

A New Creation

A New Self

***Ensuring All People Are
Made New***



Mission And Moral Conscience

Ensuring All People Are Made New Mission And Moral Conscience

Main Reading:

Matthew 28:16-20

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

References - CCC

Mission - a requirement of the Church's catholicity:

851 *Missionary motivation.* It is from God's love for all men that the Church in every age receives both the obligation and the vigour of her missionary dynamism, "for the love of Christ urges us on." Indeed, God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4); that is, God wills the salvation of everyone through the knowledge of the truth. Salvation is found in the truth. Those who obey the prompting of the Spirit of truth are already on the way of salvation. But the Church, to whom this truth has been entrusted, must go out to meet their desire, so as to bring them the truth. Because she believes in God's universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary."

853 On her pilgrimage, the Church has also experienced the "discrepancy existing between the message she proclaims and the human weakness of those to whom the Gospel has been entrusted." Only by taking the "way of penance and renewal," the "narrow way of the cross," can the People of God extend Christ's reign. For "just as Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and oppression, so the Church is called to follow the same path if she is to communicate the fruits of salvation to men."

854 By her very mission, "the Church . . . travels the same journey as all humanity and shares the same earthly lot with the world: she is to be a leaven and, as it were, the soul of human society in its renewal by Christ and transformation into the family of God." Missionary endeavour requires patience. It begins with the proclamation of the Gospel to peoples and groups who do not yet believe in Christ, continues with the establishment of Christian communities that are "a sign of God's presence in the world," and leads to the foundation of local churches. It must involve a process of inculturation if the Gospel is to take flesh in each people's culture. There will be times of defeat. "With regard to individuals, groups, and peoples it is only by degrees that [the Church] touches and penetrates them and so receives them into a fullness which is Catholic."

856 The missionary task implies a respectful dialogue with those who do not yet accept the Gospel. Believers can profit from this dialogue by learning to appreciate better "those elements of truth and grace which are found among peoples, and which are, as it were, a secret presence of God." They proclaim the Good News to those who do not know it, in order to consolidate, complete, and

raise up the truth and the goodness that God has distributed among men and nations, and to purify them from error and evil "for the glory of God, the confusion of the demon, and the happiness of man."

Moral Conscience:

1776 Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment. For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths.

1782 Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. "He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters."

1783 Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. The education of conscience is indispensable for human beings who are subjected to negative influences and tempted by sin to prefer their own judgment and to reject authoritative teachings.

1790 A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself. Yet it can happen that moral conscience remains in ignorance and makes erroneous judgments about acts to be performed or already committed.

1791 This ignorance can often be imputed to personal responsibility. This is the case when a man "takes little trouble to find out what is true and good, or when conscience is by degrees almost blinded through the habit of committing sin." In such cases, the person is culpable for the evil he commits.

CCC 1792 Ignorance of Christ and his Gospel, bad example given by others, enslavement to one's passions, assertion of a mistaken notion of autonomy of conscience, rejection of the Church's authority and her teaching, lack of conversion and of charity: these can be at the source of errors of judgment in moral conduct.

Questions

1. What is necessary for all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth?
2. How is it possible to evangelise others when we are still not yet perfect?
3. How is God inviting you to inculturate your Christian faith in your different atmospheres (eg. at home, at work, among your friends)?
4. What is the main aim of sharing our Christian faith with non-believers?

5. Although all people have a conscience, why do some people do the wrong thing according to their conscience?

6. How does someone's conscience remain ignorant or misinformed?

7. Why is it a sin for a person to choose to remain ignorant in their conscience?

8. What are some of the ways that we could help others to have well-formed consciences?

Resources

Weekly Reading Scriptures:

DAY 1 Matthew 28:16-20 “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations...”

DAY 2 1 Timothy 2:1-8 “For he wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

DAY 3 Romans 10: 1-21 “And how could they believe in him without having first heard about him? And how will they hear about him if no one preaches about him?”

DAY 4 Acts 8:26-40 “‘Do you really understand what you are reading?’ The Ethiopian replied, ‘How can I, unless someone explains it to me?’”

DAY 5 Colossians 1:15-23 “Keep in mind the Gospel you have heard...”

DAY 6 Philippians 2:1-11 “...be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

DAY 7 John 8:1-11 “Go, and do not sin again.”



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