NEW WINE IN NEW WINESKINS
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Evangelization “New wine in new wineskins” was the theme of a Seminar held in Rome from April 23 to 27 2013 by SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission). The focus was on Europe, United States, Canada and New Zealand. The presenters to this conference were from the above mentioned countries. This seminar provided opportunities for study, prayer, reflection and conversation on the ‘New Evangelization’ proclaimed by the Church.

The topics offered were:

1. The identity of a missionary
2. The joy of knowing God
3. A journey forward from VATICAN II
4. A journey of mutual transformation
5. What needs to be ‘NEW’

Connected Topics
New Evangelization does not mean ‘New Gospel’ because Jesus Christ is the same ‘Yesterday, Today and Always.’ A new commitment is needed to proclaim the Gospel with a new reality, with a passionate engagement in the Spirit in order to create a new world, a violent wind, a volcano.

From the point of view of mission
God is in communion with us. Communication is mission. No need to save the world, God will save it. Our duty is to proclaim, discover, celebrate and build the kingdom, by sharing the vulnerability of the world and speaking the language of the people.

What is this evangelization?
It is a journey of Mutual Transformation. This can be awakened when we immerse ourselves in the midst of people. Experiences of oneness with people and with the universe help us to participate in the spirituality of Jesus. Mission becomes a spiritual journey which has an impact on understanding the ‘mystical-prophetic call’.

What leads to this transformation?
By building up relationship with those who suffer and listening to them, we learn to speak differently about God. It is important to learn the other person’s language, to accompany others in their thirst. This is our common vocation: To trust in God, who has loved us into life.

A challenging question for us
Who needs to be evangelized? Is it the poor and the marginalized or the Missionary Religious communities? Conversion is a shift in one’s orientation towards life. We are encouraged to remain connected to the life of Jesus and to understand the roles of Jesus as missionary, guest, prophet, preacher, rabbi etc.
Treasures, graces and challenges
Sr. Toni Harris, op. JPIC moderator and facilitator, summed up the « treasures, the graces, the challenges that our brothers and sisters have lived:

- The work of Evangelization in a neoliberal economic system and its consequences.
- The washing of feet as a sacrament of service
- Lay persons, women, young adults: different approaches…
- Listening: mission is dialogue, reciprocity, transformation, personal and community conversion

Another challenge for us, Daughters of Wisdom

- **Immigration**: we live in a growing multicultural context. Even in our churches, priests, lay people and religious come from other countries. How are the immigrants treated in every country, how do we live with them, and what place do we give them in our society?
- **Secularization, secularism**: this is often a reason to complain…it is the fault of….It is an opportunity for new Evangelization in the life of the Churches, a chance to question, to discern the Spirit at work among us.
- **The recognition of the role of women**
- **Priority to evangelize with the youth not for them.**
- **Prophets of evangelization** for the liberation of the oppressed, the poor in unjust societies, countries at war…
- **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, essential elements for Evangelization.** What is our role?

Participants to the Seminar lived deep communion of spirit. We shared our thoughts and values through times of prayer, listening to the Word of God, and joyful encounters. Language was not an obstacle. A unique venue for reflection, a source of hope and life for all!

http://www.sedosmission.org/web/en/

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