

PETER-MARY MERMIER : Visionary Missionary

FOUNDER OF TWO CONGREGATIONS : M S F S and S C C

MERMIER A MAN OF HIS TIMES : Renewal and Re-building

- Born in 1790 exposed to the vulnerable effects of the French revolution
- Faced the revolution as a challenge as well as an opportunity for renewal.
- Jeramiah, 1: 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.

- This is a two pronged action:
- First – destroy a system that is evil
- Second- build up a structure that is “nourishing”

Revolutionaries did the first- albeit partially!! - while Mermier took up the second

- At Le Chatelard, the people indifferent , inspite of the dedicated service
- They (Msgr Favre and Mermier) went to La Grande- Chartreuse, a Carthusian monestary founded St. Bruno to fast and pray for the ‘conversion’ of the people!
- Two saints came back to see the repentance of the people!

MERMIER A MAN FOR HIS TIMES : His Prophetic role

- Face the struggle/suffering as a sign of renewal - personal and communitarian.
- Deeper faith and stronger discipline
- Faith translated into commitment aimed at common good
- He was “steadfast” in all what he did

- Mermier- imbibed the spirit of the Gospel and the His favorite saint St. Francis De Sales
- Even when he was appointed as a parish priest at Le Chatelard, he felt the need to educate them, thus prompting him to start a school, paying salary himself.
- Real spirituality is “holistic wellness”
- Charism- teaching, preaching, enhancement of parish missions

- Strict disciplinarian yet human- St. Francis De Sales?
- Eg. There was a person, plain, contemptible and poorly clothed, Mermier was very considerate to him, later he became the Blessed Francis Jacquard and missionary and a martyr
- Polycarp Voisin, older than others, took liberties with the rules
- One day he overstepped the college bounds which called for expulsion, but Mermier pleaded humbly for the guilty
- Polycarp later did missionary work in china and invaluable service to Mermier when his first missionaries were sent to India

MERMIER : Visionary

- “I want Missions”- result of the deep experience of God on the one hand, the conversion of people due to his prayer on the other!
- “identify ourselves with the people and the mission”
- To be Human to be effective

MERMIER : Missionary

- Charism of MSFS (Mermier) covers main aspects of the ministry of Jesus
- Preaching
- Teaching
- Healing
- Involve in the people’s needs
- Read the signs of times- to adapt, to adopt and to accentuate....
- Missionary has to be like a lotus.
- Missionary has to be a swan.

Can we reflect on...

1. What are the perceived crises that affect our mission today? Are we able to turn them to occasions of renewal and missionary activism?
2. What is our perception of Holiness and Spirituality?
3. What is the meaning of “being rooted in Christ”? Is my prayer life (life of communion with God) percolate into my daily living?
4. Is “being human” a necessary factor in our missionary activity?
5. What is the Uniqueness of being an Msfs? How does a Msfs participate in the completion of revelation?

From : the power point presentation of
Fr. Emmanuel UPPANTHADATHIL, msfs