ENCOUNTER 08

Juan Diego

Mary sends me as she sent Juan Diego

08

PASTORAL PRINCIPLE

The little house is not built to keep Juan Diego: it is built so that others, too, can say “I am Juan Diego.”

Starting point

After this journey, the words “I am Juan Diego” can be spoken in a new way.

They do not mean:

I am the protagonist of a great work.

They mean:

even my littleness can become a path for God to reach others.

I have been found.

Loved.

Indwelt.

Accompanied.

Gathered.

Lifted up.

And sent.

Now the life received seeks to carry on.

The Word and the faith of the Church

> “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5).

> “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Jn 20:21).

Mary’s motherhood always leads to Christ, and the Church carries forward in history the mission received from the Lord. “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples”: whatever their position in the Church, all the baptized “are agents of evangelization” (EG 120).

IN ME · My life can become an ayate

Accepting a mission does not require imagining ourselves great.

It requires being available.

God works with our concrete reality:

- our history,
- our gifts,
- our temperament,
- our limits as well.

A simple cloth can carry a sign far greater than itself.

That can be an image of the apostle.

He does not need to produce by himself what he is to hand on.

He needs to offer himself.

The fruit belongs to God.

MIRROR OF TEPEYAC

From the first encounter, Mary expresses a desire far greater than Juan Diego:

a little house.

Not a place to exalt the messenger.

A place for others.

To show love.

Listen.

To console.

To remedy.

Juan Diego’s individual mission ends up serving the birth of something shared.

He carries the message and the sign.

But the work remains open after him.

WITH OTHERS · Building a little house that welcomes and sends

Every mature mission needs some kind of little house.

It may be a family, a parish, a school, a small group, even a digital space.

It is not defined by its walls.

You recognize it because there people can be:

- welcomed,
- listened to,
- accompanied,
- nourished in Christ,
- joined with others,
- formed
- and finally sent.

The little house does not gather people around itself.

It prepares them to carry the gift further.

For conversation

- Where is God sending me today?
- Which particular people have been entrusted to me?
- What little house are we building?
- Does our community only welcome, or does it also form?
- Who could be sent tomorrow if we believe in them today?

This Week

Inner step

Place yourself under Mary's gaze:

> "Mother, here I am. Lead me to Christ and send me."

Missionary step · MY MISSION

Do not design a big project.

Just complete these five sentences:

I am sent to…

The first step I will take is…

I will do it with…

I want to begin helping … to grow.

I will review this step on…

And take the first step.

Expected fruit

To recognize myself as a Juan Diego of today and to begin building, with others, places where the life received can keep multiplying.