

YOUR WORD IS A LIGHT ON MY PATH

The Synod is a providential reminder to persevere in the commitment of being disciples of the Word...This implies placing ourselves in an attitude of listening to the Word-written and witnessed by our life-but also in listening to the Word that emerges in the folds of history, in situations of personal or community existence.

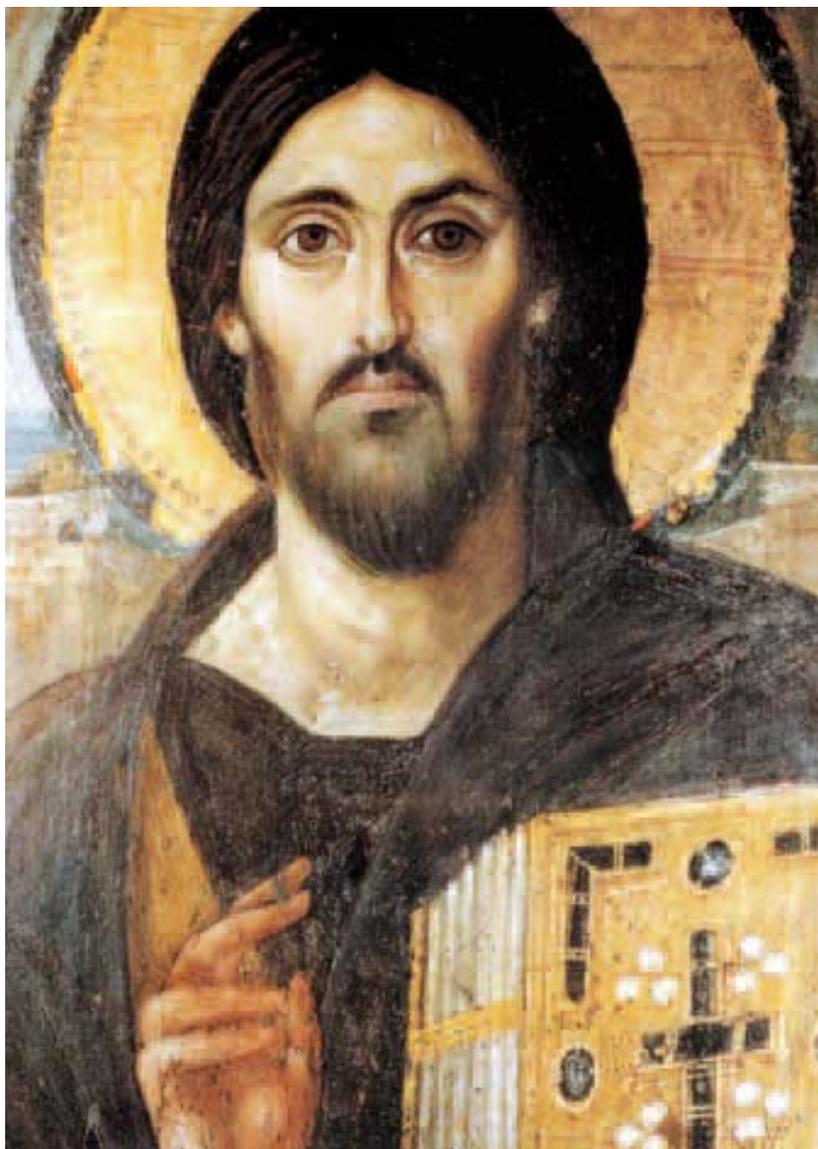
The Word conforms us to Jesus; it transforms us into Him to the point of becoming living words, capable of re-awakening life in others.

Listening and acceptance of the Word arouse a response of love to the all-foreseeing Love of God that speaks to us, obedience to His will that frees us from multiple forms of slavery in which we remain caught up when the ego develops outside of God's plan, available to coordinating all our resources at the service of the great plan of God, of the advent of His Kingdom.

(Report on the life of the Institute, CG XXII)



The Face of Jesus



*One day the monk Epiphanius discovered in himself
a great gift from God: He knew how to paint beautiful icons.
He wanted to paint one that would be his masterpiece
He wanted to paint the face of Christ.
But where would he find a suitable model
who would be able to express suffering and joy at the same time,
death and resurrection, divinity and humanity?
Epiphanius could not give himself peace, so he set out on a journey.
He traveled through Europe looking at every face. Nothing.
There was no face suitable to represent Christ.
One evening, he fell asleep repeating the words of the psalm :
"It is your face, O, Lord, that I seek.
Hide not your face from me."
He had a dream. An angel brought him the persons whom he had met
and indicated a particular that rendered each face similar to Christ:
the joy of a young bride, the innocence of a child, the strength of a
farmer, the suffering of an invalid, the fear of a condemned man, the
goodness of a mother, the dismay of an orphan, the severity of a judge,
the cheerfulness of a jester, the mercy of a confessor, the bandaged
face of a leper.
Epiphanius returned to his monastery and set to work.
After a year, the icon of Christ was ready and he presented it to the
abbot and his brothers, who were stunned and fell to their knees
The face of Christ was marvelous, and moving and it scrutinized the
intimate part of a person and questioned it.
In vain, they asked Epiphanius who he has used as a model.*

Do not seek Christ in the face of one person only, but look at every
person as a fragment of the face of Christ.

Giancarlo Bregantini, Bishop
Faces and places of a young Church,
Elledici-ISG 2007



The mission of the Church at the beginning of this new millennium is to nourish itself with the Word in the commitment to evangelization...

The proclamation of the Word of God, at the school of Jesus, has for its intimate force and content the Reign of God (cfr Mark 1, 14-14).

The Kingdom of God is the very person of Jesus who, with words and works, offers salvation to all...

One of the first requisites for an efficacious Gospel proclamation is trust in the transforming power of the Word in the heart of the one who hears it...

A second requisite, which is particularly felt and credible, is the proclamation of the Word of God as a source of conversion, of justice, hope, fraternity and peace...

Receiving the Word of God, which is love, it follows that one cannot truly proclaim the Lord without a practice of love in the exercise of justice and charity.

(Working document of the Synod of Bishops)