

❖ Presentation

Fr. Baudouin, in placing us at the school of the Incarnation, commits us in the footsteps of Jesus to welcome the present moment, there where we are. It is there and not « elsewhere », in « the here and now », according to the expression of Fr. Baudouin, that God comes to us in so many ways. It is there that we are to meet him and welcome him.

The leaflet « Grain de moutarde » n°5 presents « here and now » in this way:

It is above all a question of realism ... It is also one of the laws of the Incarnation situated in time, in a history, in a country, in a family ...

"NOW"

I do not have to choose "the present" that God gives me. My "now", it is for me to make of it my Faith experience,

"Here"

It takes a time of discernment to see a link between a precise situation and "Providence" because every situation is not necessarily wished by God, and there are some that we must fight against!

"Here" ... The invitation is twofold :

Do not dream of elsewhere which distracts me and dispenses me from acting... Find my strength in the reality of what is necessary for me to live to day in order to build me up and to build the future.

Every fidelity supposes and necessitates changes because our first fidelity is attention to our now and to the men and women of our time.

❖ Fr. Baudouin

« Take this century as the revolution has brought it forth, we are entering a new era. »

"It is not the time to start thinking about the Carmelites nor other convents. Providence has placed you there, sanctify yourself there. Often one is mistaken thinking of another time and another place. Here and now ! This is God's will. Do not be divided within yourself, my daughter. » (Letter to Sr St- Cyprien 13 October 1831)

In the 1st Rule : « God gives us the present time to use it well ; if he wants more from us he will give us the time necessary. »

He wrote to Abbé Gaboreau, one of his brothers and a spiritual son who wanted to embark on a dangerous missionary life in a foreign country:

"To be ready for what God wants from us, one must first carry out with exactitude and peace the work confided to us, thinking only of pleasing God, for the glory of Jesus and the good of our Mother, holy Church; keep ones spirit as a canvas under the brush of the painter, a white paper under the pen of the

writer; work at having great purity of heart, that is to say do not knowingly commit any fault. (1st January 1818)

« I praise your zeal, my dear son. It would be good and beautiful and glorious to die a martyr while evangelising the pagans or the Jews (...) Let us take the place which the master of the dwelling gives us. Let us value the talent ; we will have our struggles here (...) (11 February 1818)

To a religious : "Let us not lose ourselves in big things as the psalm says.. Let us sanctify ourselves and walk simply in the ordinary of our work. The opposite way is an illusion." (31 Dec 1823)

The square stone

"The other night I saw a lovely square stone, it seemed to be precious; it was square on every face. One could put it anywhere and on all sides, it was firm, and since it was large and heavy it found its place wherever it was placed .If it was thrown on thorns, it crushed them under it and remained there, firm... Placed on and between the flowers, it stayed there; one tried placing it on the walls of a building, wherever it was placed it was just right ... And so my daughters, become square if you are not so already. I saw another which was always too long or too short, it did not fit anywhere. I was told that it was a religious from Pons who was too concerned about the past and the future. The present was never good enough for her... « Understand, those who can »
(13 May 1810)

From P. Pécot, fmi , Founder of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

« Today, let us do the tasks for today, let us leave tomorrow's tasks for tomorrow.» (text quoted in : "Clartés sur la plaine"p. 125)

Testimonies from A Treasure In Common on « the Here and Now ».

The responses to a questionnaire addressed to the religious families and laity inspired by the spirituality of Fr. Baudouin often make mention of the importance of living « The here and now » according to the spirituality of the Incarnation.



Live well « The here and now » :

- It situates us in our « circle » of humanity

Human experience indicates some mile stones that could help to keep our feet on the ground. Here and now.

It is up to each one to situate oneself in her/his « circle » of humanity ! This daily humanity has faces and names. It is made up of areas, villages, families, neighbourhoods, professional teams, etc... It is our first environment. At our level then.

- It invites us to live the present moment

To live each day in a positive way. To be in the present moment. To recentre oneself..

To be more in relationship with the other, presence to the other.

To have the right tone.

A commitment in daily life. To be attentive to live daily live in truth justice, welcoming, simplicity, serenity, openness.

- It invites us to open our eyes

To open our eyes to daily events to perceive the urgencies and first signs of life, ready to give from our lives what we can bring,

To see events as paths of the Incarnation

To perceive the seeds of life, to be attentive to the seeds of the Word mysteriously hidden in every authentic human experience. To see the spirit of Jesus at work.

To discover where the love and tenderness of God, the suffering of God rises up : to be a watchman in the middle of our brothers and sisters... ..

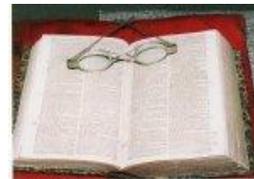
- It invites us to collaborate with God

Live the here and now... collaborating with the God of tenderness and mercy so that together we make a world, a society, a beautiful, happy people as He wants it to be.

The song by P. Gaëtan de Courrèges: *« Prenons ce temps tel qu'aujourd'hui l'enfante... »* is also included in the Common Treasure

❖ Word of God

*« Masticate the Word ...
to live the Here and Now »*



- Mt 6, 25-33 on « cares »:

- How do we welcome these words of Jesus for ourselves today?

- Eph 5, 15-16 *« Do not live like senseless people but like intelligent people. This may be a wicked age but your lives should redeem it »*

- in the Our Father : **Give us this day our daily.**

What do we want to say?

❖ Practise

To welcome the present moment as « the time that God gives me » does not mean that I should always be thinking of God in all that I do, this is neither possible nor desirable. It might simply mean : do well what I have to do, « love of work well done », to have the heart open and welcoming to those whom God puts in my path...



- reflect on my « daily life » family, social, professional :

- how do I live it? satisfied? unsatisfied? dreamer? nostalgic?

- how am I attentive to others? To calls?

- with the Our Father :

- morning : pause when we ask for bread and give him a personal account, according to that day's situation, what we foresee, our preoccupations, our cares...

- evening : pause while asking and take time to give thanks for the bread given that day...

