SRL AND THE BAGAMOYO CHAPTER

Charity, the Spirit’s greatest gift, is the sign that it is the Lord who brings us together and sends us out. “It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognize you as my disciples” (John 13:35) (SRL 39).

To have “one heart and one soul” means sharing everything one is and has, as well as combating every form of individualism. This fundamental principle demands both transparency and a simple life-style (Bagamoyo 4.3).

PRAYER
God and Father of love, you so love us that you have brought us to knowledge of you through Jesus, your Son. Send the Spirit of that love of Father for Son, and Son for Father, into our hearts and among us. May the indwelling of your Spirit enable us to recognize the dignity that is ours as your children and empower us to make loving choices, to respect all life and to live up to our dignity as your sons and daughters, redeemed by your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

(4: 34-38)

Jesus said to his disciples, “My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do. You have a saying, ‘Four more months and then the harvest.’ But I tell you, take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so the one who plants and the one who reaps will be glad together. For the saying is true, ‘One plants, another reaps.’ I have sent you to reap a harvest where you did not work: others worked there, and you profit from their work.”
FRANCIS LIBERMANN

He who sows is the Son of God, the Incarnate Word; it is he who merits and imparts the seed of grace in each soul. The one who reaps is different – the Holy Spirit. For the Church was formed only after the completion of all the mysteries of our Lord and after the descent of the Holy Spirit who was to consummate the work of sanctifying souls. He is the light and strength of the Apostles, the power of all their words. It is he who touches souls, who draws them, who is the life imparted by the sacraments which bring people into the Church and sanctify them. Our Lord attributes to himself the sending of missionaries since he sends the Holy Spirit and merited him. Our Lord merited him and sent him, but the divine Spirit consummates the work and is the true harvester.

Commentary on John’s Gospel I.134.

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine, shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught;
Nothing good in deed or thought, nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
on our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore and confess you,
evermore in your sevenfold gift descend; give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord; give them joys that never end.
Amen.