

Words to Dom Geraldo Majela Agnelo

MARY, EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US

Christian-Muslim International Gathering - Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná - Brasil

Honoring Mary, mother of Jesus, is an occasion for the families know with more deepness inspiring themes of the examples of Mary. It is, also, opportunity for the fraternal coexistence and of incentive for the peace among people and devotees of the two greatest global religions.

Mary is example for all of us. As tell us the Bible, with the words “Ave full of Grace, the Lord is with you”, the Archangel Gabriel announced that Mary would be the mother of Jesus. The answer of Mary was clear and decisive: “here is the servant of the Lord. Do in me according to your Word”.

We are meeting to celebrate the presence of Mary in the life of Chrstians and Muslims. She is the mother of Jesus and our mother. As in the Wedding at Cana, when saying “do everything as he will tell you”, Mary inspires us in the service that we do to anyone that needs our help, specially pregnant women, children and elders.

Mary is example of love to the pregnant woman, of care to the child and dedication to the community. She is our inspiration for building Peace.

Mary helps us to understand how we should act to find the root of the problems. The sciences can contribute to better understand how to act so that the illness can be prevented. An example of this contribution is the international studies about the influence of the first 1,000 days of life in the health of people - 270 days of pregnancy and 2 x 365 days after the birth. As Pastoral da Criança remind us, this is a fundamental period to prevent chronicle diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoporosis or heart diseases. Therefore, the pregnant woman needs to do a pre natal of quality and breastfeed the child to avoid the diseases in the present and future.

Mary helps us to remember that the child is symbol of Hope that God put in the humane community. To develop, he/she needs care, opportunity and love, since the conception. The child well received is a Peace building The responsibility for the welfare of the child is of the family and all of us.

This Christian-Muslim International Meeting symbolizes the capacity of Foz do Iguaçu for approaching people. We are in the triple frontier and we share this big richness that springs out of the neighboring countries. This meeting was organized to happen in Itaipu, an giant work that brought together two countries. This work symbolizes the human potential to overcome the barriers among the people.

Gesture like this that we experience on this moment helps us to believe that we are capable of building a justice and fraternal society. Our world is divided, besides all

the apparatus of technology, transportation and communication. The gap that separates poor and rich is a clear signal of our contradictions.

Surely this meeting invites us to commit ourselves to carry on the examples of Mary. Moreover, it push us to improve our relationships, respect all. Love without limits. Do the goodness and care for pregnant women and children. Lets sow Peace, prevent violence and neutralize the forces of evil.

Mary, faithfully, we ask for your protection. With you we are stronger and we will win the barriers that prevent us for living as brothers and sisters.

God demands from the human family to do everything with great love, so that the child can be received with love, develop with love, be happy, learn also to love the others, and live in peace.