Apostolic Movement on the theme **"You are the perfect love - 5 Dialogues on family and society in the light of Amoris Laetitia of Pope Francis"**, a program encouraged and concluded by the Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace. The topics have been dealt with by theologians and highly experienced people in the various themes: "For a culture of welcome. Adoptions, assignments, right at the origin"; "International cooperation: subjects, tools and projects"; "The truth of love and the diseases of the soul"; "Justice of God and justice among men"; "Disability Prevention: practical guidance for families"; "Family and society: a necessary relationship"; "Family spirituality, reflection starting from chap. IX of Amoris Laetitia". Always in collaboration with the Apostolic Movement, then Father Domenico Concolino led the "Montecorvino Lectures", four appointments on the Christian origin of Good, entitled "In the beginning there was beauty" (Catanzaro, 2017).
* In the same year 2016-2017, in Rome, a series of meetings was devoted to families "**A family love: dialogues on the mystery of human love in Christ"**, offered by the Apostolic Movement in collaboration with other ecclesial realities at the of Saint Roman Martyr parish.
* On the occasion of the **Jubilee of Mercy**, on April 20, 2016, the Apostolic Movement experienced an intense pilgrimage to Saint Peter in Rome, attending the general audience of the Holy Father Francis. The adhering members involved were 1800, who in the afternoon also took part in the Auditorium Conciliation in the work of the Eighth Apostolic Movement Convention dedicated to the jubilee theme "Mercy: the divine germ that transforms history". The Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace H.E. Monsignor Vincenzo Bertolone took part, while the speech was held by the CEI Secretary General H.E. Monisgnor Nunzio Galantino.
* A **Jubilee pilgrimage** was held on September 10, 2016 in Calabria, at the Sanctuary of St. Francis of Paola.
* Among **the publications edited by theologians living the spirituality of the Apostolic Movement**, the following works were added in 2016-2017, shared by the commitment to support the Christian presence in some of the most concrete and demanding emergencies of contemporary society: Nicola Rotundo (edited by), *"Theologians in concert. Writings 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 commentary on Aydis 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?* Essay of 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 laicité, une notion chrétienne"*, Ed. du Cerf, Paris 2017.
* The fervent work of youth pastoral and support to evangelization cared for by the Apostolic Movement continues thanks to **original musicals** composed by Cettina Marraffa. After having freely staged the musicals "And let there be light...", "Under your shadow a song" (in particular the layout in the official program of the WYD of Madrid is reminded) and "Meditating the Passion" (also staged in Lourdes for the Italian national pilgrimage of 2010); the year 2014 saw the debut of the grandiose work **Ester - The musical**, with the participation of over 150 young people, at the Politeama theatre in Catanzaro on October 4 and 5. Then, the musical was reiterated, once again with great success, on May 27, 2015 at the Conciliation Auditorium in Rome, in the program of the VII Convention of the Apostolic Movement. As an instrument of witness and youth pastoral, the musicals have been brought on stage also in various dioceses in which the Apostolic Movement operates. As an instance, we remind the last in chronological order, the musical Ester performed in Bologna on May 27, 2017.
* The systematic program of **youth training** continues. In 2014-2015, some young people in the Apostolic Movement have fallowed 10 original reflections on the Evangelii Gaudium, accompanied by videos, compositions, and testimonies, to promote the reception of the document. Each encounter gave an assistant priest the cue to conclude with a brief close examination. In 2015-2016, a systematic **"Youth Encounter"** program was organized in preparation for the *GiM2016* (Youth in Motion) meeting on the topic of mercy, held on 3 August in Sila. These meetings were moments of prayer, joy, singing, but above all reflection on the Word of God. In 2016-2017 Father Franco Bruno, assisted by a large group of young people in the Apostolic Movement, held a series of testimony concerts in various areas of the diocese of Catanzaro-Squillace. Also in 2016-17, another cycle of meetings specifically devoted to young people was organized in the Diocese of Bologna, titled "Today I have no God: faith at the time of disbelief. Dialogues to the discovery of the God of Jesus Christ".
* The **Youth Meetings** have proved to be very successful and fruitful. The first editions were held at Serra San Bruno (2012) and Paola (2013). Since 2015, the appointments have been named GiM (Youth in Movement): 1 August 2015 in Palumbo Sila (KR); August 3, 2016 at the amphitheater of the Sila National Park in the Taverna resort (CZ), in harmony with the theme of the WYD dedicated to "Blessed be the Merciful." On 5 August 2017, repeating the success of the previous year in the same Silan frame, almost a thousand participants gathered to the meeting dedicated to the **Synod of Youth**, following the theme: "A better world is also built thanks to you" (Pope Francis).
* The Apostolic Movement participated in international events planned by the Organizations of the Holy See. From May 30 to June 3, 2012, it took part in the 7th World Meeting of Families held in Milan. On the occasion an informational stand of the Apostolic Movement was mounted at the **International Family Fair** from May 29 to June 2, 2012. Several members of the Apostolic Movement joined the short and long term volunteering. All the members of the Apostolic Movement of Milan and s vast representation from the Central Seat and several other dioceses attended the meetings with the Holy Father.

