



You go into my vineyard too

John Paul II. *Christifideles laici*. 1-3

The lay members are those who form that part of the People of God which might be likened to the labourers in the vineyard mentioned in Matthew's Gospel: "For the Kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard" (Mt 20:1-2).

The gospel parable sets before our eyes the Lord's vast vineyard and the multitude of persons, both women and men, who are called and sent forth by him to labour in it. The vineyard is the whole world (cf. Mt 13:38), which is to be transformed according to the plan of God in view of the final coming of the Kingdom of God.

You go into my vineyard too

"And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too'" (Mt 20:3-4). From that distant day the call of the Lord Jesus "You go into my vineyard too" never fails to resound in the course of history: it is addressed to every person who comes into this world. *You go too*. The call is a concern not only of Pastors, clergy, and men and women religious. The call is addressed to everyone: lay people as well are personally called by the Lord, from whom they receive a mission on behalf of the Church and the world.

Why do you stand here idle all day?

A new state of affairs today both in the Church and in social, economic, political and cultural life, calls with a particular urgency for the action of the lay faithful. If lack of commitment is always unacceptable, the present time renders it even more so. *It is not permissible for anyone to remain idle*.

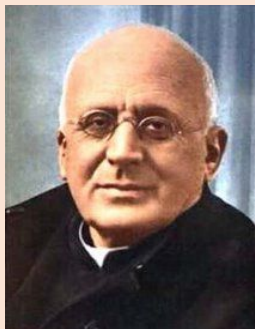
We continue in our reading of the gospel parable: "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'. They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us'. He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too'" (Mt 20:6-7). Since the work that awaits everyone in the vineyard of the Lord is so great there is no place for idleness. With even greater urgency the "householder" repeats his invitation: "You go into my vineyard too".

The voice of the Lord clearly resounds in the depths of each of Christ's followers, who through faith and the sacraments of Christian initiation is made like to Jesus Christ, is incorporated as a living member in the Church and has an active part in her mission of salvation. The voice of the Lord also comes to be heard through the historic events of the Church and humanity, as the Council reminds us: "The People of God believes that it is led by the Spirit of the Lord, who fills the whole world. Moved by this faith it tries to discern authentic signs of God's presence and purpose in the events, the needs, and the longings which it shares with other people of our time. For faith throws a new light on all things and makes known the full ideal to which God has called each individual, and thus guides the mind towards solutions which are fully human".

It is necessary, then, to keep a watchful eye on this our world, with its problems and values, its unrest and hopes, its defeats and triumphs. *This is the vineyard; this is the field in which the faithful are called to fulfill their mission*. Jesus wants them, as he wants all his disciples, to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (cf. Mt 5:13-14). But what is the *actual state of affairs* of the "earth" and the "world", for which Christians ought to be "salt" and "light"?

Here are two precious sources for our reflection:

- Encyclical Fratelli Tutti, ch. 1 "The shadows of a closed world" (nums. 10-55).
- The mission of the VDB today. The world is calling to our heart.



Thoughts of Father Rinaldi

(QC, August 1921)

It is a great gift of God to feel drawn to serve him, to surrender to his voice, because it is this aspiring to a more perfect life that easily leads to holiness.

The only true good that fills our soul and that is true happiness, is love for Our Lord. This must be one of the greatest commitments of our life, to love the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul.

God gave himself to us and we are made for him, infinite beauty.

The Lord is the good of our souls: we must know how to seek him through meditation, spiritual reading, pious exercises, good works, work and suffering.

Consolation in life is obtained through the exercise of charity, the love of the Lord, working to turn young people away from empty pleasures and sin in difficult times, and offering them a hand to help them stay on the path of goodness and virtue and leading them to God.

Work to have the Lord's love first, and then spread this good and bring it to the souls you are in contact with.

The work that Jesus did was to detach human beings from the earth and take them to Heaven. Don Bosco, Mother Mazzarello consumed their lives for this purpose. They are our models; try to imitate them.

Let us pray for those who have died

During this time of pandemic some of our VDB sisters have gone to the Father's Home. Let us continue to accompany them through our prayer.

Our dear Rector Major's father has gone to Heaven, as well as Fr Eusebio Muñoz, who was the Rector Major's Central Delegate for the Salesian Family for five years. We offer our condolences to the Rector major, his mother and family, and to Fr Eusebio's community. Let us continue to accompany them through our prayer.

Opening of the Salesian Family and Salesian Holiness rooms in the *Casa Museo Don Bosco*.

The opening of these rooms took place at the Museum in Valdocco on 8 September. The Salesian Family room provides information on the 32 Groups belonging to it, while the Holiness room offers a display on the Saints and Blesseds in the Salesian Family. All together, the *Casa Museo* offers a broad display of the historical and charismatic nature of the Salesian Family, one that encourages us to give thanks and allow ourselves to be challenged.

Efforts regarding various causes of canonisation

In Sicily various initiatives are being carried out to further the causes of Maria Saladino and Nino Baglieri. A number of videos have been produced on Maria Saladino to make her better known. They can be found on Youtube by searching for "Maria Saladino di Camporeale".

As for Nino Baglieri, the diocesan process is drawing to conclusion with the collaboration of the Postulation for the Causes of Saints (Fr Cameroni and Mrs Ludovica Zanet). It is important to make these exemplary figures of Salesian consecrated secularity known. Let us try to commit ourselves to this.

The next Salesian Spirituality Days

The next Spirituality Days will take place from 13-16 January 2022 in two ways: online, following last year's approach, and in person in Turin. Those interested in taking part either way will need to register.

The Days are intended to reflect on and explore the 2022 Strenna together with the Rector Major. As you know, the Strenna is "Do all through love, nothing through constraint."

The program for these Days includes presentation and reflection on the Strenna by the Rector Major, group work, communication among Salesian Family Groups, presentation of experiences, moments of prayer...

This will be the beginning of celebrations for the 4th Centenary of the death of St. Francis de Sales. We will discover the heart of the spirituality of this saint who strongly inspired Don Bosco, a precious experience of the Salesian Family worldwide that should help us to share the Salesian spirit. This spirit finds one of its main sources in Annecy's Saint.