

BUILDERS OF A CHRISTOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Recently we celebrated the wonderful mystery of our faith: *“The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ”*. I was at the celebrations of the Paschal Triduum at St Elizabeth Ann Seton in Bothell, WA. I really like these celebrations because they have a wonderful sense of community. Jesus’ invitation to build community is clearly made manifest and lived intensely through the invitation to celebrate our faith together.

Each of the liturgies holds a clear invitation to building Community. On Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to pay attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters and to practice an attitude of unconditional service. On Good Friday, He invites us to lay down our life for all – regardless of whether they are good or not. He leads us to walk carrying our Cross and helping people whose cross may have become unbearable. On Resurrection Sunday, He invites us to be a community who lives in prayer and full of joy when they discover the wonderful gift of the risen life of Jesus Christ. This new life invites us to be transformed and live a strong experience of prayerful community surrounding Jesus.

These celebrations brought to my mind the Apostleship of the Cross as well. We Apostles of the Cross are invited to build a community. Let us meditate on #8 of the Statutes, when talking about the commitment, it reads: *“This commitment is lived out according to the specific plans of each Region and the circumstances of each person, through the search for and willingness to have a personal experience of God, through living the communal life according to each person’s vocation, through ministry with social and ecclesial impact, through their engagement in comprehensive formation, and any other actions proposed by the Regional Council.”* The invitation here is to experience community life. I’d like to invite each Apostle of the Cross and each Center to review and evaluate their communal experience. Jesus is inviting us to have a profound community life, not just a group that meets and shares a meditation, and that’s all. The invitation is profound, it means creating community in love and become a Christocentric community where love and forgiveness are virtues practiced daily.

This building of Community begins inside of every person’s heart. It can never be imposed from outside, rather it’s about feeling motivated to open oneself to others, and strive to help others. I think that maybe some communities disappear because we have not been able to build community the way Jesus wants us to; we may have been selfish sometimes, and considered only our own interest. The invitation is clear, and it’s always there, for every one of us: build our centers into true communities for the practicing of our faith and loving in Jesus Christ.

May this Easter season we’re still celebrating be a great opportunity to renew our sense of community and our apostolic outreach. May we live our commitment with the full force of the Gospel. May we turn our eyes to Felix and Conchita to ask for the graces we need to love the Spirituality of the Cross the way they did.

Jesus, Savior of the world, Save them!

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