

ACTUALIZING CHRIST

Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – June 2012

During this past lent, we were called to be new: to learn to love as Christ, think like Christ, smile like Christ and, above all, pray like Christ, because in that prayer is our connection with the heavenly Father, just like Christ is one with the Father.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew 25: 35-36, Jesus says, "*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.*"

Therefore, apart from every lent, how many times have we heard this Gospel and the multitude of homilies explaining it?... How many times have we heard it at retreats?... How many times have we studied it in our schools of leaders?...

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus constantly invites us to a personal reflection to analyze our own experience and Christian coexistence of his will to live and share what is Fundamental to being Christian.

But, what is Fundamental to being Christian?... Without getting too much into theology, we can say what St. Paul tells us; "Love of God, love of neighbor and love of ourselves." That simple!... And that is because all God's things are very simple. We men, when looking for something more between the lines, we lose it, we confuse it, or we complicate it and if we don't abandon it, we change it for something that we do understand.

We need to be aware that God trusts us to make this a better world. In other words, God does not keep us from being part of his creation, demonstrating at the same time that we have the ability to help others. When we see injustice, do not mention "poor person" or "Why does God allow this?", but act instead, because our faith is shown by our actions. We need to demonstrate to others that God, through us, does remember them when they are hungry, when they are thirsty, when they need to be welcomed, when they need some clothes to cover their body, when they are sick or in prison.

We cannot tell our neighbor to come back another day, when we have what they need at that time. We need to actualize Christ through all our words and actions, during the 24 hours of the day. In this way, through our witness of life, we motivate all that surround us in any environment where we move, that is, in our Moveable Square Meter, so that they be open to the love and friendship of Jesus Christ as much as they are open to the air they need to breathe.

On Sunday, March 4th Pope Benedict XVI, spoke of the Transfiguration of Christ on the Mountain. He was telling the faithful pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's square for the customary Sunday address: "*... that is why He carried three of them to the mountain - he added - and reveals his divine glory, the splendor of truth and of love.*" *Jesus wants that this light may illuminate their hearts when they pass through the thick darkness of his passion and death, when the scandal of the cross will be unbearable for them. God is*

light, and Jesus wants to give to his most intimate friends the experience of this light, which is found in it. Therefore, after this event, he will be in them, this interior light, able to protect them from the attacks of the darkness. "Even in the blackest night, Jesus is the light that never shuts down."

Just as Elijah's, Moses' and Jesus Christ's clothes sparkled during the Transfiguration on the mountain "*his clothing became dazzling white...*" (Mark_9: 2-13), our bodies can also shine the same way, by living and sharing together the way that Jesus tells us through his Gospel. And it is fundamental to maintain that light of truth, love and friendship glowing, to actualize Christ at any time and place in which we operate, in our Moveable Square Meter.

For anyone who has had an encounter with himself, Christ and others through a Cursillo of Christianity, this concept is already very familiar. All the methodology of the Charism of Cursillo is Kerygmatic, experiential, and the message of love and Friendship of God in Jesus Christ, is transmitted through the best vehicle which is Friendship, through the three phases of its methodology - Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend and Postcursillo.

This kerygmatic methodology motivates us to allow Jesus to penetrate our lives as we listen to his words and therefore, allow ourselves to be transformed by his truth and follow his way of life. And the vehicle of friendship that is utilized by Cursillos to convey the love and the friendship of God in Christ Jesus launches us to live and share what is fundamental to be Christian. This Christ-like life style, when lived 24 hours of every day, converts us into authentic Christians who constantly actualize Christ in every word and action that comes from our being. It is essential that our testimony of life projects a **Living, Normal and Near** Christ.

A Living Christ so that everyone in our environment, our own "Moveable Square Meter", knows that He has resurrected as is told in the four Gospels, and is present through our words and actions as well as through every human being, nature and all things that surround us.

A normal Christ, so that all those within our Moveable Square Meter, can see that He is our friend and brother and we can talk with him, as we do with any other person, in a normal and natural way.

And a nearby Christ, that is near so that all environments know and are convinced that He is still waiting and is available to anyone who wants to accept the truth, the love and the friendship that He constantly offers and at no cost.

Jesus Christ shows us this closeness in the Gospel of John 4: 13-14 when he speaks with the Samaritan woman ...Jesus answered and said to her, " Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"

We need to be aware that actualizing a Christ that is **Living, Normal and Nearby Christ** in the naturalness and normality of the reality in which we live the 24 hours of each day, is to allow this water to spring forth from the supplier that is within our own inner self, and soak all the people around us. This way, the message of truth, the love and friendship of God in Jesus Christ, will evolve in our own testimony of life, will be up to date and responding to the signs of the times.

Ultreya!