

IVth Sunday of the Advent; 19th December 2021.

GOSPEL-ECO

Ecosocial Catechesis from Sunday's Gospel



CONTEXT

Where do we listen to God?

Do you like to listen Him and to join to His project of love?

Karl Barth, a twentieth-century Swiss theologian, with great conviction said that to do theology one needed: the Bible and the Newspaper. Paraphrasing we can say that, to live Christianity authentically, it is necessary to listen to the Word of God and at the same time the reality of the World.

The Virgin Mary is the model of this integrated listening. Thinking of our eco-social commitment, the concrete response of this young lady from Nazareth is a source of light and inspiration in our service.

GOSPEL

Lk 1: 38-45

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said,

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

"RESPECTING AND CARING FOR THE COMMON HOME IS A NEW WAY OF LOVING GOD"



REFLECTION

This Sunday is that of **the caring visit**. After hearing the Word of God, Mary gets up and leaves promptly to attend to her cousin Elizabeth, aged and pregnant who needs help and company. Thus, Mary teaches us the fundamentals of the spirituality of service and companionship. In an eco-social point of view we can also see the Earth as a mother (LS 1,2,11,53,87,92) and as a sister (LS 1,65,68,92,241) who is in need, as says the encyclical *Laudato Si* (LS).

The global ecological crisis invites us to take care of the Common Home of all. This is the actual situation where the Lord calls us to collaborate and serve. With her example, Mary, encourages us not to remain as mere spectators of what happens on our Earth with the environmental problems, but to become active participants and guiding protagonists of services in favor of our mother Earth and the entire living beings whom it shelters. As Mary serves Elizabeth guided by the intuition of the Holy Spirit -who covered her with his shadow-, we who cherished with the gifts and charisms of the Spirit, are also called do the same.

We can say that many generously committed volunteers, guided by the teachings of the LS encyclical, are like Mary of Nazareth of the Gospel. Each christian, together with concrete actions, can make this ecological missionary pilgrimage with a spiritual and even mystical sense of what we silently do in favor of our mother Earth.

COMMITMENT

Pope Francis calls Mary, the Virgin of promptness.

Taking Mary as a model, we ecological missionaries, let us hurry to take care of our mother Earth, exercising with the actions that we already know: **Reject, Replace, Reduce, Repair, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Reflect, Renew...**

PRAYER

Lord, we ask you for the grace to have an open heart to Jesus who is yet to come. May we be bearers of new life, following the example of Mary, and go to serve those in need; starting with our mother Earth, our common home, which houses all creatures.

Jesus! Come Savior!