

The Art of Accompaniment...

“The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this “art of accompaniment” which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other. The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.” Evangelii Gaudium... Pope Francis...

Accompaniment in Old Age – Simeon and Anna February 21, 2023

Checking in... We are seeing a division between the generations that diminishes the value of the elderly. Many seniors feel dismissed. Many young people feel disconnected from the elderly because of rapid change in their lives.

Introduction **Old age has grace and a mission** - a true vocation from the Lord. Old age is a vocation. It is not yet time to pull into yours

The anesthesia of the spiritual senses

When you lose sensitivity - you realize that immediately - when it comes to sensitivity of the soul you can ignore that for a long time period - insensitivity prevents you from understanding compassion - pity – shame. the rhetoric of inclusion is politically correct discourse. But it does not bring about a culture of tenderness.

Moved by the spirit

the risk of making ourselves comfortable – see life as a treasure to be conserved rather than as a gift to be developed. Simeon and Anna were coming to the end of their life. They were ready to die. With senses sharpened awaiting a final visit we can discern God’s presence.

They were able to grasp the sign

The transition from being an actor to being a witness. Christ always comes among us as a sign at challenges. they accept not to be protagonists but only witnesses. This is the enormity of God’s love. God chooses to entrust the future of the mission to us. Pope Francis recently named Lazarus a saint. He gave to Jesus the power to give his life meaning the greatest gift. Lazarus becomes a witness not an actor. And when one accepts not being a

protagonist but gets involved as a witness. if one always wants to be a protagonist one will never mature in this journey towards the fullness of old age. Herod wanted to be a protagonist.

Simeon is seen and sees

Faith is born from the compassionate gaze of God. Simeon sees the child. But first Simeon is seen by the child. Let us allow that look to become our joy our hope. Simeon moved by the spirit sees and recognizes Jesus. And he prays saying my eyes have seen your salvation. This is the great miracle of faith it opens eyes transforms gazes changes perspectives. This gaze is not naïve but sapiential. A naïve gaze flees reality and refuses to see the problems.

He takes him in his arms

Simeon took Jesus into his. When arms do not embrace Jesus they embrace a vacuum which they will fill with other things. But we have to embrace Jesus in adoration and ask for eyes capable of seeing the goodness in discerning the ways of God.

Becoming poet and apostles

Simeon took Jesus in his arms he spoke words of blessing praise and wonder. have we lost the ability to be amazed. The Lord never fails to give us sign. Behind every form of rigidity there are grave problems. Neither Simeon or Anna were rigid know they were free and had the joy of celebrating. Simeon praised the Lord prophesied with courage to the child's mother. Anna became the first woman to preach of Jesus she spoke of him to all who are looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Midwives to the next generation

This is not a simple encounter but a true adjust passage of testimony over two generations. It is not easy for this old man who is rooted in each one of us to welcome the baby in the new life that is in gestation and wants to be born in us. How difficult it is to grasp the future when it becomes assigned in the fragility of the present period. This is what happens to an elderly person who is open to a young person. she bids farewell to life so to speak handing over life to the new generation. And this is the farewell of Simeon and Anna now I can go in peace.

Our Prayers...

Let us pray for Pope Francis as he labors for peace in the Sudan and aid for the middle east that his efforts will bear fruit, we pray to the Lord...

Let us pray for the seniors who are supporting adult children and for those raising grandchildren that they will be blessed with wisdom and strength we pray to the Lord...

Let us pray for all those in long term care centers that their visitors will bring them a gift of hope we pray to the Lord...

Let us pray for expectant families that they will be open tot the wisdom that grandparents can bring we pray to the Lord...

Let us offer our own prayers to the Father... for these blessings we pray to the Lord...

Next Gathering: Tuesday March 21 10:30am

Joel... old men will dream dreams and young people build visions... Pope Francis intergenerational challenge.