

FAITH AND REASON

Leaving one's comfort zone, going on mission: The Holy Father decided to set aside his prepared speech and addressed the group extemporaneously. He reminded those present of the importance of having the "ability to leave one's comfort zone" in order to fully live out their mission. The following is a translation of his address, which he delivered in Spanish.

I would like to say a few more words spontaneously. To go on mission, to go out on mission, that is, the missionary dimension which you mentioned in your speech. I was struck by a phrase you said: "leaving your comfort zones and going on mission". I wonder, what are the comfort zones that a Congregation has, that a province has, that a community has and that each one of us has? Ask yourselves this question, because it has been said that each person accommodates the vows as he pleases. And then, one can practice poverty with a bank account, one can practice chastity with a companion, and one can practice obedience by talking and deciding whatever one wants. These are very distorted forms. But what always produces a distortion in the three vows is comfort. That is where the evil comes in, by trying to be comfortable, to be at ease, to live a bourgeois life, without going out on mission, and going on mission, and going on mission. Each one of us should analyze our own temptation of comfort. We all have that temptation.

Just now, for example, when they told me: "There are many priests you have to go and talk to", I thought: "Ugh, I want to go to lunch...". Comfort, right? I mean, we all have the temptation of comfort, but each one of us has it "with their own first and last name". Look for the root of comfort in each one of you, and that will help you to detach yourselves and look out to the horizon of the mission. A Redemptorist without this horizon of mission, even if he has to sit at a desk all his life, has no meaning. The horizon of the mission. And, for that, the ability to leave one's comfort zone. So, I suggest that, as a fruit of this Chapter, in your prayer during these days, each one of you ask yourself: "How am I tied down, what is my comfort zone, that which does not allow me to be free, that prevents me from flying?". Try to answer this question.

The second thing that characterizes Redemptorists is that they are moral teachers, and I thank them for that. Above all, I want to thank the Alphonsianum here in Rome. I think the Rector is here... He is not here. Give him my regards, because I wanted to tell him that he is doing very well, very well. You are rendering a service to a mature, serious, Catholic moral theology. And at an impressive level, a very high academic level. So, I thank you, as well as the Father General, that this Institute continues to help the Church. Teachers of morals, but also teachers of morals in the children's catechism, in the confessionals...

That people understand what is right and what is wrong, that they know that God's mercy covers everything; but that they know what is right and what is wrong, because one thing is God's mercy, and another thing is "manganchismo", being indulgent, saying "everything is fine" ... not distinguishing, not having a moral culture — that is so important, without reductionism. Today, with great sadness, we have to say that there are commandments that are not fulfilled, that are not upheld, in the face of these social injustices that exist. For example: people who squander their money on travel, tourism, parties, luxury restaurants; and people who do not have enough to eat a loaf of bread. So, there is an immorality of thought there. The Eighth Commandment, who fulfils it today? Nowadays, if one can cheat others, take away what is fair, underpay them... fair wages — there are increasingly less of them. How many jobs are lacking! People accept whatever they can get. In other words, they go against justice, against the truth. Please, teach strong morals there, continue doing so. Apply your conscience. And also, all the commandments. Idolatry, for example, what is it? "No, I do not worship any idol". You are full of idols, but you teach: "This is idolatry".

I tell you to continue with this because you are doing it, and very well, but don't forget that you are formators of conscience. This is what I mean: formators of moral conscience. And this is a charisma that you have, that you inherited from the Founder, who dedicated himself to these things as well, among others.

I thank you for what you do for the Church, truly. I thank you from the depths of my soul. I thank you for your 13 years here... To survive in Rome is not easy! And when you are struggling a bit, drink a little cachaça to lift your spirits. I want to give you my blessing. After the Blessing, the Holy Father continued: And do not forget to ponder: "what is my comfort zone?" ...

