

## **Fr Eugene Vaz: The joy of the Gospel: A call to Missionary Discipleship.**

*The call to missionary discipleship is a call of encouragement.*

*Dare to dream through the joy of the gospel.*

### **What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?**

- Missionary discipleship is a call to embrace a new way of evangelization. It is a new way for the transmission of faith. The foundation for missionary discipleship is the joy that comes from a deeper, intimate relationship with Christ. It is the joyful encounter of the love of God.
- Missionary discipleship moves from the individual believer, who has the joy of Jesus, who has encountered Jesus, towards transforming the lives of the people around them - thereby, transforming the world from sin, misery, brokenness and sorrow.
- EG1 -The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Christ.

### **How are we called to evangelize?**

- We are called to be spirit-filled evangelizers in a concrete reality, where we bring out an authentic, outward-looking, merciful and missionary church.
- For this to happen, we have to first look inward and draw from the joy of the Gospel. We are called to be nourished by the strength and light of the Holy Spirit. Looking inward requires us to be firmly rooted in prayer, scripture, and truly encounter Christ.
- With that foundation, we are called to accept the reality of our world, of our personal lives, and proclaim the good news, with Jesus at the centre. This will lead to sharing Christ, encountering Christ, and living the joy in an outward-looking manner, thus portraying a merciful and missionary church.
- When joy is rooted in Christ, mission becomes natural.
- Instead of looking at self-preservation, look outward, take those challenges and find meaningful ways to proclaim the gospel.
- There is missionary power in intercessory prayer. The Holy Spirit grants the courage to proclaim the gospel with boldness in every time and place, even when it meets opposition.

EG1 - With Christ, joy is constantly anew.

EG120 - Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God.

### **What are the challenges?**

- An economic system that values money over people.
- Wealth creation.
- Lack of real engagement with the Gospel's impact on people's lives.

### **Who is called to be a missionary disciple?**

- All the baptized, irrespective of position or education, or knowledge in the faith.
- Every Christian who has encountered the love of Christ,
- One can no longer say that we are only missionaries or only disciples, but we are all missionary disciples, i.e we are disciples who have encountered Christ through the Gospels and we are missionaries because we go outward, reach out to people depending on our current realities.

### **The Social Dimension of Evangelisation.**

- The "preferential option for the poor" is central to evangelization.
- Proclaiming the Gospel must address the crisis, conflicts, and reality and signs of the present time. To evangelize is to make the kingdom of God present in the real world today.
- Address the "cry of the poor".
- Evangelisation through "dialogue for peace and the common good", respecting religious freedom.

### **Mary, Mother Of Evangelization**

- Mary is Jesus' gift to his people.
- She is the star of the new evangelisation.
- Power of intercession of Our Lady.

### **Reflection :**

1. How can CFM be a changemaker in a missionary, joyful, and socially conscious church?
2. How will CFM draw from the heart of the gospel and be relevant in the now/ in the today/ in the reality of our lives?
3. What is the transformation story of CFM going to be?
4. What is our evangelical discernment?
5. What would JESUS WANT?
6. What is the CFM dream for missionary discipleship?
7. How will you transcend cultures and be a changemaker in a Christ-centric evangelization?

### **Evangelii Gaudium Connections:**

EG 1

With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.

EG 9

Goodness always tends to spread. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others. *Evangelising must be delightful and comforting, authentic and sensitive to the people around.*

EG 120

Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God.

EG 41

Today's vast and rapid cultural changes demand that we constantly seek ways of expressing unchanging truths in a language that brings out their abiding newness.

EG 259

Spirit-filled evangelizers are those who fearlessly open themselves to the working of the Holy Spirit.

### **Scripture Connections:**

Joy is the sign of a true encounter with Christ (John 15:11).

Christians are called to radiate this joy in daily life (Philippians 4:4).