In addition, with large groups of representatives, the Apostolic Movement took part in international meetings with the Holy Father on the occasion of the **Year of Faith**: the **Day of Movements** (18-19 May 2013) and the **Catechists' Day** (28-29 September 2013). On October 26, 2013 numerous representatives of the Apostolic Movement participated in 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 upon invitation of the Pontifical Council of Laity attended in Rome the **Third World Conference of Church Movements and New Communities** devoted to the theme of "The joy of the Gospel: a missionary joy..." and culminated in the hearing given by H.H. Francis. The Holy Father’s urges served to outline the organization of the Apostolic Movement meeting of December 30, 2014.
* **In preparation for the Ecclesial Convention of Florence 2015**, welcoming the CEI Invitation, three "experiences" were sent to the Organizing Committee on the approach to Christian humanism, linked respectively to the catechesis activity, to the educational encounters of the Centre of Studies Verbum on dialogue between knowledge, and to the youth pastoral. Afterwards, the reflection was continued with the help of assistant priests and lay people. A dossier of insights and testimonies has been produced, as a contribution to the Apostolic Movement, made available on the website.
* The President of the Apostolic Movement was also present at the **International Meeting with the Movements and New Communities**, which the new Laity, Family and Life Dicastery wanted on 14 June 2017.
* **Vocations** that enrich the Church keep on maturing in the Apostolic Movement: in 2012, three new priests were ordained, one in 2013, three in 2014, two in 2015 and one in 2016.
* The mission of the Apostolic Movement continues both in Italy and **abroad** and visits of various bishops from mission areas are going on. On 9 June 2014 and 8 June 2015 Paul Maipan, bishop of Khammam (India) returned to preside over the Holy Mass with the Apostolic Movement H.E.. H.E. Monsignor Servilien Nzakamwita (Byumba - Rwanda), on 19.1.2015, and H.E. Rev. Msgr Daniel Mizonzo, (Nkay - Congo) on February 9, 2015, did the same, receiving all a hearty welcome from the adhering members. In February 2017, Fr Francesco Brancaccio returned to visit the Adherents and assistant presbyters of the Apostolic Movement in the dioceses of Douala (Cameroon) and Pointe-Noire (Republic of Congo), at the invitation of local Bishops to support the training and mission work and to intensify the confrontation with the Central seat. On the occasion he brought some aid to local communities.
* In the various places, Adherents of the Apostolic Movement have been working to co-live **the mission of their dioceses and parishes**, participating in diocesan appointments and bodies, and offering the availability, according to the charisma of each, in all areas of operation: evangelization, catechism and catechesis, liturgy and sacraments, pastoral councils, charity, volunteering and missionary work, youth, family, culture and the sick pastorals.
* Moreover, the **catechetical and training service** of the Apostolic Movement in all places, in reference to the local pastoral plans, by now has been going on for 38 years and it has been inaugurated annually in various dioceses by the respective bishops. The educational, organic and systematic itinerary supports the **missionary commitment** to which the adhering members are daily called into families, parishes, work and study environments, in social life, and wherever it is necessary to witness the Lord's mercy.

