

La Carta

May 2022



1

Dear Brothers,

May the spirit of the Easter Season continually be a blessing to you!

I hope that you all had the time to take a peaceful rest after the busy preparations of Easter. The pandemic has limited us to celebrate Easter and the Holy Week in the way we are used to, but now that the world has found a way to live with the virus, the Easter celebrations have regained their vigor and joy and we really feel that Christ is truly risen. As the world slowly shifted again to reclaim the time we have lost during the pandemic, we can see how the people are in dire need of the "light of Easter." The momentary pause that we experienced for two years, never dampened our spirits, but it reinforced our faith as Easter people!

Our vocation has been calling us to say YES to whatever life brings us. A true yes means that we follow Christ. It is hard to be obedient when what we want and what God wants from us are entirely different, but we say YES to HIM anyway. As the popular phrase goes, We have to trust God's process. The blessed Mother said YES to God. The process that she went through was never easy, child bearing and giving birth are not to be taken lightly, compounded with the joys and sorrows of being a parent. She was a young woman who could have enjoyed a life without responsibility, but when God called her, she said Yes. She obeyed God because of her deep faith and not because she was hoping to get something good in return.

After so many years in formation, we must understand that our "yes" is not just an uttered word but a way of life. Let your yes means yes and your no means no. There must be no grey areas. Yes is an assent to our faith and a most pleasing holocaust to our God. Indeed he said in the scripture I want your sacrifice and not your offering (1 Samuel 15:22). Our YES without conditions is indeed the highest form of offering ourselves to God by placing our minds and hearts fully and trustingly before the most holy will of God.



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2

We are now in the month of MAY and let this month be a reminder of Mary's obedience. It translates into doing not our own will, but the will of God. It translates into a deep sense of availability. Sometimes, our YES is compromised because we put other things before the work of God and this is something that we have to be conscious about. At the present moment, we can easily get caught up with what is known as spiritual worldliness. Our desires are coated with all good excuses for the love of the Order and masked with the piety of the Church, but our hearts, as John Mary Vianney once noted, are filled with the spiritual flask that we seek and our own personal interests and comfort instead of God. We sometimes use our concern for love of the Order as an excuse because deep within us there is a desire or tendency to do our own will by glorifying our work and not God. We must always be conscious not to fall into the trap of spiritual worldliness.

It is only by dying to our own desires and comfort that we can truly utter an authentic YES before the Lord. It is no longer our own desire for further studies, choice of assignments and the glory of one's position that must take precedent. As consecrated religious, we must be identified with Mary who faithfully said YES to the Lord without conditions. This truly bears good fruit only when we truly obey Him by our collaborative work with our Order, which is our religious family, and the superiors whom God has entrusted to us with the charism of discernment and collaboration.

Let us imitate the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This means that we be open to what God asks of us. To be open means to trust and to obey. If there is no willingness to risk from our part, there will be no growth in our hearts. I would like to quote a phrase from Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI when he visited in 2002 the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, a shrine that was also dear to our Founders: "The idea of the Son of God dwelling in the "living house", the temple which is Mary, leads us to another thought: we must recognize that where God dwells, all are "at home"; wherever Christ dwells, His brothers and sisters are no longer strangers.



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3

Brothers, I greet you again with peace and love. Let us love one another and our communities. Let us attend to one another and say our yes to be brothers to each other. Let us embrace each other with fraternal understanding and forgiveness. Let us wash each other's feet and carry the crippled one who wronged one another. Let us avoid hostility and be builders of unity. Let us take to heart the words from the Acts of the Apostles, "The community of believers was of one heart and mind.....".

We are no strangers, we are united with this great Yes and saved by that yes of Mary. May our every yes brings life and bear fruit in eternity.... A continued and Blessed Easter season to you all.....AMRG!

Father Ted



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