



*"Go to the land that i will
show you..."*



The sending of Abraham

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT
N°2 - 2018**

"Leave your land, your people and the house of your father and go to the land that I will show you. I am going to make a great nation, I will bless you, will make great your name and will be a blessing"

Gn 12, 1-2.

INTRODUCTION

The spiritual retreat is a time to take a break, a time to talk heart to heart with the God and Lord. But it is also a time of renovation, a time where we dare to leave again with God. In this way, Abram is a model. Indeed, the Abram's history is the history of a new beginning, a new restructuring of his life and existence, of his mission and his project. This experience of Abram can be found from Gen 12 to Gen 22.

In this first part of the day of the spiritual retreat, the history of Abram begins with his calling to leave: from his country, from his family and house of his father to go toward the unknown, a place which only God knows. Abram does not know where will pass through to get there, but the Lord assures that He will show the country. Abram complied with. It is striking seeing Abram that, after a life full of joys and pains, ups and downs, without a progeny, has to start over a new life. The contrast of this new life is between the unknown of the Abram and the Blessing of the God. To live this contrast, Abram believed in God. For this reason he became not only the father of the Faith but also the father of a great nation.

In Abram's history, faith and obedience are closely linked and interpellate each other. There is not the one without the other, so that we can say the *obedience of the faith and the faith of obedience*.

To start over, to give new life to our existence, we need of faith and obedience. Obedience to the blow of the Spirit, and faith to the guide of the Spirit. To link these two essential elements, in any person who want to start over under the guide of the Spirit, we have to take into consideration three aspects. These three aspects go through the history of Abram in the passage we choose for this day (from Gen 12 to Gen 22).

These three aspects are:

1. The history,
2. The itinerary,
3. The promise,

The history refers to the vertical relationship Father-Son. The itinerary deals with the geographical journeys of Abram, but this journey are not less spiritual. The promise gives the base of Abram's identity as a father of the nation and faith, starting a future full of God's Blessings. These three aspects of Abram's history, between obedience and faith, will be the three sessions of the spiritual retreat:

1. First session

THE HISTORY OF ABRAM AND OUR HISTORY: «Leave your country, your people and your father's home...». "(Gen 12, 1a)

2. Second session

THE ITINERARY OF ABRAM AND OUR ITINERARY: "go to the country that I will show you.

3. Third session

PROMISE MADE TO ABRAM AND THE PROMISE MADE BY GOD TO US: "I am going to make yourself a great nation, I will bless you, I will make great your name and will be a blessing».

FIRST SESSION (2st Spiritual Retreat)

ITINERARY OF ABRAHAM AND OUR ITINERARY:

"Go to the land that i will show you" (Gn. 12, 1)

"Go to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1): Such is the theme of the second session of our spiritual retreat. This verse sends us immediately to an itinerary. It is a journey, or even more, of the geographical movements of Abraham that extend from Genesis 12.1 to Genesis 22.19. But these movements are no less a spiritual itinerary. Abraham will travel from one place to another. But in doing so, it will pass from one story to another, from one relationship to another, from one mood to another, from one alliance to another, **from promise to promise**. In this, Abraham's itinerary unites us.

What is our personal itinerary? What is our itinerary as a community? What is our institute's itinerary? In fact, we have moved from one place to another, from one experience to another, from one encounter to another, from moods to others, and so on. This time of meditation and prayer gives us the opportunity to remember all this: our geographical itinerary, our spiritual itinerary. Those places where we can say "God was here!"

During this second spiritual retreat we are called to return to our itinerary with the three faculties of the soul, namely, **memory, intelligence and will**. **Memory** to remind us of our itinerary. **The intelligence** to reflect, to put a look of faith on this itinerary (ours) and see the Trail of God, how God was there and sometimes we do not know. **The will** to experience feelings, to let the emotions that produce what we see in this itinerary arise in us, let us touch by God and generate fruits full of promise for the future.

PERSONAL PRAYER:

Look at the characters, listen to what they say, see what they do and take some advantage for yourself.

Gn 12, 1. 5-13.1

Ask for the grace to discover in my spiritual itinerary (experience), on my geographical itinerary.

Imagine the scene:

Look at the characters: Abraham gets the call and commits without asking what he will have to live. See the people you find: The Canaanites, the Egyptians, pharaoh, etc. See Abraham's wife, she follows her husband. Look at Lot... etc.

Listen to what these different characters say...

See the places where Abraham and his people go. Consider the experiences that live in each place.

At each point, come back to yourself and consider that all this calls me personally, or how all this calls our congregation in its entirety, and take advantage.

Gn 14: Abram, the Kings and Melkisedeq

Ask for the grace to identify in my geographical itinerary how God has been working in my life through the various encounters.

Imagine the scene:

Look at the characters

Listen to what they say,

See what they do

And inhabit the scene in my life, like this transient

Gn 20: Abraham and Abimelek

Ask for the grace to discover in my spiritual itinerary (experience) on my geographical itinerary.

Imagine the scene:

Look at the characters

Listen to what they say,

See what they do

And live the scene like this passerby in my life.

LECTURE SPIRITUELLE

Gen 17

Gen 22

Psalm 138

Luke 1, 5-36

Matt. 1, 18-2

For PERSONAL reflection from ABRAHAM

Aplicar mi memoria, mi inteligencia y mi voluntad en mi ruta geográfica. Luego, escribir mi itinerario espiritual: los acontecimientos donde puedo decir "es la obra de Dios en mi vida". Cómo Dios me guía (conduce) a través de las vicisitudes de la vida. Etcétera Todo esto para darme cuenta de cómo Dios me ama, ama a mi instituto y cómo yo también lo amaba.

RELECTION OF THE DAY

Today, what is the story of my spiritual journey or the itinerary of my institute moved me more? Why?

In my geographical itinerary, which place marked me the most? Why?

To accompany our days: (text annexes)

- **TO LISTEN FATHER BENEDICT MENNI**
- **TO LISTEN OUR FIRST SISTERS**
- **TO LISTEN SAINT AGUSTINE**
- **TO LISTEN MOTHER MONIQUE**



"Africa, keep the lamp of hospitality alight"