



Sœurs
Hospitalières

“leave your country...”



L'appello di Abramo

SPIRITUAL RETREAT N°1
January 2018

"Leave your country, 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 (1st Spiritual Retreat)

THE HISTORY OF ABRAM AND OUR HISTORY

"Leave your country, your relatives and your father's home..." (Gen 12, 1a)

The history tells about the events happened. In this sense, this is historical. But this history has a meaning only if we see it under a spiritual sight, and read it in a Christian way. Under this point of view, the history become a history of salvation lived between God and the chosen ones.

Indeed, the history of Abram is a history of salvation. Salvation recalls (refers to) the faith and obedience to God who makes promise. The God of Abram guides him in every situations of his life. This is the same God who transforms our lives in history of salvation if we accept to enter into this personal history through faith and obedience. A retrospective sight over this personal and community history makes spontaneously spring out the most significant moments in our memory.

PERSONAL PRAYER:

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

Gen 12, 1-5

Ask the grace to discover, through the reading of my life, something about his saving work.

Look at the characters: God asks to the elderly Abram to leave again, to go toward a new horizon, even if it seems he has not future. Look at Lot and the wife of Abram. Look at the brothers and sisters of Abram, the people of his country, etc..

Listen to what the Lord says...

See the place where Abram has lived, see what he, her wife and Lot do. Think about hi decision to go, leave, follow the God's Word and how his wife and Lot go with him.

Gen 13: 2-18

Ask the grace to be able to identify in his history what is favorable to the saving work of God and what is unfavorable..

Imagine the scene: see how Abram and Lot are closely linked.

See how a quarrel comes up between the shepherds.

Think about the discernment and decision of Abram.

Gen 15 or Gen 17

Ask the grace to read again the history of my alliance, pact with God.

Look at the scene-

Listen to what it is said

Think about the characters do

Be in the shoes of Abram

SPIRITUAL READING

Gen 12

Gen 13

Gen 15

Gen 17

THINKING ABOUT ABRAM, DO A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Moments which signed my personal life: I evoke (I quote) the most important elements, deeds, experiences, people that helped me; environment and community that supported me in my life; meetings which enlighten me; events which saved me; experiences which make me rich.

Sentimental experiences of my life. I remember the persons who really loved me; I evoke all the people I loved. I remember also the people I gave tenderness and made feel accepted, supported and secure.

Discover the things which make me thank to..... Am I able to express gratitude?

Finally,

Tell my history of salvation. Tell the history of salvation of the community. Share what I feel important.

READ AGAIN THE DAY

God uses all the events and situations to talk me, to conquer me and interpellate me. How can I discover it?

Every events and situations are used by God to talk and to conquer us; He interpellates us, He challenges us: up to what point can we discover it?

WALKING WITH ST. BENEDICT MENNI

WALKING WITH OUR FOUNDER / FOUNDRESSES



"Africa, Keep on the lamp of hospitality"