

## OPINIONS ABOUT THE DOCUMENT "FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH".

The world is going through troubled times in all senses, the Church as a human institution is also experiencing them, with an aggravating factor: that from within it seems to be cracking and threatening a new schism or several schisms. If it were not for the certainty that the Church is also divine and that the Holy Spirit endows it with what it needs not to prevail at the gates of hell, as the Gospel says, we would be in despair.

It is Hope as a theological virtue, which encourages us to raise our faces despite the constant violence that plagues our country; the atheistic and inhuman ideologies that are institutionalized from the government; the lack of unity in our local churches and the indifference of the parishioners to work together with the pastors to find solutions that contribute to the betterment of society.

Those of us who are part of the Cistercian family, as well as the countless groups of lay people with similar charisms, who in recent years have emerged in different cities and who, through the practice of contemplation, the sacraments, individual and community prayer and simple living, seek to be leaven in the small space within the vast world in which we move, run the risk of remaining in a comfort zone and not going where we are needed.

As a group we are blessed to have met our beloved Cistercian monks who showed us charity without respect of persons, solemn and simple celebration, in the Eucharist and in the Liturgy of the Hours, life shattered between the ora et labora, giving it generously for the whole of humanity. This is our ideal, we seek it by scrutinizing and meditating on the ancient and new writings of the holy monks that Providence has raised up in the course of history.

However, being so privileged, we will have to reflect in a particular way on how faithful we have been to the charism we claim to follow. We have challenges, we fail, we fall, we get up, now it is time to concretize in community the actions that we must attend or improve, the solicitous help to the less favored of our environment in terms of education, health, economy, to those who are alone, whether they are Christians or not, whether they think like us or not. Sometimes we say that this charism is not for everyone, but what have we done or not done so that our group does not grow, let us make an analysis to know the causes, perhaps it is that no one says of us "look how they love each other" and how they live from the heart loving others.

It is time to make operative the commitment with the particular Church in our Parish, being attentive to their needs and giving the best of us.

Individually and as a group let us observe our attitude towards those who do not think like us, who profess another religion or none at all, who have ideologies different from ours, who are less fortunate in every way or very successful and therefore we reject them, what are we waiting for to take the first step of approaching them, bringing them the message of love?

We are a pilgrim Church, salvation is for everyone, all humans are brothers and sisters, children of the same Father, we are equal, our similarities are infinitely greater than our differences, we live in one house, the global village, the Cosmos created by God so that we may be happy in this life and reach the eternal homeland to enjoy His Presence.