

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KERYGMA IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

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RECENTLY I HAVE BEEN INVITED SEVERAL TIMES TO SALT LAKE CITY, BRENHAM, TEXAS, AND THE PARISH OF ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA IN SAN ANTONIO TO GIVE, ALONG WITH THE BREATHE'S TEAM (PARTICULARLY PATRICIA), EVANGELIZATION RETREATS. THE RETREAT IS THE INITIAL PROCLAMATION OF THE KERYGMA, THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM AND SALVATION IN JESUS. THE CONTENT OF THE KERYGMA, ALTHOUGH IT IS OWNED BY THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WAS RE-DISCOVERED BY FATHER ALFONSO NAVARRO CASTELLANOS MSSP (RIP) MORE OR LESS IN 1973. FROM THE RETREAT OF INITIATION'S EXPERIENCE WHICH WAS CONDUCTED UNDER THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL, FATHER NAVARRO INTUIT, THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, THIS PROCLAMATION WAS NOT NEW IN THE CHURCH, BUT RATHER, WAS CENTRAL TO THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH UNDER THE TITLE OF CHURCH AND NOT AMOVEMENT. THIS MODEL PRESENTATION OF KERYGMA IS TODAY IMPLEMENTED IN HUNDREDS OF PARISHES AROUND THE WORLD. THE KERYGMA IS THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE AND OF ALL DIOCESAN AND THE PARISH'S PASTORAL, AND IS ALSO KNOWN AS FUNDAMENTAL EVANGELIZATION. IN 1974 POPE PAUL VI PRESENTED A DOCUMENT CALLED EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, WHERE THE POPE CLEARLY STATED THAT THE ESSENTIAL MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS EVANGELIZATION, "THE CHURCH EXISTS TO EVANGELIZE" THE DOCUMENT SAYS. FATHER NAVARRO WAS RIGHT, AND UPSTREAM SAY THAT THE WHOLE CHURCH SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE KERYGMA TO GIVE IT AGAIN TO BE KNOWN UNDER THE TITLE OF EVANGELIZATION. A FEW YEARS LATER, POPE JOHN PAUL II WROTE A DOCUMENT CALLED CATECHESIS TRADENDAE WHICH WAS RETURNING TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KERYGMA BECAUSE AS THE DOCUMENT SAYS: "THE MAJORITY OF CATHOLICS HAVE NOT MADE A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST ... AND ARE TRUE CATECHUMENS" . IN SIMPLE TERMS, MOST CATHOLICS HAVE NOT HAD A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE RISEN JESUS, CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THE KERYGMA. RETURNING TO THE PHRASE "NEW EVANGELIZATION" OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, AND TAKING THE RESULTS OF THE SYNOD ON THE NEW EVANGELIZATION FORMED BY POPE BENEDICT VI, POPE FRANCIS TODAY AGAIN CHALLENGED US, IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE, AND DIRECT, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KERYGMA AND THE ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST, OR RE-ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST. JUST READ THE INTRODUCTION TO HIS EXHORTATION (CALL AND MOMENTUM) THE JOY OF THE

GOSPEL. MOREOVER, POPE FRANCIS IS PROCLAIMING THE KERYGMA IN MANY WAYS, BY WORD AND EXAMPLE, ESPECIALLY PROCLAIMING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST. AS YOU KNOW ALREADY, THE POPE ANNOUNCED A JUBILEE YEAR (VERY SPECIAL) DEDICATED TO MERCY, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EXTERNAL VIRTUE, AS ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SAID. IT SEEMS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CHOSEN POPE FRANCIS AS A MESSENGER, IE A PROPHET ANNOUNCES WHAT GOD WANTS AND ASKS US. AND AS THE POPE FRANCIS SAYS AND REPEATS, THE HEART OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS THE EVANGELIZATION, WHICH THE KERYGMA IS PARAMOUNT CENTER AND PERMANENT. ALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION IS BASED ON THE DEEPENING OF THE KERYGMA, SAYS THE DOCUMENT ON THE NEW EVANGELIZATION. ALL TRAINING IS BASED ON THE PROCLAMATION OF A GOD WHO LOVES YOU.