



THE FOURTH CORNERSTONE OF THE MISSION: GOOD WORKS

St. Basil said in *De Spiritu Sancto*: "through the Holy Spirit we are restored to paradise, led back to the Kingdom of Heaven and adopted as children, given confidence to call God "Father" and to share in Christ's grace, called children of light and given a share in eternal glory".

However, in order to reach this paradise we must exercise the commandment of Christ to love God and to love one another. Since the Holy Spirit is the Master of prayer, we appeal to Him to help us: "*come oh Holy Spirit and fill our hearts, enkindle in us the fire of Your love, send forth now Your Spirit upon us that we may be recreated and You may renew the face of this earth, amen*". Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, it is unlikely that we will understand the greatest social commandment, which is charity. As a function only of ourselves, it is hard to love one another, that is why prayer without good works is an imbalance in our spiritual lives.

It is through the works of mercy and charity that it's possible for us to see the face of Christ in each other. Through this grace, we can put into practice what we pray for. It is charity, drawn from the Eucharist above all, which is the soul of this Mission For the Love of God Worldwide.

Infused in the souls of the faithful by God are three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. These virtues allow us to act like His child and to obtain eternal life. Our human virtues are first rooted in these fundamental virtues, which allow us to participate in the divine nature. As these virtues relate directly to God, they make it possible for us to live in a cooperation with the Holy Trinity.

Faith allows us to believe in God and all He has said. It allows us to commit completely to God. A living faith as it were, works through charity. But as James 2:26 declares: "faith apart from works is dead."

Hope allows us to desire eternal life and the Kingdom of Heaven, placing our trust in the promises of Christ and relying on the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is the hope of every Christian that also by our good works, which are accomplished with the grace of Christ, we will persevere to the end and obtain eternal life.

Charity allows us to love God above all things for His sake, and our neighbours as ourselves for the love of God. In John 15:12 it is our Lord Jesus who speaks: "this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you".

However, in 1 Corinthians 13:13 it is written: "so faith, hope, charity abide, these three. But the greatest of these is charity." It is superior to all virtues. It is the first of the virtues and why? Because the other word for charity is love. It is the goal of our Christian practice.

Charity purifies our human ability to love, it transforms it to a love which is Christ like that comes to us from the source of all that is love, The Father; for those who perform good works "stand before God as a son responding to the love of Him who first loved us". What comes to us through charity is a deep joy, a peace, and a mercy that could not have been experienced to the depth it can be, in any other way. In Colossians 3:14 it says: "it binds everything together in perfect harmony".

It is St. Augustine who helps us to realize: "love is itself the fulfilment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run; we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest".

Charity respects others and their rights. It inspires a life of giving of oneself and helps us to accomplish it. As St. Luke says in 17:33: "whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it".

In this Mission we believe that the knowledge and daily practice of the Ten Commandments, the Decalogue, is essential to our growth and true appreciation of the teachings of Jesus. The understanding of this is key to us as Catholics and to this final Cornerstone of this Mission.

In Matthew we read: "teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" Then Jesus tells him: "if you would enter life, keep the Commandments...you shall love your neighbour as yourself". In Matthew, Jesus goes on to expand the meaning of each Commandment; the Old Testament blends into the New.

God could have delivered the commandments to Moses in many other ways but why did He choose for it to be delivered on two tablets of stone, with only three commandments on the first tablet and seven on the second? The answer is the same as the answer given by Jesus to the question: "which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus replies in Matthew: "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

First and foremost it is the simple commandment of love, which applies to the two tablets of stone. The first, teaching us how to love God and the second tablet, how to love one another.

It is on this answer of Jesus that we concentrate this Fourth Cornerstone of the Mission.

Faith in God's love is the reason to answer God's call to divine charity with a sincere love on our part. In the symbol of the Mission, it is the banner around the base of the bell citing the first commandment which not only represents the Decalogue as an important part of this Mission, but it also draws our attention to the first commandment that instructs us to

love God above everything and all creatures for Him and because of Him (Dt. 6:4-5). Unfortunately it appears that many in the world have dismissed the first commandment altogether, which dictates that the other nine are very probably meaningless to countless people in these times who were created in the image and likeness of God only to be transformed in these times into those who do not care to know God's love at all.

The sin of indifference to God's love rejects or excludes to reflect on divine charity and denies its power.

Ingratitude refuses to acknowledge divine charity and return him love for love.

Lukewarmness is the unconcern in responding to divine love and refuses to give itself to divine charity.

acedia...spiritual sloth, repels divine goodness and refuses the joy that comes from God.

