

The Marian Movement of Priests



"Cerdon " Marist Community,
St. Mary's Road,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Summary from MMP International Retreat - 27th June to 3rd July 2021

Dear friends,

The opening Talk was given by Don Luca, which seemed to sum up a lot of what was listened to and shared throughout the week. I now quote for you much of what he said:

"Don Stefano Gobbi, from the first two-day meeting in San Vittorino Romano at the end of September 1973, had understood that we do not meet so much to personally reflect on our life, as is rightly done during the spiritual exercises traditionally followed, but above all to entrust Our priestly life to Our Lady, like a little son, entrusts himself to his Mother for everything, to learn to live the Consecration to Her Immaculate Heart ever more intensely, and to ask with her for the gift of the Holy Spirit for us and the Church, because we are renewed in the fire of Divine Love. We are gathered by Our Lady to live this Time with Her.

- (1) *On the 8th May last we remembered the 49th anniversary of the birth of the Marian Priestly Movement, we are therefore in the 50th year, whose anniversary we will celebrate on May 8th, 2022 and especially at the end of June during the Spiritual Exercises in Fatima. Furthermore, it is now ten years since Don Stefano concluded his earthly life, it was June 29, 2011. These two anniversaries make us wonder: how to live today the words that Our Lady has entrusted to us, constituting what you call "my Movement"?.....In fact we always ask ourselves how to live what Our Lady taught us, not just this year, but we are somehow provoked to this type of reflection by these anniversaries and by a second element,*
- (2) *that is, the evermore explicit and proud manifestation, in the Church, of that alternative thought to the Gospel, therefore opposed to it on some points, which tends to empty the proclamation of faith, the proclamation of salvation. The points affected by this thought are essential: the Eucharist, the family, anthropology, the Church as a way, truth and life.... ...we saw a clear example of this in Germany last May, which is only the tip of the iceberg that is still submerged, and cannot wait to emerge to change the Church according to that anti-evangelical thought. We must be careful, anti-evangelical is not only what is against charity, against poverty, it is primarily against doctrine, hence the Christian charity and any other virtue takes its meaning and its value. Our Lady wants to help us put things right, while the "great tribulation" tries instead to subvert them: in fact, precisely because it is anti-evangelical, the alternative thought wants to make us believe that through him we finally arrive at the true evangelical life, finally in the freedom, may the road to salvation finally pass through these changes!*
- (3) *Finally, the third element: the Madonna comes from the Most Holy Trinity to protect the Church, and in this regard we cannot fail to consider that, at this very moment, Providence had the Pope institute the year of St Joseph, universal patron saint of the Church. This year's meditations will therefore be suggested by these three elements and will be offered first of all by Don Stefano, through the recordings of four meditations that he gave at the spiritual exercises in San Marino and here in Collevaleza, then by*

Fr. Laurent Larroque, Father Francesco Geremia, Father Antonio Carvalho, Father Oliver Rolland and myself.

Our Spiritual Exercises are also this year conditioned by the current world health situation, that is, by the presence of the Covid-19 virus. Too bad that for the second time we are not as many as in the past, but how nice that we are about twice the number as last year, we pray that next year everyone can participate freely in Fatima.

However, in the meantime, lets be careful: the reactions to the virus problem have been and still are different, varied, from a medical, political, social, economic and even religious point of view. As believers, in reality, we should react unequivocally based on inalienable values (eg the sacredness of human life, the spiritual dimension of man, the sacramental presence, etc.), but on this issue the convictions of medical science are conflicting, as are the opinions of politics by which, in one way or another, we often let ourselves be influenced.... , .and therefore there is often confusion even among us priests. This confusion is not right but here we see even more the urgency to take refuge in the Immaculate Heart of our Mother, to be protected and enlightened by her and by the Holy Spirit who is always present there. This confusion is exacerbated with vaccine discourse, controversial on one side of the medical world and supported by the other, and therefore also in society there are those who consider it necessary and those who, on the other hand, are dangerous, and strong social divisions are created; even we priests are not free from this. Please, brother priests, let us not dwell on these things at the Spiritual Exercises- We are not here to convince each other on these issues. Instead, are here to learn from Our Lady how to live in situations like these, and she is very clear: first of all the crisis is not health but moral. If the sanitary one is serious, the moral one is immensely worse; Our Lady has never intervened specifically in this type of problem, if anything she has continually reminded us to consecrate ourselves to her Immaculate Heart in order to return to God with strength and love. The great tribulation is not a series of health epidemics, but a devastating crisis of faith that allows the great dragon to drag on the earth a third of the stars of heaven, which are us priests, who in turn leave the faithful, in the Church in the dark, and the world. We do not get out of crisis without returning to God. Please be careful not to be confused..... What we tremendously need is a spiritual reading of life and the problems that must be faced. Our Lady speaks to us in these terms. We are here to learn this. So let us help each other in prayer and in fraternity, to be not "good priests" but "Her priests". (Opening Talk by Don Luca)

