



Gaudete Et Exsultate – February Reflection

“In the end, it is Christ who loves in us,
for ‘holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full’”.

“A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for ‘this is the will of God, your sanctification’ (1 Thess. 4:3). **Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel.** That mission has its fullest meaning in Christ, and can only be understood through him. At its core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of his life. It consists in uniting ourselves to the Lord’s death and resurrection in a unique and personal way, constantly dying and rising anew with him. But it can also entail reproducing in our own lives various aspects of Jesus’ earthly life: his hidden life, his life in community, his closeness to the outcast, his poverty and other ways in which he showed his self-sacrificing love. The contemplation of these mysteries, as Saint Ignatius of Loyola pointed out, leads us to incarnate them in our choices and attitudes. Because ‘everything in Jesus’ life was a sign of his mystery’, ‘Christ’s whole life is a revelation of the Father’, ‘Christ’s whole life is a mystery of redemption’, ‘Christ’s whole life is a mystery of recapitulation’. ‘Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us’. The Father’s plan is Christ, and ourselves in him.”

-APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE*, OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY’S WORLD, adapted from Chapter One, Paragraphs 19, 20 & 21.

All are invited to share or reflect on the highlighted area below, or on the paragraph itself.

If Christ’s mission is our mission, how will you grow closer to Jesus?

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, you gave each of us a mission.

Our mission is a life to be lived in imitation of Christ.

Open our minds so that we are able to enter the mystery of your Son.

Open our hearts so that we are able to unite ourselves to Christ.

Make our path of holiness flow from charity.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.