



A MESSAGE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF CLEVELAND

(Excerpt from Bishop Malesic's Installation Homily)

I want to give some advice to our young people now. Listen to your heart; that is the place where God speaks to you. Listen carefully because he is calling each of you by name. God has a plan for you. You are on this planet for a reason. Do not stop searching until you find God's will for you. He is calling you to a life of holiness, to discipleship, to service and to do something special for Him. Follow Jesus. He will show you the way.

...In the cross Jesus teaches us how to face our challenges with courage and hope. Jesus says to us "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." That's the cost of discipleship. It requires us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. In other words, we cannot ignore our challenges, our crosses. No, we must face our challenges, admit them, carry them, but always with our eyes focused on Jesus, the man we follow, the God we follow, who suffered for us and still suffers with us. He will lead us forward in our struggles. It is when we stop following him that we die. Struggle forward! If we walk in His footsteps we will always move from death to life. That is the direction of Jesus. That is the direction of the church He founded. That is the direction of all of us who believe in Him and follow Him - from death to life. There is victory in the cross of Christ! We must also help each other to carry our crosses. We must help each other bear the burdens of this life like Simon of Cyrene, who helped our Lord bear His cross on the way to Calvary. If you see someone in need, help to carry the cross. We are stronger when we work together than when we work separately.

...Look at the cross. He did that for us and told us to do the same -- to give our lives to each other like He gave His life for us. God loved us enough to send His Son, who died for us. Then God exalted Him by raising Him and giving Him the name that is above every other name. So that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. We bow before Him. We do not bow before any other person, only Him. Let's be witnesses to this Truth. Let's all be witnesses to the love of God. Let's be witnesses to Jesus who saved us. Let's be witnesses to the power of his cross in our lives.

Let's be people who serve the Lord with gladness.