And finally, as unthinkable as it is hard to believe that for a child of God, it would be possible to hate God. But sadly, because of the sin of pride, it is happening more and more in these times, to curse the one who forbids sins and inflicts punishments.

And so it is that works of mercy, works of charity, good works, lead us to render to God what we, as creatures owe Him in all justice. It is by the virtue of religion that we are urged to have this attitude to render to God what we owe Him, and that is our love, Him only, shall we serve.

In this Mission then, we ask of its membership to engage in the Mission's Fourth Cornerstone of progression to become that created son of God by engaging in the Mission's final dimension, Good Works, as Jesus commands us: love of one another.

It is at our Christian baptism that we inherit through the love of Christ a designation as an adopted son of God. We freely obtain this. It is not until we walk with our Lord Jesus through the person of the Holy Spirit given at our baptism that we are enlightened to what is our goal, which is, to become a created son of God and what we have to do to obtain this eternal state of joy, peace and happiness found in our filial relationship with God.

It is through a series of good works in the Mission, which we call platforms where as members, we engage in works to help us to truly possess charity. It is to help as well, the people of a parish to also work within one of these platforms according to their God given talents and time available to enhance their parish. The effects are the rebuilding of Catholic neighbourhoods and Catholic communities, which are in terrible decline worldwide.

It is through these platforms where we help individuals, families, young adults, children, the business people of our parishes who are important to our parish economies, the police, firemen, and politicians in our parishes that can assist that parish in extraordinary ways, etc. In these platforms we look to create unity in the parish life by also liaising with

all of the other groups that exist within a parish to offer a person or family another dimension to assist them in their personal and spiritual lives.

The platforms of the Mission's Good Works are:

Consecrations: we have already discussed previously all of the various consecrations that are available to enrich parish and diocesan life.

The establishment of Prayer Cenacles: we have discussed already all of the various cenacles available to a parish that could literally transform the community. It is the support of the parish priest and priests in the parishes, which bring life to this platform, especially in those parishes that have become dry in their prayer life.

The establishment of Chapels of Perpetual Adoration: parishes who have Chapels of Perpetual Adoration, with the emphasis on the word "perpetual", will be witness to increased vocations to religious life, an increase in parish population and from our experience, even a reduction of heinous crime within the boundary of that parish, as there is no one or nothing greater than God. And it is the ever present person of Christ which is being adored in the Eucharist; that is the cause of these wondrous things as He is present 24 hours per day, 7 days a week in that parish which has perpetual adoration.

Mission young adults: within the prayer cenacles of the Mission, there is a dedicated cenacle for these young adults. There are three categories: 8 to 14, 15 to 18 and 19 to 25. According to each city there are different forms of prayers and projects for them to practice good works.

Mission young children: 4 to 8 years old.

Mission businessmen—The Arimatheans: we will talk more of this in a few minutes but essentially it is small chapters of businessmen forming prayer cenacles in their immediate areas, where they come together weekly to pray, and talk. Each year they agree on a project they will sponsor to help a good work that exists in their immediate area. Some chapters have elected to help priests, other larger chapters to assist larger projects of the Mission and/or their area bishops. This platform of good works is now in the process of structural formation and consolidation to unify these chapters into a well-formed Christian businessmen's organization of the Mission.

Mission businesswomen—the daughters of Mary Magdalene: the same basic principle as the men's organization but with a direction to assist the female religious of their community. This is a relatively new platform and will be developed more when it locates an international director.

The Home Enthronement of Our Lady of Guadalupe. –This is a family endeavour, which is a real grace to a parish, which we will discuss shortly.

Missionaries of the Mission; other than one unit in Mexico this is a new platform of the Mission to be developed wherein, by the grace of God, we will be cultivating preachers of the Mission and young missionaries who will devote a period of time in their lives to

engage in the Good Works of the Mission and at the same time study the doctrine of the Catholic faith and its theology.

The real expansion of these platforms of Good Works into parish life is one of the main objectives of this Fourth Cornerstone. Through the present and future International Directors of the Mission for each of these platforms and by the grace of God, the Mission will develop the programs of these platforms into something very important to assist the Church at not only parish and diocesan levels, but also through the Church of each country the Mission is blessed to be in.

By the grace of God, through the intercession of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, may His Will be done. In the morning prayer of the Mission we pray: "beloved Father, I give You this day my free will, please unite it to Your Divine Will, show me what You would have me do this day and help me, beloved Father to accomplish it. Amen."