

Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)

The "Genesis" of faith

The Son of God came into the world with a very specific mission: to awaken the faith of men in His Father's pure love for every human being and to reveal His desire to give them a life that never dies!

Jesus Christ makes it clear from the outset: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News " (**Mk 1: 14-15**)

The "methodology" to evangelize of Jesus

Which methodology the Son of God used to carry out His mission and kindle faith in man's heart?

We must recognize that when it comes to the "pedagogy" used by the divine Evangelizer we realize how extraordinary and profound was the knowledge he had of the human being.

Jesus is an "expert" of humanity not only because as the "Word Creator" of the Father, all things, man included, were made through Him.

But because, becoming Man in everything like us except sin, he knows the human being, so to speak, even "from the standpoint" of man.

The "full immersion" of the Word of God in the human allows him to experience what He, as God, would never have been able to experience: a real human life. Jesus, therefore, not only as God but also as man knows "what is in the heart of man" (**John 2:23-25**)

What is, then, this methodology "divine-human"? First of all, Jesus knew very well that senses, feelings and emotions play a decisive role in the orientation of the intelligence and the will. (**cf. Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth, Vol. I, page 118**).

The involvement of senses, of emotions and feelings.

That's why Jesus from the beginning of his mission performs "surprising signs" that allow the crowds of almost, so to speak, "touching" God.

Signs of the closeness and of the love of the Father that people could see, hear and touch.

In this sense, Jesus performs not only miraculous signs such as to raise the dead to make the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, leaving the crowd stunned and speechless, but performs signs,

in many ways truly revolutionary for the context of all times, which shows His extraordinary freedom from patterns and stereotypes deeply rooted in the minds of his, and even ours, contemporaries.

- The revolution triggered, for example, when He puts God and his glory in the first place, exposing the lies of the traditions of men **(Mt Chapter. 23)**

- The enormous impact that the actions of the Prophet of Galilee have on society when he praises and admires the faith of the so-called "pagans" ... **(Mt 8, 5-13, Mt 15:21-28)**

- The scandal created when He goes to eat at the house of public sinners, or when He has His feet washed and dried by a prostitute ... **(Mk 2, 15-17, Lk 7, 36-49)**

- The concern that arouses in the powerful people when Jesus proclaims, in words and deeds, that the law must be at the service of man and not vice versa ... **(Mk 2: 23-28)**

But, my friends, the greatest sign is precisely Jesus himself! The Son of God made Man is, according to the statement of Benedict XVI, "the greatest Miracle of the universe" **(Benedict XVI, Angelus, July 8, 2012)**, especially in his total self-giving on the wood of the Cross and in His glorious Resurrection from the dead.

These Events, were sacramentally anticipated, in the last Supper, and they will be perpetuated until the end of the world, in the Holy Eucharist! These Events are able to break, to pierce and to change, for the action of the Holy Spirit, the "stones" of human hearts.

The "Rational Moment"

But It was quite clear since the beginning that Jesus' methodology was meant to go beyond feelings and emotions. The Rabbi of Galilee, in fact, starting from the signs perceived by the senses constantly invited everyone, but especially his disciples, to go beyond ... "Don't you have eyes? Why can't you see? Don't you have ears? Why can't you hear? ... And you still don't understand?" **(Mark 8.14 to 21)**

The Gospel clearly testifies that the actions and words of Jesus do not stop in the superficiality of emotions. In fact, the disciples very soon begin to wonder about the person of Jesus and the meaning of his mission. They begin to focus on the Prophet of Nazareth in an effort to figure out His hidden mystery ...

Jesus himself encouraged them constantly to go deeper: "Do you understand what I have done?". **(Jn 13:12)**

It's true, then what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, when talking about the faith as a fully human act, that it requires, the involvement of all men's physical, mental and spiritual energies ... However it is equally true that all human efforts alone are not enough to get to the

"Heart of the Mystery" ... to cross the threshold of the human to immerse yourself in the world of God **(CCC 154)**

The "Light" of Faith

There is the need of a direct intervention of God, through the Holy Spirit, in order to "create", as the Holy Father, Benedict XVI says, "the conditions" in men's heart so that they can "recognize", "feel", so to speak, in the "Sign" the presence of God and of His pure saving love and so to give themselves over to Him completely! That's the faith! **(See Benedict XV, catechesis on Wednesday October 17, 2012)**

Simon Peter got a "taste" of this extraordinary gift at Caesarea of Philippi when he kneeled to the feet of Jesus, "SIGN-SACRAMENT" of the Father, and confessed, "first" among the Apostles and for the "first time, an act of faith:" You are the Christ the Son of the living God " **(Mt 16, 13-16)**. Jesus replied to him: "Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah, , because neither the flesh nor the blood revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven. **(Mt 16, 17)**.

However, it was only at Pentecost that the coming of the Holy Spirit, in permanent form, on the Apostles gathered in prayer with Mary, will mark the birth of the Church, the community of faith, gathered around the table of the Word and of the Holy Eucharist. **(Acts chapter 2)**

What an extraordinary gift of God is faith! Not only it does not diminish the man, in the greatness of his "being", body and spirit, but it turns out to be a real "quality leap". In fact, faith allows man to live an enhanced, divine form of life!

The Church, "Sign" of Christ in Time and Space.

At this point we wonder: what about the words that Jesus addressed to Thomas? "Thomas, you have seen and have believed, blessed are they that have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20: 29). Can these words, by chance, be interpreted in order to disavow, this divine methodology of **Seeing - Feeling -Touching to believe**, that Jesus used to kindle faith? Absolutely not!

Thomas made the same mistake that Paul, and many others over the centuries to the present day, will make later: not believing to the testimony of the "Church". In fact, the Apostles had told him that they had seen the Lord, but Thomas had not believed them.

That's the truth, isn't it? The Church, the Body of Christ and the Great Sacrament, in Christ, of the communion between God and men and, at same time, of the unity of the whole human race.

In fact, Christ, living in His Church through the Holy Spirit, continues His work of evangelization in time and space. **(cf. Second Vatican Council, L.G. n ° 1)**.

May God enlighten the "eyes of our hearts" because, as Thomas and Paul, certainly not in the same way and to the same degree, we can believe to the love of God and to welcome, in faith, Christ and His Holy Church. In this way we will be able to allow the Holy Spirit to carry out the extraordinary project that He has got for each of us.

Mother Lillian of Paradise, in the "Star of Purity", implores the White Queen of the Lilies to intercede towards God, for the Church, with these words:

"I implore You, oh Aurora adorned with lily-like beauty, for the Church, candid Bride of Christ: may all its members, united, as olive branches around the table of love and truth, work hard for the Kingdom of Heaven, plowing uncultivated lands and enriching them with golden harvest. Keep it holy, pure, like it flowed for the first time from your virgin Heart, mantle it with Your snowy light, so that it may shine, as bright lampstand, on the darkness of the world.

Oh White Queen of the Lilies pour out on the ... successor of Peter, the flood of Your love and Your graces ... Love him, like the dearest son of yours, overwhelm him with Your pure light, cherish him in your Heart of Mother and Queen, support him in guiding the Mystical Ship, because with intrepid faith, with immense love for souls, He may be able to renew the world in the charm of Your image, and through You, to lead it to Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. "

(Mother Lillian of Paradise, the shout of the third millennium, Purity, Purity, p. 233)

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