

## **14 COMMUNITY WORK**

### **READING OF THE CONSTITUTIONS:**

42. Called the Philipians to follow Christ by vocation, our community enjoys his presence, being summoned in his name.

44. Our option for community life is what disposes us to love those Sisters that God gives us, accepting them as they are and favoring their maturity process.

### **TO MEDITATE:**

1. Do I enjoy my vocation, do I enjoy the presence of Christ in my community?
2. Do I live my option for community life as a liberation or as a burden?
3. Do I realize that accepting the Sisters as they are also helps me to accept myself and favors my own maturation?

### **READING OF THE GOSPEL (Mk. 3, 13-15)**

At that time Jesus went up on the mountain, called those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve to be with him and to send them out to preach with the power to cast out demons.

### **TO MEDITATE:**

- Am I aware that Jesus has called me to get closer to Him every day?

### **GOSPEL READING (Jn. 13, 3-5. 12-17)**

Jesus, knowing that the Father had placed all things in his hands, that he had come from God and that he was returning to God, got up from the table, took off his robe, took a towel and wrapped it around him. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that he had wrapped around himself.

After washing their feet, he put on his cloak, sat down again at the table and said to them: Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me the master and the lord; and you say well, because I am. For if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you too should wash each other. I have given you an example, so that you can do the same as I have done. I assure you that the servant is not more than his master, nor the envoy more than the one who sends him. If you know this and put it into practice, you will be happy.

### **TO MEDITATE:**

1. How do I live my religious life, as a service or as a requirement?

2. Do I understand that the true power and dominion over things is in making life easy for others?

3. When am I most happy, when I demand or when I fix my gaze on Jesus?

**READING OF THE EXCELLENCES OF FRATERNAL CHARITY (Fr. Tejero)<sup>[1]</sup>**

The Holy Spirit says through the prophet king: How good and pleasing it is to God to live the brothers united and in conformity with each other<sup>[2]</sup>. Saint Jerome says that these words are mainly addressed to the religious. The interested love and the carnal love of the relatives are far below the spiritual love that should reign in a community because the brotherhood of Christ is superior to that of the blood, says Saint Ambrose.

And Saint Basil: There is nothing more happy, nor that more resembles the angels of heaven, than to see people of different parts, talents and characters so perfectly united with each other, that they seem a single soul in many bodies by the fraternal and spiritual union that unites them. This spirit is the one that Saint Philip Neri wanted to bring to its greatest perfection, and for this reason he placed the most holy virtue of charity as the fundamental basis of his Institute. This very divine and well understood and practiced basis is what makes religious life sweet, what sanctifies its individuals, what attracts vocations and what spreads outside the smell of holiness that resides in the community.

This base is the trumpet, says Saint Augustine, to whose sweet sounds children leave their parents, their goods and comforts and come to unite in fraternal charity to lovingly serve heavenly God. This true love, says Saint Paul, is the bond of perfection, because it perfectly binds all understandings and wills, so that all religious are one for themselves. And Jesus Christ esteemed this so much that in the prayer he addressed to his Eternal Father, he only asks that his children get along with each other so closely that the world knows that he is and lives among them.

**TO MEDITATE:**

1. As a Philippian, do I feel called to common life in charity?

2. What kind of "charity" do I live in my life? What effects do I feel when I live it? Am I the religious that I am called to be?

**READING OF REJOICE DOCUMENT (Sacred Congregation for Consecrated Life)**

A daily, personal and fraternal path, marked by discontent, by the bitterness that closes us in lamentation, in a permanent nostalgia for unexplored paths

and unfulfilled dreams, becomes a lonely path. Our life, called to the relationship in the fulfillment of love, can become a desert land.

We are invited in each age to return to the deep center of personal life, where the motivations of our living with the Master, disciples of the Master find meaning and truth.

Fidelity is awareness of the love that guides us towards the You of God and towards each person, in a constant and dynamic way, while we experience in ourselves the life of the Risen One: «Those who allow themselves to be saved by Him are freed from sin, from sadness, of the inner emptiness, of the isolation».

**TO MEDITATE:**

1. What marks my daily path and that of my community?
2. Do I allow the Lord to save me? Do I allow him to free me from my sin, from sadness, from inner emptiness and isolation?
3. Do I still believe that the Lord has the strength to allow me - allow us to live our personal and community vocation in this way?

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[1] Fr. Tejero Written's book p. 491.

[2] Cf. Sal. 133 (132), 1.