

## **The Art of Accompaniment... March 21...**

"The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this "art of accompaniment" which ...heals, liberates, and encourages growth in the Christian life."

### **How the generations shall accompany one another.**

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams your young men shall see visions".

Checking in... In June 2019 while he was visiting Romania

### **We live in a time of crisis What has the crisis revealed to the Church**

Technological and economic developments = a divide between generations sense of isolation and a tendency to self absorption. loneliness of the elderly - helplessness and a lack of shared vision - comfortable consumerist isolation - connected but not really involved.

**Elderly despondency** - a sense of no special content - Contempt for old age and its symptoms of frailty decay has been the dominant image  
**Youth** contain full meaning of life.

### **Responses to what crisis has revealed**

a functional retreat - with a shrug. fundamentalism. Truth and reality possesses us - the enemy is always strident insistent monotonous - throwaway culture and in this culture of productivity.

**Mirages:** fed ourselves dreams of splendor and grandeur- idyllic and perfect love needing no stimulus to grow - hero receives a happy ending - Self-help - daydreams or fantasies can alienate

### **God's dream**

Pascal offers a vision of the three order... for the way in which human life grows - it is up to us to be good or bad honest or dishonest. a Christian dream with God - this dream whose name is Jesus planted by the father - a concrete dream who is a person running through our veins

**creation is groaning from - we are called to be protagonists**

**We need to bridge the generations - intergenerational exchanges... children because they lead history forward the elderly transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives - Unity of the stages of life**

**Keys to building the bridge - the elderly are our roots our source our sustenance**

- **concreteness of a real person**
- **dream as a single human family**
- **hope patience and commitment.**
- **Closeness is a precious asset**

**To keep alive the certainty that another world is indeed - that a life without love is an arid life – that we **Must be firmly rooted in the present and from here revisit the past****

**Pope Francis' Dreams** a missionary option capable of transforming everything - four dreams a social dream a cultural dream an ecological dream and an ecclesial dream.

**Saint Paul VI - need a fire in her heart - words on her lips - prophecy in her gaze - to the elders is reserved the charism of having dreams - to the youth that of having visions - memory keepers we grand parents need form a choir.**

**Prayers of the Faithful...**

Let us pray for Pope Francis that he will continue to inspire our Church to participate in the Dream of God for the world.

Let us pray for all those weighed down by disappointment and fatigue that their spirits will be rekindled during this Paschal season we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for the young people in our Church that they will realize how essential their hopes are to our spiritual journey we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for those seniors who have grown dispirited that they will renew their hope and find ways to share their wisdom we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for those who have died that they will see in heaven the fulfillment of their hopes we pray to the Lord

**Next Gathering Tuesday April 21 - Pope Francis on Prayer**