SOCIAL JUSTICE
Called To Be Prophetic: Proclaim The Good News!

Reflection:

“...religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. This is the priority that is needed right now: “to be prophets who witness to how Jesus lived on this earth… a religious must never abandon prophecy”.

What is a prophet? Pope Francis…

⇒ Prophets receive from God the ability to scrutinize the times in which they live and to interpret events: they are like sentinels who keep watch in the night and sense the coming of the dawn (cf. Is 21:11-12).

⇒ Prophets know God and they know the men and women who are their brothers and sisters.

⇒ They are able to discern and denounce the evil of sin and injustice. Because they are free, they are beholden to no one but God, and they have no interest other than God.

⇒ Prophets tend to be on the side of the poor and the powerless, for they know that God himself is on their side.

What is the experience of a prophet? Pope Francis…

⇒ At times, like Elijah and Jonah, you may feel the temptation to flee, to abandon the task of being a prophet because it is too demanding, wearisome or apparently fruitless. But prophets know that they are never alone. As he did with Jeremiah, so God encourages us: “Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you” (Jer 1:8).

What can we do? Pope Francis…

⇒ I also hope for a growth in communion between the members of different Institutes. Might this Year be an occasion for us to step out more courageously from the confines of our respective Institutes and to work together, at the local and global levels, on projects involving formation, evangelization, and social action? This would make for a more effective prophetic witness.

(Extracts above from: Apostolic Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis To All Consecrated People On The Occasion Of The Year of Consecrated Life)

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