Undertake courageously great tasks for God's glory, to the extent that he'll give you power and grace for this purpose. Even though you can do nothing on your own, you can do all things in him. His help will never fail you if you have confidence in his goodness. Place your entire physical and spiritual welfare in his hands. Abandon to the fatherly concern of his divine providence every care for your health, reputation, property, and business; for those near to you; for your past sins; for your soul's progress in virtue and love of him; for your life, death, and especially your salvation and eternity in a word, all your cares. Rest in the assurance that in his pure goodness, he'll watch with particular tenderness over all your responsibilities and cares, arranging all things for the greatest good. **St. John Eudes**

The shock of sorrow comes only to those who think this world is fixed and absolute, that there is nothing beyond. They think everything here below should be perfect. Hence, they ask questions: 'Why should I suffer? What have I done to deserve this?' Maybe you did nothing to deserve it. Certainly, Our Lord did nothing to deserve His Cross. But it came, and through it, He went to His glory

What is time, with regard to myself? It is my present and actual existence. Past time, or my past existence, is no longer anything, as far as I am concerned; I can neither recall it, nor change anything in it. The time to come, or my future existence, has not yet arrived, and perhaps never will arrive. I does not depend on me; I cannot count on it ... No one is ignorant of these two simple truths, but very few draw from them the conclusions they ought to draw ... This present moment, or this actual existence—from whom do I hold it? It is He who has preserved my existence from one instant to another, and who is preserving it at this present moment. Will He preserve it for me in the moment that shall immediately follow this one? I do not know; and nothing in the world can give me the assurance of it. Why has time been given to me? So that by it I may merit a happy eternity. I shall live forever: faith teaches me this; my reason even assures me of another life. The desire of immortality is implanted in the depths of my heart, and this desire, which God Himself has planted there, can never be frustrated of its object. I am, then, born for eternity, but this eternity will be happy or wretched ... My fate for all eternity depends, then, on the use I make of time, and since neither the past nor the future is in my own power, it is quite true to say that my eternity depends always on the present moment. Now, at this present moment, what is my state? Would I like to die just as I am now?... **Fr. Jean Nicholas Grou**

A Thought For the Day

Sunday Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.
Monday If you become Christ's you will stumble upon wonder upon wonder, and every one of them true.
Tuesday He who keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.
Wednesday A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.
Thursday Every word of God is flawless He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Friday Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God.
Saturday We do not exist for ourselves alone.

A Prayer for Peace: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, Every angel and saint: Please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You! **Amen.**

Love Jesus: I shall not call you servants anymore. I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father. (Jn 15:15). Jesus is not an idea, a feeling, a memory! Jesus is a person always alive and present with us. Love Jesus present in the Eucharist. He is present in a sacrificial way in Holy Mass, which renews the Sacrifice of the Cross. To go to Mass means going to Calvary to meet him, our Redeemer. He comes to us in Holy Communion and remains present in the tabernacles of our Church, for he, is our friend, for he is everyone's friend and wishes particularly to be the friend and support of your way through life: you need confidence and friendship so much. Love Jesus present in the Church by means of his Priests: present in the family by means of parents and those who love you. Love Jesus especially in those who are suffering in any way: physically, morally, spiritually. Make a resolution to do all you can to love your neighbor, discovering Christ's face in him... **St John Paul II**

Now At The Daylight's Ending: Now at the daylight's ending, we turn, O God, to you: send forth your Holy Spirit, our Spirit now renew. To you in adoration, in thankfulness and praise, in faith and hope and gladness, our loving hearts we raise. The gift you gave at daylight this night you take away, to leave within our keeping the blessings of this day. Take all its joy and sorrow, take all that love can give, but all that needs forgiveness. Dear Father, now forgive with watchful eyes, O Shepherd, look down upon your sheep; Stretch forth your hands in healing and close our eyes in sleep. Come down, O Holy Spirit, to be our loving guest; be near us, holy angels, and guard us as we rest. We praise you, heavenly Father: from you all light descends; you give us heaven's glory. When life's brief daylight ends. We praise you, Jesus, Savior, the light of heaven above; we praise you, Holy Spirit, the living flame of love... **Fr. James Quinn**

In His Will is Our Peace
Fr. William C. Mooney

Email: Fr.WCmooney@gmail.com
Follow on Facebook: [Faith and Reason](#)

Spiritual Direction and Confession
Appointments: (904) 824-6625
Instagram: [faith_and_reason](#)