

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**



# **Catholic Biblical Federation**

## **TOWARDS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD (21.1.2024)**

*20 January 2024 - Online Conference*

# ***HOW TO REMAIN IN HIS WORD?***

## ***LITURGY, CATECHESIS, CHARITY FROM THE BIBLE TO THE LIFE OF ALL***

### **Introduction**

**Ernesto Borghi**

**I**n this fifth Sunday of the Word of God entitled “Remain in my Word”, starting from a splendid passage from chap. 8 of the Gospel according to John, as the Catholic Biblical Federation we thought to consider this not only as an impassioned invitation from the Johannine Jesus, but first and foremost as a fundamental question for each person and for the entire Church of Jesus Christ, starting with the Catholic Church.

How is it possible to remain faithful to the Word of the God of Sinai and Jesus Christ in such a way that the fundamental value of it, that is, concrete love for every human being and for every element of Creation, is proposed first and foremost in daily life?

Reflecting on the normality of ecclesial life, as we were able to do at the Plenary Assembly in Mar del Plata last April 2023, two facts became clear to everyone, from one end of our Planet to the other: even taking into account cultural, social and economic differences, the value of effective love for others, an essential manifestation of love for the God of Jesus Christ, can be practised if the three fundamental dimensions of church life, namely catechesis, worship and solidarity charity, are closely connected to each other starting from their biblical roots and are realised in this way.

Deepening the radical and historical connotations of the Christian faith, living the memory of the Last Supper and other cultural moments in view of one's daily existence, trying to consider attention to others as the axis of one's daily life: these are the three guidelines of ecclesial existence, if one actually wants to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the logic proper above all of the origins, as recalled, for example, in ch. 2 of the Acts of the Apostles, when it presents - we are at v. 42 - as basic ecclesial characteristics the account of the words and deeds of the crucified and risen Nazarene, fraternal communion, the memory of the Last Supper and prayer. The consideration of the values emerging from the First and New Testament texts as the basis for concrete pastoral choices in the three areas just mentioned: this is the decisive way to give a meaningful future to the Church of Jesus Christ in our multicultural and globalised societies, a future in which the younger generations can find precisely in a modern relationship with the biblical Scriptures opportunities for ever better humanisation.

In order to gather some cognitive elements and practical suggestions on these topics, we asked three colleagues and friends from three different continents - Mariana Zossi from South America, Eric Morin from Europe and George Ossom-Batsa from Africa - to propose us some reflections from the Bible on faith education, prayer and liturgy and solidarity charity respectively, which can help us in considering these perspectives, ancient and always new, of ecclesial life and, in particular, of our Federation. It has a worldwide scope and in the relationship between local and planetary dimensions it is called upon to play its formative role, from the Bible to the construction of a humanism of the heart and mind in a spirit of collaboration with all those who recognise themselves, in the Church and in society, in this logic in favour of the common good.

Each of the three colleagues will speak in his or her fundamental language of reference, and the text of his or her intervention is available, as the Federation has done in the four previous initiatives for "The Sunday of the Word of God", from 2020 to today, in three other languages.

## Presentation of the interventions

First of all, we give the floor to Mariana Zossi, Argentinean, born in Tucuman in 1966, a Dominican nun and a passionate teacher of Sacred Scripture in various academic and pastoral institutions in Argentina. Mariana's talk, focused on the theme of education in the faith, will be in Spanish and is entitled *Un diálogo que abre caminos de fe. La educación en la fe como cultura del diálogo a partir de Mc 7:24-30*.

The second speaker at our meeting is Eric Morin, born in Paris in 1963, a diocesan priest since 1992. Inseigne au Collège des Bernardins (Paris) où il est également directeur des études. Il est également vicaire épiscopal chargé de la formation. Depuis quatre ans, il est directeur du Service Biblique «Évangile et Vie» et de la revue «Cahiers Évangile». The title of his talk, in French, which will deal with an aspect of the relationship between the Bible and religious worship is Romains 8:14-30: quand la Bible nous apprend à prier.

Concluding the speaker series is George Ossom-Batsa. Born in Dzamam (Ghana) in 1959, a Catholic presbyter, he is an extraordinary professor of Biblical Theology (Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana) and involved in biblical pastoral work with catechists and communities, especially rural ones. The title of his talk, in English, which will deal with the theme of charity in solidarity, is *Matthew 25:31-46: a justice possible for all*.



Sunday 21 January 2024

<https://c-b-f.me/DPD2024-EN>