As I stated in this Report from our International Retreat, we were privileged to hear Fr- Gobbi's recorded voice in 4 meditations that he gave to us in the past. From one of these I now quote: Have you heard what La Salette (Sept, 1846) says to the priests, the secret of La Salette?..... Our Lady chooses the visionary Melanie and will give her the task of forming the order of the Sons of the Mother of God, because our Lady wants to form the apostles of the last times. Then her purpose: to defeat Satan and to overcome him, the ranks of her little children are formed so that they become the apostles of the last times.--.and for this Our Lady gives a rule: to förm these apostles of recent times- And here a strange fact occurs: the Bishop of Grenoble accepts the apparition but founded an institute order himself, the so-called Missionaries of Salette, he founded this work desired by Our Lady, but be careful : he gives his own rule, he does not give the rule that Our Lady gave to form the apostles of recent times! Here there is opposition that comes from the hierarchies of the Church!.....

So what are we facing? To a formidable attack by Satan in the Church against the priests, to an intervention by Our Lady who wants to save and win the battle precisely at the level of priests. She instructs the visionary and gives her a rule, the rule of the Sons of the Mother of God, to form the apostles of the last times, but this rule is not accepted. What can Our Lady do? You see that times are getting worse, that the situation of the Church is getting worse, that the crisis of the Church is getting stronger, and above all the crisis of priests is getting stronger. So what can Our Lady do to form the apostles of the last times? So she does a work without giving this rule, but she herself rewrites it in the life of the priests, so that these priests become apostles of the last times. So here the Madonna gives rise to a work of her own, a work to which

she gives no rules, a work to which she even asks to have a juridical existence, there is not need for official approval or for it to be officially approved, because it is she who forms this work, it is she: her very presence becomes a guarantee of approval by the Church, and then what can she ask for with this work? The only thing –the only thing — that allows you to act so that you, in the life of every priest, can intervene and form the apostles of the last times according to her plan.

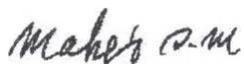
Then she forms a work in which she asks only one thing: the essential thing, the main thing, the only thing to do in order to belong to her Priestly Movement: the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.... Because with this consecration we welcome Mary as mother in our life, this is what consecration produces, causes Mary to enter our life, in order to be our Mother! And this struck me to tell you what the position of the Movement is after what Pope Benedict did in Fatima at the end of the priestly year, consecrating all the priests to her Immaculate Heart. Listen to what the Pope says in this Act: "*with this Act of entrustment and consecration we want to welcome you in a deeper and more radical way, forever and totally in our priestly life.*" But look at that, he is strong, he has hit the mark! "*We want to welcome in the most profound and radical way, for ever and totally in our priestly life.*" Because Our Lady says that: " If you consecrate yourselves to my Immaculate Heart and welcome me into your priestly existence, then in each of you, I work, without giving you rules, but I work by making your priestly heart grow according to the rules that I have in my Heart, which are necessary to live in order to become the apostles of the last times. This is why Our Lady has formed the Marian Movement of Priests to which we belong,

Our Lady says: "I address an urgent appeal to the earth: I appeal to the true disciples of God. I appeal to my children, my true devotees those who are given so that I can lead them to my divine Son. Finally, I appeal to the apostles of the last times," the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who have lived in contempt of the world and of themselves, in poverty and in humility, in contempt and silence, in prayer and mortification, in chastity and in union with God, in suffering and unknown to the world. It is time for them to emerge and come to illuminate the earth! Go and show that you are my children. I am the light that shines in these bad times. May your zeal make you hungry for the glory and honour of Jesus Christ.....

Fr. Gobbi quotes then in his Talk from the Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to priests: I am pleased to address a particular invitation to priests in this year dedicated to them to be able to grasp a new spring that the Spirit is arousing in our days in the Church The Spirit in his gifts is multifaceted, he blows where he wants, he does it in an unexpected way, in unexpected places, in a form not previously imagined.' It is interesting to observe here that the Pope uses in his letter the same word "spring" as found in the last message of our book:

‘.....Fight, children of light, because the hour of my battle has now arrived. In the harshest of winters, you are the buds which are opening up from my Immaculate Heart and which I am placing on the branches of the Church to tell you that her most beautiful springtime is about to arrive.’ therefore, Be Joyous.
(83 - October 10 1975)

In Her Immaculate Heart,



Father Michael Maher S-M.
(National Responsible)
24th July 2021