

CHAPTER SIX

CHRISTUS VIVIT- "YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ROOTS"

Summary *authored by Andrea Tornielli*

Pope Francis says that it hurts him to see *“young people sometimes being encouraged to build a future without roots, as if the world were just starting now”* (179). *“If someone tells young people to ignore their history, to reject the experiences of their elders, to look down on the past and to look forward to a future that he holds out, doesn't it then become easy to draw them along so that they only do what he tells them? He needs the young to be shallow, uprooted and distrustful, so that they can trust only in his promises and act according to his plans. That is how various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed”* (181).

The manipulators also use the cult of youth: *“The youthful body becomes the symbol of this new cult; everything associated with that body is idolized and lusted after, while whatever is not young is despised. But this cult of youth is simply an expedient that ultimately proves degrading to the young”* (182). *“Dear young friends, do not let them exploit your youth to promote a shallow life that confuses beauty with appearances”* (183). Because there is beauty in the labourer who returns home grimy and unkempt, in the elderly wife who takes care of her sick husband, in the fidelity of couples who love each other in the autumn of life.

Today instead we promote *“a spirituality without God, an affectivity without community or concern for those who suffer, a fear of the poor, viewed as dangerous and a variety of claims to offer a future paradise that nonetheless seems increasingly distant”* (184). The Pope invites young people not to allow themselves to be dominated by this ideology which leads to *“cultural colonization”* (185) which eradicates young people from the cultural and religious affiliations from which they come and tends to homogenize them by transforming them into *“a new line of malleable goods”* (186).

Fundamental is *“your relationship with the elderly”*, says the Pope, which helps young people to discover the living richness of the past. *“The Word of God encourages us to remain close to the elderly, so that we can benefit from their experience”* (188). *“This does not mean having to agree with everything adults say or approving all their actions”. “It is really a matter of being open to receiving a wisdom passed down from generation to generation”* (190). *“The world has never benefitted, nor will it ever benefit, from a rupture between generations... It is the lie that would have you believe that only what is new is good and beautiful”* (191).

Speaking of *“dreams and visions”*, Pope Francis observes: *“When young and old alike are open to the Holy Spirit, they make a wonderful combination. The old dream dreams, and the young see visions”* (192). *“If young people sink roots in those dreams, they can peer into the future”* (193). That is why we need *“to take risks together”*, walking together, young and old. *“Roots are not anchors chaining us” but “a fixed point from which we can grow and meet new challenges”* (200).

Fr. Jarek's Favourite Paragraph

submitted by Fr. Jarek Pachocki, OMI



OFFICE OF
Youth Ministry
DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

"That is why it is a good thing to let older people tell their long stories, which sometimes seem legendary or fanciful – they are the dreams of old people – yet are often full of rich experiences, of eloquent symbols, of hidden messages."

Christus Vivit 195

Reflections to consider...

submitted by Fr. Jarek Pachocki, OMI

Traditional Way

Living in Canada we are blessed to learn from the Indigenous People of this land. Once a year, the Dene People in the Northwest Territories, gather in one of their communities to celebrate their heritage, culture and traditions. A group of elders take some young people to travel their "traditional way" via canoes. It is often a challenging journey of long kilometers across the lakes, with dozens of portages and campsites with black flies eating you alive, but in essence it is a journey of the spirit passed on by the elders to the young generation.

Whatever your cultural background is, as an Indigenous person, as someone born in this country with ancestors coming from afar, or an immigrant yourself, reflect and treasure the spirit of the "traditional ways" you came from.

Remembrance

Generations of Canadians have served our country and the world during times of war, military conflict and peace. Through their courage and sacrifice, these men and women have helped to ensure that we live in freedom and peace, while also fostering freedom and peace around the world. By remembering their service and their sacrifice, we recognize the tradition of freedom these men and women fought to preserve. They believed that their actions in the present would make a significant difference for the future, but it is up to us to ensure that their dream of peace are realized.

On Remembrance Day, we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who served their country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve. If we forget, we uproot from our past, so remember with a grateful heart!