

SYNOD ON YOUTH. Vatican. Words of **Msgr. Eduardo García**, Bishop of San Justo and Ecclesiastical Assistan CA Argentina and IFCA, at the time of free speeches in the synod hall. 17-10- 2018.

In many of the words we are listening to there is the background music of a certain nostalgia for a time that will never return and the lament for a world that no longer fits into our schemes. Certain mirages also appear that divert our perception and we do not realize that a certain model has failed.

Far from despair, I hear the words of Sabato resound, an Argentinian writer who used to say: "The greatest nobility of men is to lift their work in the midst of devastation, supporting it tirelessly, halfway between tears and beauty" and the pen by Dostoevsky confirms it with the famous affirmation: "beauty will save the world".

What beauty? The beauty of the love of Jesus which is our only wealth, the one that neither the moth corrodes nor time makes old.

The reality is superior to the idea, the Pope told us. Through the wounds, the fragility and the cries; even the silent ones of our young people, God asks us to make the tenderness of the Father present; just as Jesus did as a missionary of the love of the Father. Yes, a tenderness capable of countering the culture of death, waste and disenchantment without condemnation speeches.

We must show young people a living Jesus who approaches them, not to indoctrinate them, but to obtain the best version of themselves from them and this is possible only starting from an affective and effective love.

Affective because they need to feel loved in their life as they are. Effective because only free love seduces the heart, traps intelligence, creatively seeks new ways to express it and moves the will by making a luminous gesture, verifiable and credible thanks to faith.

We also said that we need new languages to enter into communication: we look at Jesus in his language of the gestures of incarnate, irrefutable love that does not need defense or dogmatic explanations.

In the post-truth reality, young people need to see, to see actions. Pastoral conversion consists in having a careful look at what it is, not at what we want to see.

Pastoral conversion is an urgency that calls us to be an outgoing church with concrete gestures. In our pastoral processes with young people the anchor point today is not the spoken word but the lived word, made flesh.

Mission, option for the poor and young people are an inseparable triad. The mission, the Samaritan approach to the poor, cannot be the conclusion of a process or just another sporadic experience, but rather a way of being in the Church, and a sign for the world.

The mission inevitably leads us to meet the pain of the world; this pain will provoke the need for personal prayer and intercession; of a formation that helps young people to enter ever more deeply into the merciful heart of Jesus, giving reason for our hope; and of an asceticism, not imposed but joyfully sought, which leads to sharing with solidarity what we have and what we are. Like Saint Teresa, young people in the heart of the Church are called to be love and to embody love in gestures.

Let's make ourselves an outgoing church, we call young people to share with us the adventure of being a Samaritan church, which pitches its tent on the street, where life passes without the disgust of mixing in disorder with the messy, the dirty, the stained, the stigmatized: sharing and putting their life on our shoulders without asking for a card of good conduct, to heal their wounds as a prophetic gesture of Christian love. This is the beauty that fascinates and attracts. When a young person feels loved and useful, his life takes on meaning and his faith leads him to even greater things.