



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communio | participatio | missio

Reflection 5
*FOLLOWING CLELIA'S FOOTSTEPS
TOWARD THE HEART OF JESUS*

Co-responsible in Mission

Synodality is at the service of the Church's mission, to which all its members are called to participate. Since all of us are missionary disciples, how is every baptized person called to be active in mission? Christians are called to be "builders" of the society in which they live. All baptized persons are thus missionaries, drawn to live their role as son or daughter of the one God. Each of us is a "builder" of the mission, thanks to our personal ability and competence as well as our limitations and fragility, through our thoughts, choices, and plans that are turned into concrete actions.

To be active in mission, Christians must proclaim the Gospel, supported by a sense of belonging to a community and by having a common objective: to save all of us together.

With this promise we accept the call to leave our homes to bring the Lord to our society, just as the apostles left all and followed Jesus. We are Christians in community: with the small talents that we have, we must help others in the journey that we are on together.

We need to "be saved" from everything: from Covid, from war, from bankruptcy, etc. Christians proclaim the fullness of salvation because that is what eternity is about.

Another fundamental mission of the Church is to be open to the "other," that is, to whoever is not us. We need to open wide a dialogue built on the Lord's message of salvation, which opens

us to a full and authentic life. Another objective is to witness to the “beauty” of accompanying others in their faith journey. If we reread *Evangelii Gaudium*, we will understand that it is truly centered on the “joy” of the Gospel. We are not sufficiently capable of communicating it in our own way, yet it is a liberating experience! That is why we have to examine ourselves. As a community, our challenge is to recover the “joy” of the Gospel.

Luke 5: 1-11 – THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

REFLECTION

Jesus, yesterday as today, boards the small boat of our daily lives and invites us to take our own risks, to journey with Him and with our many brothers and sisters, to embark on the path of growth and freedom. Does it make sense today to speak of boats, nets, fishermen? Yes, it makes sense if in these images we discover the life contained in them, their ability to communicate meaning that transcends the centuries.

For example, the boat: poor and fragile, swaying and insecure. It could sink in an instant! But at the same time it is the only way for the fisherman to survive, to set sail, to cast the net. The boat has always symbolized the Church, the community of believers who, amid many difficulties, sails out to sea supported by Christ the Word.

And the water on the lake? It is a bit frightening, especially for those who live on dry land. The water hides the abyss and the darkness. For the fisherman it is sometimes the source of livelihood, but at other times it betrays him, reveals his failures. Water is the unknown, the mystery that each of us holds in himself: it enables us to navigate happily but can also kill!

And the fisherman? A fisherman who catches nothing is a failure! His frustration is immense. His hope crushed. Simon the expert fisherman is dejected as he washes his empty nets after working so hard: he knows from experience that he has to resign himself to it. Each of us has to do the same when we are disillusioned, or when we sense our powerlessness. Then Jesus approaches Simon and says to him, *“Set sail and lower the net!”* Have trust. In your disillusionment, embrace the Word! Start again from the Word, this is the message! The Word of God, then, is our true rule of life: by listening to it and putting it into practice we will learn to experience the presence of God in our midst, we will build the Kingdom with Him. We will be true missionaries in the Church!

We are a Mission, says Pope Francis

- *At this time of your life, what is your mission? What specific thing can you do for your family, for the Church, for the world?*
- *What are some positive experiences of Church and of God have you experienced? That difficulties and obstacles have you met?*
- *Is “going fishing” still worth it? Is “planting seeds” still worth it? Does it make any sense to learn, witness, sacrifice, or be challenged by the Word?*

SHARING-TESTIMONIES

IN MOTHER CLELIA’S WORDS

*“Every day you have opportunities to win souls to the Heart of Jesus. Then for goodness sake, don’t let opportunity to do so slip by! Think that every day, through your sacrifices and your forceful efforts, you can snatch a poor sinner from the clutches of the devil and thus earn for Jesus the glory of being eternally praised by a soul who might have cursed Him Keep in mind that this mission is reserved in a special way for souls consecrated to Him. Jesus thirsts, but His thirst is for souls.”
(Spiritual Anthology, 3.10, pp. 165-166, MG II, p.146)*

MISSIONARY PRAYER

Our God and Father, your will is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth. Send workers into your great harvest, so that the Gospel may be preached to every creature and your people, gathered together by the word of life and strengthened by the power of the sacraments, may advance in the way of salvation and love.



Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in you!