

08.06.2018

Father Francis Jordan - advocate of lay action calling all to be apostles

All the baptized are called to be apostles of Christ in everyday life. This results from the receiving of the Sacrament of Baptism. Through the Sacraments, God gives each person the spiritual gifts necessary to fulfill the apostolic mission.

There is a moment in the life of every person when they have to make a decision concerning their vocation. The desire to serve God and people is a gift, which each of us receives from God. To be an apostle of Christ means to follow in his footsteps, to imitate Him in everyday life and in the service to those who do not yet know God and who do not love His Son, Jesus Christ. This is our Salvatorian mission, about which our Founder cared so much. Every baptized person is called to be an apostle, and this concerns every Salvatorian in a special way; each of us has to take care so that *all may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent* (Jn 17:3).

Our Founder often said that *it is our task as far as possible to live in the spirit of Jesus Christ and to follow the holy Apostles*. (Exhortations and Admonitions, p. 157).

What our Founder had very much at heart was that not only priests, religious brothers or sisters, but also all lay people should listen to the voice of the Lord and should be His apostles and witnesses to the world, and to other people.

Lay people are to be apostles first of all, by deepening their life of faith every day, through prayer and through giving witness. It was important for the Founder that they really live their faith every day, and he stressed the importance of the Sacrament of Penance and of receiving often the Eucharist.

For us, Salvatorians, fathers brothers, sisters and lay this call of our Founder is extremely important and current, so we seek to fulfill the mission he left for us. We proclaim the Gospel and the Savior where it is most necessary, where people do not know and love Jesus Christ. This call of the Founder is also vital for me personally, I am called to be an apostle in the modern world, I am called to proclaim the Savior of the world - *manifestare Dominum nostrum omnibus et ubique* - to manifest our Lord to all and everywhere.

Fr. Artan Seli SDS