



Chaplain's Corner Reverend Milton E. Jordan Special Edition

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis and Archbishop of Manila, participated last week in a series of encounters in Florence focusing on Pope Francis' encyclical "**Evangelii Gaudium**" [*The Joy of the Gospels*] and on the Pope's

call to Church members to take the Church into the world and into its peripheries. The following was published on the internet several days ago. For us it is worthy of reflection. Cardinal Tagle is one of the strongest members of the Church's College of Cardinals. He studied at Catholic University while living in Northern Virginia with family members.

"When people hear about Evangelii Gaudium of course they associate it with the favorite expression of Pope Francis: the Church that goes out to the peripheries" Cardinal Luis Tagle explains, but if we study the document carefully there is a deep spirituality to be discovered.

The Cardinal says the Pope himself has pointed out that his call has to do with openness towards the Holy Spirit and acting as the Holy Spirit suggests.

"Now that is not just 'work, work, work,' or 'going, going, going,' it requires a lot of prayer and discernment" he says.

So, he says, it is good to be reminded that it is a spirituality that is missionary and it helps one discover the spiritual foundation of the missionary mandate that the Holy Father has given us.

Tagle points out that at the heart of the Pope's call is the encounter with the Lord: "it is the encounter with the Lord that transforms us and transforms also the Church".

Because of the centrality of the encounter with the Lord and the encounter with people – especially with those who suffer – Cardinal Tagle says this missionary spirituality reminds us that mission is not just work, it is also our capacity to be 'amazed' before the Gospel.

And, Tagle says, it is not a burden, but the fulfillment of our vocation as human



Seton notes



beings and as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, he explains “you give your all but you also receive everything from the Lord and from the people” because encountering Jesus in the people and in the world has the power to bring about conversion – personal, pastoral and institutional conversion.

Tagle speaks of the strong link that exists between the encyclical “Populorum Progressio” written 50 years ago by Blessed Pope Paul VI and Pope Francis’ “Evangelii Gaudium”.

“When we look at the world and how Pope Paul VI described it 50 years ago, unfortunately we still see the same realities: inequality, poverty and its consequences, the bad effects on human persons; that’s why he calls for integral human development” he says.

This, Tagle says, points us to search for a model which can be found in Jesus Christ, and he explains that when Pope Paul VI talks about integral human development he refers not only to the development of the economic and financial aspects of human life, but also to the development in “contemplation, in education, in friendship, in our capacity to be simple and poor, in our capacity to think of others, the neighbors: This is all part of this development and it happens when we encounter Jesus and encounter other people.”.

So, the Cardinal concludes, there is a huge connection between the two encyclicals “of course there are new realities 50 years later, but the main inspirations remain constant and valid.”

Fr Jordan’s Thoughts

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle

Where is our Church going in our nation? Let’s be honest, I believe there is more devotion that has been brought to our parish and our parish families by those who have moved to the USA in the last 20 years.

Sense of two Vatican Nuncios (Ambassadors) I had lunch with today at the Vatican Embassy. These two men who have given most of their lives to the work of our recent Holy Fathers feel that there is so much that we have lost in our nation because we have lost a sense of devotions.

How few actually take part in various devotions that are presented by our parish. Let’s look at how we have grown. I believe we are nearing 900 families. Also that 900 families is approximated 3000+ believers. Yet, despite the magnificent growth in our Sunday Mass attendance, there is wanting in our parish a genuine devotional practice among many more families.