ENCOUNTER 05

Gathered

05

Christ gathers me with other apostles

PASTORAL PRINCIPLE

The mission does not belong to the one who receives it but to God: that is why it is discerned in communion, and we accept being corrected by what the truth reveals.

Starting point

Jesus did not form solitary apostles.

He called them to be with him and to be together.

They shared the road, the table, questions, fatigue, corrections, prayer and mission.

The community was not simply a structure needed for evangelizing.

It was also part of their formation.

The Word and the faith of the Church

> “He appointed Twelve, that they might be with him and he might send them forth” (Mk 3:14).

> “That they may all be one… that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

The Church is a people gathered by God and the Body of Christ. The Eucharist builds and strengthens that communion. “It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium,” as the Global Pastoral Project recalls (PGP 143).

IN ME · I need others

Whoever serves in isolation can do a great deal and still become fragile.

They can mistake their own inspiration for God’s will.

They can wear themselves out without anyone noticing.

They can turn the mission into personal property.

We need a community to return to with what we have lived.

Where we are listened to.

Corrected.

Consoled.

And sent out again.

A true apostolic community is more than an efficient team.

It is a house that guards the fire.

MIRROR OF TEPEYAC

Juan Diego’s mission does not stay closed between Mary and him.

It has to pass through the Church.

Juan Diego speaks.

Zumárraga listens.

He asks questions.

He does not accept at once.

He asks for a sign.

Juan Diego goes back.

At last the sign arrives, and the bishop too lets himself be led by what he receives.

At Tepeyac, the messenger does not act alone, nor does the authority know everything in advance.

Both must listen.

WITH OTHERS · Discerning in communion

Communion does not mean that everyone thinks alike.

It means recognizing that the mission belongs to none of us.

That is why we need to listen.

Compare views.

Review.

Accept questions.

Correct course.

An apostolic meeting can do something far more important than hand out tasks.

It can pause before a real situation and ask:

What is God doing here?

What is reality showing us?

What do we need to change?

For conversation

- Who helps me discern?
- Am I able to change my mind after listening?
- Do our meetings also help us read what is happening?
- What are we doing out of habit that we should discern again?

This Week

Inner step

Ask:

> “Lord, keep me from taking ownership of your work.”

Missionary step

Bring to the group one real pastoral situation that is still unresolved.

Before anyone proposes solutions, each person answers:

What are we seeing?

What might God be asking of us?

Only then decide on one step.

Expected fruit

To live communion not only as fellowship, but as the Church’s way of seeking together the path of mission.