ENCOUNTER 01

Indwelt

Christ lives in me

01

PASTORAL PRINCIPLE

Whoever knows they have been found by God stops merely waiting and learns to go out to meet others.

Starting point

Apostolic life does not begin with a to-do list.

It begins with a presence.

Christ lives in you.

Since your Baptism, your life has been united to his. The Spirit you received wants to make that life grow until it reaches your thoughts, affections, decisions, relationships and way of serving.

That is why the apostle does not go out into the world simply carrying ideas about Christ.

He carries Christ within.

Mission begins when that life received finds ways to reach others.

The Word and the faith of the Church

> “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20).

> “We too might live in newness of life” (cf. Rom 6:4).

Through Baptism we are incorporated into Christ, made children of God, members of his Church and temples of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation strengthens this life and grants a special grace to bear witness to Christ in word and deed. The Catechism calls the baptized “a new creature” and a “temple of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1265).

IN ME · A life that comes before me

There are days when those who serve can feel empty.

They cannot find the words, they lose enthusiasm, something goes wrong, or they start comparing their fruit with that of others.

Then it is easy to think that everything depends on their ability, their temperament or their willpower.

But the apostle does not start from zero every morning.

Grace has gone before him.

Christ is already present.

Prayer, the sacraments and formation help us recognize the life we have already received and let it grow.

This changes the way we serve.

It is no longer only a matter of preparing a good catechesis session, organizing an activity or meeting a need. Even these small actions can become places where Christ looks, listens, speaks and serves through us.

Mission stops being only work for Christ and begins to be the life of Christ unfolding in us.

MIRROR OF TEPEYAC

Juan Diego is on his way.

He is not looking for an extraordinary mission.

He hears the singing, draws near, is called.

The initiative did not come from him.

Before becoming a messenger, he has been reached.

Tepeyac begins with an initiative that comes before him.

Something comes looking for the man in the middle of his ordinary path and turns that path into a vocation.

WITH OTHERS · Going out to meet

Whoever discovers that God took the first step with him learns to do the same.

Pastoral work can get us used to waiting:

- for them to come,
- for them to sign up,
- for them to ask,
- for them to come back,

- for them to respond.

The movement of Tepeyac goes in another direction.

It asks:

Where are they?

Where do they walk?

Who has stopped coming?

Who would never come on their own?

Going out to meet others does not necessarily mean organizing a great mission.

Sometimes it means approaching someone we see every week and have never truly listened to.

For conversation

- Where do I experience today that Christ lives and acts in me?
- In what areas of my service do I rely too much on my own strength?
- What is harder for me: approaching first, or waiting for the other person to take the step?
- What would change this week if I took seriously that the initiative does not depend on me alone?

This Week

Inner step

Repeat slowly:

> “Christ lives in me. I want to let him grow.”

Missionary step

Think of someone who would probably never come on their own and go to that person.

Do not invite them to anything yet.

Do not ask them for anything.

Meet them, and listen to them.

Expected fruit

To recognize that Christ lives in me and to discover that this presence sets me in motion toward others.