



Passing on the treasure

The Second Vatican Council made every Christian responsible for the proclamation of the Gospel. Pope Francis wants the whole Church to be in a permanent state of evangelisation, not as a duty or a burden, but motivated by the personal experience of the love of Christ and the joy that comes from it. This is always possible for each and every Christian, either by open und direct proclamation of the Gospel or simply by the witness of fraternal affection and deep concern for the poor and the weak, leading in time to the new fusion of faith and modern culture.

✿ **To evangelize is to make the kingdom of God present in our world.** ¹⁷⁶⁾

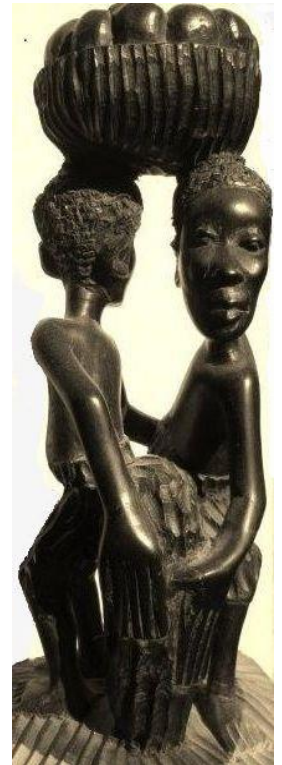
Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey. ⁽¹²⁷⁾ Life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means”. (Evangelii Gaudium 10)

✿ **The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus** which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him.... The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others. ⁽²⁶⁴⁾

✿ **We have a treasure of life and love which cannot deceive,** and a message which cannot mislead or disappoint. It penetrates to the depths of our hearts, sustaining and ennobling us. It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches that part of us which nothing else can reach... If we succeed in expressing adequately and with beauty the essential content of the Gospel, surely this message will speak to the deepest yearnings of people’s hearts. ⁽²⁶⁵⁾

✿ **It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but “by attraction”...** Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. ⁽¹⁴⁾ I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). ⁽⁹⁹⁾

✿ The ultimate aim should be that the Gospel, as preached in categories proper to each culture, will create **a new synthesis with that particular culture...** ⁽¹²⁹⁾ Each people is the creator of their own culture and the protagonist of their own history... The ultimate aim should be that the Gospel, as preached in categories proper to each culture, will create a new synthesis with that particular culture. ⁽¹²²⁾ The faith cannot be constricted to the limits of understanding and expression of any one culture. ⁽¹¹⁸⁾



- What can I contribute so that my family, my community and my parish attracts others by our witness of mutual affection?
- The modern means of social communication have created a new culture, particularly among the younger generation. How can the message of Jesus find fresh expressions in this new culture?