

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR TODAY

BASIS OF THAT SPIRITUALITY

Christocentric and Evangelical

* Christ the Son of God come to earth offers Himself as the strength and model of his disciples. His words and example are the basic criteria for all believers:

– Those who wish to participate in His Kingdom and salvation which are open to all men, for He gave Himself for all.

– Those who receive the **Divine Call** (vocation) to consecrate themselves without reserve to work for His Kingdom which extends throughout the whole world.

The Christian Educator should know that he is a witness and apostle of that same Christ.

* By Baptism he is incorporated into Christ. He bears within himself the commitment to announce salvation and conversion. Baptismal spirituality becomes a challenge for those who feel themselves called to the service of others.

* Christ says He is the **Way, the Truth and the Life.**

– As the Way, He indicates the ideal toward which we should strive.

– As the Truth, He establishes Himself as the program which guarantees integral fullness of life.

– As the Life, He offers His own supernatural riches which are His very Person.

The sense of Community within the work of Jesus.

* The Church is the work of Jesus which He left us when He returned to the Father so that it might be the guide and support of our search for truth and goodness. To live the spirit of the Church of Jesus is a necessity for the Christian Educator.

– To participate in the spirit of the Church is to be aware that we are members of the pilgrim People of God who help each other along the way. It is to know that we are members of the Mystical Body which nourishes all its parts.

– To foster life is not just to participate in it. It implies accepting the apostolic challenge and responsibility as they ought to be accepted.

* The Christian educator feels that he is responsible for the well-being of the Church because he knows that it is the work of Christ to which he should contribute his own interior riches.

– The Christian educator is aware that he is sent by the Church.

– He commits himself and accepts responsibility for the good of the Church.

– His own personal spiritual life has meaning only within the context of the Church which nourishes it.

* Love for the Hierarchy of the Church as a source of inspiration; because the true believer sees the signs of Providence in the real persons who incarnate the service of authority.

– Inspiration is sought in the Pope who has the mission of directing the Church and of confirming the faith of his brothers.

– Held in respect also are the Bishops and ministers who are most committed to the work of salvation because they are like "sacraments of God in the midst of men".

Attitude of continuous conversion and continuous improvement.

* This attitude is sustained by the loving awareness of **Divine Providence** which we know can be found in all the circumstances of life, even the most adverse.

* **Christian Virtues** are appreciated as instruments which draw us ever closer to God. These virtues become the daily strength which inspires and directs our conduct within the sphere of the educational apostolate.

* Among the virtues, those which most consciously develop the fullest expression of the radicality of the Gospel are:

– the detachment of the poor of the earth

– obedience to the designs of God for our person.

– renunciation of sensual pleasures, as a sanctifying offering.

THE SANCTITY OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

SOURCES OF HIS INSPIRATION

1. The Word of God.

It is the light which illumines the educator because it presents him with the Divine Will in the form of the history of salvation.

God speaks of the life of mankind through His works and in them He traces a path of many generous encounters which record Divine intervention in human history.

– The Old Testament: interventions, psalms, hymns, ethical norms, bits of wisdom, prophecies, announcements, hopes.

– The New Testament: parables, discourses, miracles, travels, letters, advice, prophecies.

One who desires holiness is always in an attitude of listening for God to speak.

2. The Tradition of the Church.

It serves as a meeting place within the life of the Mystical Body and of the People of God who are growing in the likeness of Christ.

The Christian is aware that he is a protagonist in the midst of a generous and indestructible people. Therefore he is encouraged by the heroicity of the martyrs, the wisdom of confessors, the purity of virgins, the generosity of the apostles, the conversion of sinners and in the hope inspired by outstanding people.

A holiness isolated from the holiness of the members of the Church would be suspect as fictitious or as individualism.

3. The Magisterium.

The Christian feels diffident, humble and respectful toward those who come to him as the successors of the Apostles to whom Christ confided the spread of the Gospel.

That is why he has recourse to the Popes, past and present, to the Councils, Bishops and the structures of Ecclesial government. He is careful about their directives, accepts their teachings and respects their authority.

4. The Community of Believers.

To participate in the life of the Church is to live the spirit of Community of the Faithful in the firm conviction that the Holy Spirit works therein because Christ clearly promised to send Him to us.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR GIVES OF HIMSELF TOTALLY

In the name of the Father.

He is aware that he is a son of God and grows in the spirituality of the Son Whom he recognises in others who are also sons of the same Father. All inherit the same eternal destiny, loved by Him Who made all things, cares for all things and makes all things work together unto good.

In the name of the Son.

Who is Christ always present in his life and all its circumstances; Who is the courage which sustains him in all his difficulties and the source of happiness which brings him joy in the friendship of God.

In the name of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Spirit of Love Who gives meaning to his own desire for sanctity and Who bestows the richness of his wonderful Gifts and their magnificent Fruits. The Christian educator feels such a love for the grace of God that he will do anything that others may live by its glorious richness.

Brother Pedro Chico