

The Paulin Jubilee of University People

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INTRODUCTION

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From Enculturation of Faith to the *deaconry of the Story*

The celebration of the Paulin Jubilee is a step of the University Pastoral Care way in Rome and in the world.

Particularly, the International Forum of Universities, in which representatives coming from all the continents will take part, can be considered an occasion to share the pastoral care experience till now occurred in University and to put the basis for a more organic and sharp action.

If the document of 1994 reminded us the urgency of a dialogue and of a presence of the Church inside the Universities, particularly referring to the role of catholic institutions, the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortations, even though, except for *Ecclesia in Europa*, without expressly considering the pastoral proposals, they put the dialogue of the Church with the cultural and educational realities (and therefore with the University as institution) inside the perspective of the enculturation of the faith.

This is the time to discover again the historical role of the Church inside the contemporary society, able to converse with the cultures and assume them in accordance with the mystery of the Incarnation. This is the great action done by John Paul II.

The enculturation of faith does not exhaust the presence of the Church inside the society, because the Christianity is not a religious or spiritual reality, shaping the culture from outside. By meeting the man in his own historical concreteness, the Christianity, as well as already working historical reality, offers to the cultural processing an enquiry ability about the reality that is of one's own. And this not only in an ideological sense, but also in the sense it will further a comprehension of the reality coming from the mystery of Incarnation.

The Benedict XVI's Teaching drives the Christianity to take a new step ahead (see in particular the speeches of 23rd of June 2007 and of the 7th June 2008). The sense is that the Christianity claims to indicate to human beings of today the fundamental of the reality, because Jesus of Nazareth is not only the Saviour, but also the Logos of the cosmos and of the history, or better, he is the Saviour because he is the Logos.

Only if the Christianity will allow this self-consciousness to take shape, it will be able to answer to the Habermas and Pera's demands, avoiding to be swallowed up by the

contemporary religious polytheism. The two famous authors, giving voice, according to the different point of views, to the invocation of help coming up from the society, push the Christianity to come out in the open: the Christianity, of course, does not give up to a sign of charity in order to help the cultures in crisis, but it will fall short to her own vocation if it would not indicate the causes of their crisis and would not show the way for a new cultural formulation.

This is the *deaconry of the history* hoped by Benedict XVI, that, in this historical contemporary moment, can be consider the higher form of charity, because the cultural crisis, which regards the human beings, can not be solved by using methodological arrangements, but it demands a new synthesis, that allow to forget the time of theoretical and practical idealism and should introduce the humanity inside the time of cosmic and historical realism.

To University people is assigned, because of his vocation, the task to help the Church to fulfil this passage, by exercising that specific form of charity, that is the intellectual charity.

For several years, the University Pastoral Care in Rome had been trying to realize this passage through the overcoming of a Christian presence in University strictly reduced to the spiritual assistance, orienting it towards a proposal of cultural formulation. We are just at the beginning. But, although without braging, the experiences we lived in this years, particularly during the Jubilee of Universities, can be consider of great importance to go on this road.

The Paulin Jubilee is an essential service the University people are requested to realize: support and encourage the University Pastoral Care in the other local Churches, offering with humility the lived experience of these years. It is question to share with our Bishop the universal dimension of the Church of Rome