



Cavanis Lay Fraternity
Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE
Via Col Draga - Possagno (TV)

INVISIBLE MONASTERY

07.2024



Dear friends,

We are now only a few days away from the great event of our Annual Assembly; therefore, this prayer's appointment of ours has a very special significance and it suggests the need for us to assume as of now the right inner attitude to live it as the extraordinary opportunity of grace that the event constitutes. I find in the Gospel of the Twelfth Sunday in the Ordinary Time an important suggestion that I would love to share with you all. There is, in the text of this Gospel, a very significant expression that offers us a key to understanding more properly its scope, avoiding confining it to the narrow space of

a celebratory episode from which Jesus' power over the elements emerges. Certainly, the God who - as the first reading says - "shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?", it is the same one who in Jesus of Nazareth "threatens the wind and tells the sea to calm down"; but limiting oneself to the admiration filled with awe of those who, looking at his work, exclaim, "Who then is this man, that even the wind and the sea obey him?", it is not enough. The episode narrated by Mark takes place at the end of a long day spent by Jesus in the pursuit of preaching the Kingdom; toward evening Jesus himself says to his own, "Let us go to the other shore". The verb *diabaino* is used, which is the verb of Passover; it is as if Jesus is saying that

there is a space to be passed through and that it must be passed through together with Him. It is a passage not without dangers and difficulties but He, who opens the way, is able to master them and lead us to the desired landing place, to that shore from which the stormy sea separates us. It is not, however, a solitary path in which each one individually is measured with the difficulties, but a choral path or, in Pope Francis' language, "synodal", made together with the brothers and sisters who share the call of the Kingdom, and with Jesus who has addressed that call to us. Walking with Jesus therefore means going with him to do Easter, "crossing to the other shore", and discovering that the faith that binds us to him in a vital relationship is greater than our fears and the events that provoke them. The Fathers of the Church often identified in that stormy sea the dramatic picture of human History or even that, in turn critical and difficult, of our own personal experience unsettled by tons of discouragement, illness, disappointment. It seems to me, however, that a small image of being Church should be captured in the narrative above all: called together by Jesus to walk with Him toward the paschal exodus that is to sail us into the Kingdom, looking not so much at the threat of the storms that surround us as at the Lord who is with us and dominates them. This, in the end, is what it means to be Church and, for us, to be so in the proper ways and style of spiritual life of our FLC and in the motivation to share the charism given by the venerable brothers Fr. Anthony and Fr. Mark Cavanis.



From the Gospel according to Mark (Mk. 4:35-41)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Fr. Diego Spadotto, the instruction and education for the youth is a net of salvation, in www.cavanis.org, 16.05.2024

Pope Francis' quick visit to Venice on April 28 was an invitation for us to remember Fr. Mark Cavanis who was born in Venice and there with his brother Anthony founded the Congregation of the Schools of Charity. The Pope in his joyful interventions with the youth, made us Cavanis remember Fr. Mark, with gratitude to the Lord, his passion for the "poor children", his humorous interventions full of liveliness, even when he returned from his travels and could once again be together with the school children. The Pope said that Venice has always been "a sign of beauty ... starting with the last, a sign that makes all brothers and equals". Fr. Mark lived his city in this way and gave the young people his life, his joy, his labors, "time, prayer, closeness and paternal affection".

He showed us through his humble wanderings in search of school aid "the harsh reality, the lack of facilities, of resources, of violence that generated suffering" in the city, as well as the opportunities "through respecting and caring for the talents and abilities of young people...often imprisoned by the vicissitudes of life, but which can re-emerge for the good of all and which deserve attention and trust".

Fr. Mark was convinced that instruction and the education of youth, were a net of salvation for the city of Venice, to free them from projects that sought to hide inequality and poverty and, as Pope Francis said, "aporophobia, a terrible neologism that means phobia of the poor".



P. Mark courageously addressed, the poverty and fragility of youth both with city institutions and with the youth themselves, so that they would learn to use discernment and critical consciousness to be protagonists of their future.

In his meeting with young people, Pope Francis addressed the same issue: "We often find ourselves struggling against a negative force of gravity that pulls us down, an oppressive inertia that wants us to see everything as gray". "Let us let the Lord take us by the hand, who never disappoints those who trust in Him". "Nothing should be left to improvisation; it is necessary to persevere, day after day", he said. "And do it together, because togetherness helps us to move forward. Do-it-yourself does not work".

Fr. Mark was convinced of this with his battles for the freedom of the School, the Oratory, the Marian Congregation, and the various Cultural Associations that he and Brother Anthony started and animated to help young people become "good Christians and good citizens".