

ICDS

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*Blessed
Pentecost*

*Ignite your faith
Ignite your passion
Ignite your life
Ignite your mission*

Dear Lay Salvatorian sisters and brothers, Pentecost is THE ecclesiastical feast of the Holy Spirit - and a main feast for all members of the Salvatorian Family. Why? Because according to the Holy Scripture that we read in Acts, 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples. Thus, a frightened group of people who were the disciples of Jesus, at that moment became confident and passionate missionaries. This is something that we, as their successors, have to take into our heart and also into our life plan.

After reading these lines, do not become afraid that you have to leave your home, work or family immediately to follow their footsteps. The missionary task is still present but we must also respect the times and the place where we are living now. Taking this into account we can follow some smart steps to address our mission today:

Smart step 1

First, we have to analyze our surrounding: where do we live and what are the needs of the people around us? We have to hear THEIR voices, the sound of THEIR language, because there could be a difference in what is spoken versus what is really meant or needed. This is especially important in communication with youth because their language rarely matches the language of older people.

Furthermore, we have to look at how people are living, what their situation of life is. Because we only can give answers to their "life-questions" if we know how life is characterized or how the concrete situation is where they live.

Smart step 2

As second step, we have to delete the following sentence from our brain: "That has been done this way ever since". Because this is a sentence of death for each innovation and also a sentence completely against the Holy Spirit. This was also recognized by Pope Francis who talked about "the action against the inertia" in one of his morning homilies:

"The Holy Spirit moves the Church; He is more or less the engine, the drive. The Spirit is the gift of God and this God, our Father, constantly surprises us. The God of surprises... Why? Because he is a living God, one who dwells in us, a God who moves our hearts, a God who is in the Church, who walks with us and who always surprises us along the way. And just as He was creative when creating the world, He has creativity in creating new things - every day. He is a God who surprises us."

Smart step 3

Let us remember the Salvatorian universality. This universality is not limited to theological or spiritual issues. No, it takes in also the whole world of practical life. Sometimes there is so much creativity that it can also create some difficulties and/or misunderstandings, the Pope admitted. But God invites us, forces us, to be creative and innovative. He invites us to discover his creation with respect - and to have joy with it.

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But be attentive: This is not a license for exploitation or annexation of all goods of this world. Also, the creativity was not given to us to satisfy our own greed or torture our sisters and brothers with social dumping, labor exploitation, and many other bad and gruesome things created by hate and greed. Whoever follows this last direction is on the way to a very uncomfortable and painful future.

Is it possible to meet the Holy Spirit today? – this question is often asked during preparation for confirmation by youth (and others, too). Is there a special feeling? A special situation? Does it come with a "big bang"? - Not at all, because when you recognize it, it will only be when you look back on your life journey. However, in some very rare moments, meeting the Holy Spirit could be getting touched by some miracle. It could be something which suspends space and time for a very short moment – like a snapshot. Then you can discover HIS presence.

Smart step 4

Fourth, can we create the right conditions to have such an experience? - Yes, we can try to have an open mind and also openness towards new things, new impressions, new experiences. We can be open to respect other people, animals and plants - that means respect for life as such. Because this life is given to this world by God, it is his biggest gift.

Our Salvatorian mission is to bear the love of God, Christ, to our neighbors. How could we do that without any respect for life in all its facets? Without this respect, we will not succeed and we will not appear credible.

Finally,

reality points out that our daily life makes it difficult to follow the footsteps of our founders and the saints. We try, indeed, but often do not succeed in a way we imagined. We should not be discouraged; we need to trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, let's open our minds to the Holy Spirit, let's make ourselves ready to be HIS tool. Let's be open for a meeting with HIM, for the experience of a real Pentecost!!!

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