**On the way to the future**

The future is full of surprises. It is always a new creation of our God. Today the Lord wants to make the new man, making him be born of water and of the Holy Spirit. As creation, redemption and salvation has been done by God, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, so Christ Jesus wants to operate the regeneration of every man, in the Holy Spirit, through the mediation of his body which is the Church. Every adhering member of the Apostolic Movement, being the Body of Christ, must commit all of himself not only so that many other men through his mission of remembrance and proclamation of the Word let themselves be regenerated by water and the Holy Spirit, but also so that those who have abandoned the body of Christ come back to be a living part of it. This is a never ending mission. Today the world must all be led to Christ, into his body, which is the Church. In the Holy Spirit and in Christ all must feel responsible for this plan of salvation delivered by Jesus Christ to his Church.

**Acknowledgments**

It is right to thank all of you that in the Spirit of the Apostolic Movement, have lived the yes given to the Mother of God with dedication, joy and spirit of true abnegation. And in you and for you, I thank all of Heaven for having supported your commitment and your mission. In particular I bless and thank The Blessed Trinity, the Virgin Mary, Angels and Saints for:

The Inspirer-Founder of the Apostolic Movement, Ms Maria Marino. Her immediate obedience, the charity that has made of her a gift for salvation and redemption, hope in God that is the support in every cross, are for all an example to imitate. May the Lord grant her the grace of perseverance without ever tiring.

Mrs. Concetta Venerina Marraffa. Her wise and ever live love is the pillar of stability and hope for the future of the Apostolic Movement.

The President, Mr Cesare Rotundo. Similar to a father with a multitude of children, scattered all over the world, may he have one desire in his heart: sustaining them in the truth and charity of Christ Jesus, so that everyone and all together they may be true missionaries of the Gospel. May the Lord multiply his zeal and dedication to the care of the Apostolic Movement.

The Central Secretariat, the Diocesan and Parish Secretaries, the Diocesan and Parish Responsible members, the Adherents and the Candidates. The Apostolic Movement lives, grows and spreads through you. May the Mother of Jesus obtain for you the gift of working with intelligence and wisdom, fortitude and fear of the Lord in the Holy Spirit.

The Ecclesiastical Assistants. They are entrusted with the formation in the knowledge of the truths, according to the sound doctrine, which are the essence and substance of faith in Christ Jesus. Without their work, the Movement might never be the one desired by the Mother of Redemption. May the Holy Spirit fill them with all wisdom in order to give every adherent the right faith so that he may become a missionary of the Gospel in the world.

The priests in whose parish the Apostolic Movement lives and exercises the mission of remembrance and proclamation. May the Lord bless and preserve them in his love, so that they can always keep the Movement in the light of the Church.

The Deacons, ministers of the charity of Christ Jesus, exercised by them in the name of the Church. May their exemplarity in love help every Adherent learn the divine science of compassion toward all. May the Mother of Jesus watch over them and comforts them with her good Mother tenderness.

The Lay Consecrated of the *"Mary, Mother of Redemption"* Association. May their hidden and silent prayer obtain all grace for the Apostolic Movement so that it may always better respond to the expectations of God. May the virgin Mary, to whom they have consecrated their lives, make them grow and abound in every good work.

Special thanks go to God for the Excellent Bishops, who have welcomed the Apostolic Movement in their Dioceses. May Christ Jesus bless them today and always accompanying their ministry with the light of his Holy Face.

A special remembrance for the renowned Pope, Benedict XVI. May the good done by Him to the Apostolic Movement be transformed by Christ the Lord today into every help and support and tomorrow into eternal life.

Let us praise, bless and thank the Lord for Pope Francis, Shepherd of the whole Church. Let the Apostolic Movement pay to His Word, the same obedience that is given to Christ and the Divine Scriptures. May his Word understood in the Holy Spirit, be light for every Adherent of the Apostolic Movement with the adhesion of a live and profound faith.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, obtain for us from her Son that the wine of our love does not run out and does not fail, but is preserved good until the end.

May this pastoral year 2017 - 2018 begin for everyone in the holy purpose of multiplying every commitment, in the conviction in the Holy Spirit, knowing that before everyone there is a world to which the Word must be reminded and proclaimed.

*Catanzaro, 8 September 2017.*

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

***Monsignor Costantino Di Bruno***