

HOMILY OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING MASS OF THE MEETING
BETWEEN THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE CIRCUMSCRIPTION SUPERIORS

Dear Brothers,

today's Gospel reminds us of the discussion between Jesus and the Pharisees about the moment of the coming of the Kingdom. Jesus does not respond by giving them a precise date and time, but he reverses the way of seeing things by saying that the Kingdom is already in the world, it has already come! It is present, even if not in a complete form.

But where exactly is the Kingdom of God? We can say that the Kingdom of God is present where Jesus is, where hearts and minds are open to the action of his Spirit. The Kingdom of God is there where his Gospel is listened to and lived concretely. It is present in the holiness of the ordinary life of so many men and women who struggle with the power of faith to build a culture of peace, in the lives of so many courageous people who, despite suffering, continue to smile and walk building a better world.

To the extent that Jesus and his Gospel succeed in reigning among us, to the extent that community and social life – in the context of the culture of consumerism and waste, aimed at superficial and ephemeral well-being – become a space of brotherhood, justice and dignity for all. The Signs of the Kingdom of God are “prophetically” present there.

The Kingdom of God is also present where there is a commitment to evangelization. In fact, *Evangelii gaudium* states that «to evangelize is to make present in the world the Kingdom of God». In this sense, the Kingdom of God is also present in our work of evangelization, in our various apostolic initiatives, in our projects concerning the dissemination of the Word of God with the multiple languages of communication.

The Kingdom of God is already present among us, in our Congregation, in our Circumscriptions, in our communities. It is present where there are people who bear witness to the Gospel, where there is the effort to live in communion, where we try to build structures that promote the person, participation, collaboration and synodality.

Perhaps, often we do not see the presence of the Kingdom of God because we are too focused on problems, negative things, difficulties and not so much on the opportunities or signs of God present in our midst. One of the essential ways to enter into the logic of the Kingdom of God is indicated to us by the first reading, and it is that of those who accept Wisdom, which has its first reference in Jesus. In fact, in him the Wisdom of God excels, characterized, if we want to name a few peculiarities, by an intelligent, holy, unique, and penetrating spirit, a lover of goodness, a friend of man...

Let us ask the Lord for Wisdom so that we may be signs of the Kingdom of God in the Pauline consecrated life and in a special way in the ministry of authority that we carry out today.

To govern, concretely, is to “make grow”! And as Fr Alberione reminds us, to govern is to love. In this sense we can say that those who love make people grow and are committed to the growth of their brothers. This is truly a demanding task that requires the grace and strength of God and in this perspective also of Wisdom.

Dear brothers, we have certainly “touched” the presence of the Kingdom of God in this gathering that we are now concluding. The Eucharist we celebrated, the moments of prayer and fraternal sharing helped us to feel the presence of God in our midst. Returning to your Circumscriptions, as well as conveying our greetings, bring all the riches received in these days to animate our confreres on their Pauline journey.

In a special way, together with your Councillors, help our confreres to “walk together”, to embark on a synodal journey that allows itself to be illuminated by the Spirit, that responds ever better to the challenges of our life and mission, in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and Blessed James Alberione. Amen!

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Father Valdir José De Castro
Superior General