

2022 08 29 Mon The Passion of St John the Baptist (the Canossian Daughters of Charity)

Dear sisters,

It is already the 29th of August. Three weeks ago when the General Chapter had just begun I guess some of you might have thought 'how can I survive three weeks of continuous hearings of reports, endless committee meetings, plenary and group discussions on the Chapter agendas. ~~I am tired of meetings.~~' Now, after three weeks of sisterly sharing^g and contemplation^f on the Christian and Canossian vision, the Chapter is approaching to the end. Different from the beginning of the Chapter, NOW you may feel, looking back to those three weeks, it was short. Now you are all about to depart for the future and at the same time you are going to return to your own places, your own ministries, your own communities, your own countries, except some sisters elected to the administrative positions in the general curia here in Rome. ^{just}

I read on Vatican News that capitular sisters had made a visit to Pope Francis last Friday. And the same article recounted Pope's beautiful reflection on the theme of the 17th General Chapter, "Women of the word, loving without measure, reconfiguration to a life of holiness in and for the mission, today."

According to the article, ^{report} with regard to the third part of the theme, "Reconfiguration to a life of holiness in and for the mission, today" the Pope said that holiness and mission are constitutive dimensions of Christian life and are inseparable from each other. I would like to reflect on this a little bit more today.

In connecting "reconfiguration to a life of holiness" with "mission," I see two prepositions are essential, that is, "in" the mission and "for" the mission. Since Pope Francis already talked about "for" the mission part, I would like to focus on "in" the mission part. While as Christians we all are sent for the mission, at the same time we are also called to be holy, and mission whether it be a place or a task, is our place "in" which we should strive to be holy. Whatever your assignment might be in your province, whether it be nurse in a provincial infirmary for the sisters, teacher in a high school, catechist in a parish, cook in your own community, economo for the province, driver in the general curia, or superior in a convent, "in" your own place through your daily life and work you endeavor to be holy. When you wrestle with money, when you are tired of peeling and cutting vegetables, when you are burnt out dealing with the various problems and difficult community members, those are the moments that can lead you to holiness. All the various challenges and struggles that seemingly have nothing to do with God, ^{nor} the Gospel proclamation, however, if they make you seek for God's help and stimulate you to contemplate with God on their meanings in God, your daily life and tasks not only contribute to the mission by serving the sisters and the communities, but also they are the concrete ways that lead us to holiness. Of course, when one strives to live the life of holiness, she witnesses to God, thus she eventually works "for" the God's mission.

I think what makes someone holy is not her impeccable virtuous life since there is no perfect human being, but rather her struggle not to give up and her perseverance to hold on to God despite her weakness and faults. Let's not forget that we are called to be holy, and we can lead a holy life in our ordinary life in our ~~daily~~ mission.

~~daily~~
gifted