

With Anna and Joachim we celebrate the community joy of FAITH

From an individual and traditional religiosity to the ecclesial faith!

And the centuries-old miracle continues!

Dear friends, in the year 216 year **of the Feast of St. Anne** we ask *to look at the "high peaks of faith", as the Polish Pontiff, St. John Paul II, loved to repeat with* strength and passionate voice, and let us now be helped by the example of Pope Francis who speaks of the **FAITH RECEIVED IN THE FAMILY** and says: "I had **the grace of** having lived in a family in which faith *was lived* in a simple and concrete way. I remember Grandma Rosa who taught us catechism, accompanied us in church and with the example on our knees, after Good Friday, before Jesus who died, she said to me: Tomorrow she will rise again. There I received the first Christian announcement! This makes me think of the work of so many mothers and grandmothers in the **transmission of faith. They are the ones who transmit the faith as St. Paul writes to Timothy:** I remember the sincere faith of your mother Eunice and your grandmother **Loide (2 Timothy 1:5).** Because God puts beside us people who help our journey of faith, faith that is not found in the street but in a person who preaches, tells us who Jesus is, gives faith, gives you the first announcement". "With Jesus we challenge the culture of the provisional and of the social image and we educate to the true love that opens to the gift of self" (Pope Francis to the young spouses). Today we ask to know how to **accompany in** the FAITH, which is Christ Jesus, saying to the children: "Do not go alone but **LET US GO TOGETHER TO ST. Mass**". Only the example spurs and forms, in all fields. The Pope insists on the witness to transmit the faith: "Faith is transmitted in a mother's womb, the womb of the Church, because the Church is Mother. In Albania there was a nun who during the dictatorship was in prison, but every now and then the guards let her out a bit and she went along the river, so they thought, that never could this poor woman. And instead, the women, knowing when she was going out, brought her their children and she christened them secretly with the water of the river". Then we ask for ourselves and for everyone:

- To know how **to listen to the Word to nourish our FAITH. Listen** so that the mouth expresses what abounds in the heart. Listening is in itself a way of caring, a way of caring for the wounds of the heart and we are all called to be "humble antennae of God" and to respond to the thirst of the human heart. St. Teresa of Calcutta taught us that THIRST is the hermeneutic necessary not only to reach hearts but to understand the Mystery of God. Today, how much thirst we feel: of love, of truth, of being heard and understood, of recognition, of new words, of a refuge, of reasons to live!
- To **open ourselves to the story of life. "Storytelling is the language of practical knowledge. It's** the knowledge of life that passes the test of time. Pastoral care is the care of people's lives and presides over the symphony of charisms" (Mgr. Brambilla, *Liber pastoralis*). *And every grain tells ...*
- To **celebrate and live the MYSTERY** that does not end in history but nourishes the FAITH revisiting and requalifying the existential dynamics. **Celebrating to nourish the Life** with the freshness of the living Gospel and not succumbing to the overload of expectations and needs
- To **build as living stones**, as baptized, the Church of God uniting the **coming** (celebrating TOGETHER Sunday, Easter of the week and every Feast) and the **con-serving** (Christ in the poor) to live today, **INTERTWINED** for each other, the synodal journey.

Sweet Mother S. ANNA, speak to us as to our ancestors and Unmanifest the beauty **of the conversation with God, source** of inner peace, joy and renewed dedication. A conversation with

God that starts from making inner silence to listen to the voice of the Beloved and silence any voice that can

suffocate his. Grant us to know how to recognize His Voice in the depth of *our being, in the shrine of consciousness*, in the virtuous sentiments and constructive attitudes that you solicit and await in every heart. Grant us to put ourselves with humility, celebrated in the grain **of wheat that** is given to the earth, to His presence. Reveal to us, with the priest Joachim, **the joy of meeting** with him and keeping the sacred conversation for the whole day: from morning prayer to work; in the domestic affairs, in the relations with the people you place beside us, in the expected and unforeseen circumstances, in the moments of the operative choices. Reveal to us the strength that comes from knowing how to listen to that Voice, which brings us back to the original splendour of creation and gives us an open mind to welcome all its manifestations.

May Mother Educator teach us that true freedom is lived in fidelity to love. The love of God frees us because it makes us detached from things, people and opinions. Those who are faithful to the practice of this love experience true freedom in their hearts. Instill in us your FAITH to be faithful to love and overcome all selfishness with the daily commitment to love in concrete gestures. Make us aware that we love first, like your grandson, the beloved Jesus, without expecting anything in return. Bring us to Him as the crowd hungry for Life and Truth so that it fills our hearts and continues to "multiply the five loaves and the two fish" with St. Andrew, even today, for the crowd, especially for the precarious and for those who suffer injustice in every part of the earth.

You who in the S. Temple of Jerusalem with your husband Joachim celebrated and lived the divine Mysteries help us to pass from a natural religiosity to the Christian faith. Grant us to meet in the Church under the gentle gaze of Your Daughter Mary Your nephew, Christ Jesus, our Lord and every Sunday to feed on Him Bread of Life. Intercede for Jelsi, for our countries, for every person so that he may meet him in the ecclesial family and celebrate that encounter which generates and nourishes the precious gift of FAITH. You, O Mother, educator in FAITH, make us aware that simple religiosity alone is not enough and does not produce salvific fruits; instead, teach us the way of FAITH that saves and vivifies being children, that builds and shapes families and communities.

Help us to move from an individual and traditional religiosity to knowing how to discover the gift of FAITH, in the rediscovery of our BAPTISM, of ecclesial life and community service. It arouses in us the desire to nourish it with personal and community prayer and good works towards our neighbour, especially the poor and the suffering. Bless our community and in holy roots, open us to Hope.

Join to the incense of the priest Joachim, in the Temple, **the scent of good works** and the prayer of those who in the sweat of every day with sacrifice and loyalty earn the daily bread. Mother in FAITH teach us the richness of Christian spirituality and lead us to live "the here and now" of Christ's grace, in the love of the Father and in the communion of the Holy Spirit. And help us to say: "Tomorrow I will do and go if God **wills** it!". And in these words help us to pour out the perfume of God from the Temple and to entrust ourselves to the One who knows everything and disposes everything! Amen. Good luck with that!

Jelsi-CB: 26 July 2021
Peppino C.

The parish priest: Don

WITH THE BLESSING AND BEST WISHES OF MONS. G. M. BREGANTINI

Thank you for this journey of faith that you are making, under the mantle of St. Anna and St. Joachim! Courage. May the Synod help you, walk together and in solidarity, to celebrate and live the MYSTERY of "We", with your parish priest.

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to celebrate this FEAST with joy. Pray also for me and I will do it for you.

+ Father Giancarlo Maria
Bregantini