

In the Foot Steps of St. Michael

The Virtues of the ECCE VENIO

There is no Christian spirituality that does not integrate all virtues, in its synthesis. But, according to the ideal of each Saint, these virtues are differently grouped around a spiritual centre, inspired from on high, which groups them around it and is amplified by them in its radiation. all are inspired by Christ, universal master and model, but each one takes Him in a different perspective.

Michael Garicoits chose the Ecce Venio as the expression of the first and definitive attitude of the Sacred Heart towards His Father and, in this initial oblation, he discovered a cluster of five important virtues which are, as it were, its rays.

Father Michael has rawn up the programme of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in terms of five virtues: Their names recall so well the sentiments of Love, Humility, Meekness, Obedience, Devotedness implied in the first act of the sacred Heart of Jesus: Me Voici, Here I am.

Among these five virtues, all essential to the ideal of the Sacred Heart, the theologians clearly distinguish three which have greater importance than the others. In his eyes, they are more than virtues; they are general dispositions needed to make any virtue possible. Fr. Etchecopar, st. Michael's spiritual heir, will call them the three levers of holiness: Humility which builds on God alone; Obedience which walks in the steps of God's will, which never goes back, but always forward which invincible trust and patience.

And to stress that these virtues were not confined to the person of the Founder, he writes: it was a question of founding a Society of men despoiled of everything, especially themselves, interiorly made over to the law of love, exteriorly to the law of obedience, having for motto: My God, Here I am, with your Divine Son, readily, unreservedly, irrevocably, for love for you.

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Smile: 2



NEWS BULLETIN OF

SACRED HEART VICARIATE OF INDIA

Happy New Year!

Love
is
the
first
reason
for
everything,
for
man
as
for
God

The year 2010 is going to be a really new year for Betharram in India. A mission with the traits of our charism and of our life style is going to be set in place. After many years devoted only to formation, time for the mission has come. The mission has to be a community matter. The new Rule of Life points out that the Religious forming the community, under the leadership of the Superior, receive from the Regional Superior, a common mission, even if their activities may be diverse (RoL 98). At the outset of this new mission, it is important to emphasize this community dimension and reject any kind of individualism. It is also important to keep in mind that our mission does not depend on how much or little work we can do in the pastoral projects of the different local churches. What we are is as important as what we do. To be in truth what we are, this is a vital thing!! This is all!! All the rest is vanity ... To be a priest, a priest of Betharram! To be that and be it fully! (Corr II, c. 194, p.28, note 3). What comes first is the joyful witness of our consecration lived in our personal and community life. (RoL 13 and 112). A temptation must be avoided: activism. We fool ourselves if we believe that we can do everything. We are called to live with seriousness our vocation by doing with responsibility what obedience is asking us to do, in the limits of our position where we have to practice love which is limitless. Mission cannot be an obstacle for prayer nor for fraternal life in community.

Happy New Year! May the new mission of Betharram in India be happy too!

Fr. Gaspar scj
Supior General

St. Michael
Garicoits