

Filled with Passion for Mission

8th « Portal »

Time to welcome

To share news ,events, joys and sorrows

Each one also comes with their own special « mission » ! To share also what constitutes our « mission ».

Fr. Baudouin.

Father Baudouin was present and lived his mission for the most part at the end of the French Revolution during which the church and Christians were very affected especially in Vendee, his own native region. Many priests like himself, had to go into exile, Christians were massacred and many were forced to hide... Society, for Fr. Baudouin, seemed to be in ruins, as Jerusalem in the Old Testament, after its destruction by Nabuchodonosor !

Returning from exile and still living in clandestinity Fr. Baudouin shared on what was his missionary project as it was presented to him: « *to raise up the ruins of Sion* ».



The « mission » Fr. Baudouin welcomes it in a twofold fidelity :

◆ Fidelity to the spirit of Jesus, Word Incarnate. Jesus is his unique “ North” !

- « *it is the Word Incarnate, the only one who merits the name of missionary, who sends out all missionaries, as he sent out his apostles, his disciples.* » (to the Missionaries of Saintonge)

- he invites missionaries to contemplate Jesus « meek and humble of heart » because *the principal virtue of missionaries is meekness of heart and the second is humility*». and from this contemplation, they will draw « *strength and patience.* » (to the Missionaries of Saintonge)

- Fr. Baudouin wanted to be « **missionary of the Son and of the Mother** ». *I want with the help of the vocation of my Master and Superior to be missionary of the Son and of the Mother ...* »

(letter to Mme St Benoît 29 Sept 1801)

◆ Fidelity to his time and « to the way of Providence »

- Fr. Baudouin « *Let us take this century as the Revolution has brought it forth, we are entering into a new era* » (in the Souvenirs of Mère Saint Laurent)

"It is necessary, said Fr. Baudouin to begin this great work by the education of youth; all the hope of the Church and of France is founded on the young generation... women could do much in this great work, it is to their care that the young are confided ...we are entering a new era, you must leave the sweet solitude of your monasteries to give a Christian education to young girls from all classes of society, no longer in your cloisters but in the middle of the century....

With M. Lebédesque and another friend, Fr. Baudouin believed so strongly in a better future... (that they envisaged) the setting up of a society of priests, who would make themselves available to Bishops for the missions, the direction of seminaries, of schools, of religious houses... (Souvenirs of Mère St Laurent)

« *Let us take this century
as the Revolution has
brought it forth* »

Faithful to his missionary project, he founded two missionary congregations, and the first seminary in France, in the aftermath of the Revolution.

He wrote to l'abbé Gaboreau, one of his companions in the seminary in La Rochelle, who was longing for a dangerous missionary life in a foreign country:

"I praise your zeal my very dear son. It would be good and beautiful and glorious to die a martyr (...) Let us take the place that the Master of the dwelling gives us.. Let us value the talent; we will have our battles here (...) (11 February 1818)

While he would love to have been part of the group of missionaries of Saintonge, Fr Baudouin was left with the direction of the seminary by Mgr Paillou. He wrote then to Mère Saint-Benoît:

« It is thought that I am more necessary here in the seminary than in the missions ; so I will stay here. God be praised ! I was at peace.. My soul is calm. I am going, with God's help, to calm my missionaries who are a little disturbed at not having me. They had the " misguided goodness" to think of me as their centre. But God will bless them. Pray much for them. (27 Sept 1820).

It is « **the thread/way of Providence** » that thus guided Fr.Baudouin in his « mission » .

A treasure in common with Passion for

Mission, with words of today by members of the Family of the Incarnation.

In fidelity to Jesus, « missionary of all Missionaries »

The Spirit of Jesus sends you to search into the depths of your being for what is essential, helps you to feel deeply loved by the Father, through his Son. He frees you from your attachments, from what enslaves you and invites you to journey with Him in peace day by day. You sense the need then to share with others this experience of love, to build a community and to give this Charism to others.



In fidelity to our time: our way of being missionary :

To be present at the heart of the world, a presence which is hidden as salt is: giving meaning to life but ever so discreetly. A way of being in the world allowing God to be revealed, making the face of God more visible.

A way of being in all simplicity, deeply rooted in everyday life, close, being welcoming in our house, listening and with a kindly smile.

Like the One who pitched his tent on our earth, we are called, to live on this earth in common with all of humanity, rooted in a people, in a church and here embrace life, listen to needs, discover the seeds of life, participate in the events of the people, without much security, exposed to the rigours of the age.

The Spirit of Jesus leads us to become involved in life,

- * while feeling, accompanying and weaving dreams and hopes with the women and men of our time
- * drawing up, collaborating with others, in finding responses based on the salvific power of the Gospel, to contribute to:
 - humanisation... stirring up the force of life that exists in the poor, awakening and accompanying the process that helps people to become aware of their full dignity.
 - the building up of the human community... by weaving relationships, net works, spaces for meeting and for organising.
 - the building up of the Christian community... by weaving an ecclesial life, awakening, animating and accompanying areas for the vitality and the nourishment of the Faith....

- acting for justice and truth : commitments chosen in line with the Incarnation.

- know how to situate ourselves in places of exclusion and to share in the ordinary of each day, giving value to small things.

Perhaps it will fall to us, we who have inherited a certain evangelical charism as a living expression of our Faith in a " human " God, to underline more than ever the meaning of humanism, of all humanism, including that of those who profess themselves " **without God** " .

Simply, to affirm that human life has a finality, outside of, I do not say all faiths but of all religion.

Mustard seeds to « masticate »

Word of God

• I Jn 1, 1-4 : *what we have seen*

- I Cor 9,16 : : *to announce the Gospel, this is an obligation for me*
- I Cor 12, 4-11 : *diversity of gifts for mission*
- Lc 10, 1-12 : *Jesus sends out 72 disciples for mission*



Practise

- ◆ Become aware of the gifts that God gives us
 - give thanks for them
 - how do I share them around me
- ◆ Reread the testimonies from the Treasure in Common :
 - those that touch me
 - what calls for « mission » for me ?


