



Networking Cedara

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Tuesday, 23 October: Institute Liturgy (4:15 pm Solomon Mphela OFM presiding)
Tuesday, 30 October: End of the year penitential Service (4.15 pm Emmanuel Ndlovu CMM presiding)
Tuesday, 6th - Sunday 30th November: STUDY BREAK

FATHER DEHON AND HIS WAY OF UNDERSTANDING THE EUCHARIST.
Felisberto J. Dumbo, SCJ

Reading the Constitutions of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SCJ), one may easily realize how much the word Eucharist is quoted and emphasized (cf. RL Eucharist 31). For the SCJ, Eucharistic celebration is the privileged moment of our faith and vocation as fount and apogee of our Christian and religious life. Furthermore, it is the central aspect of the life of the Church. The Church lives out from the power of Eucharist and the same Church which celebrates the Eucharist is brought into being by the Eucharist. This paradoxical polarity helped father Dehon to centralize and experience the mystery of Christ through the Eucharist. He believed that Eucharistic celebration is the moment where everything comes together by the act of converging into one. Through the power of Christ's love who is the center during the celebration, we

bring to him our hopes, trials and sins of the world; that is why for father Dehon it is also a crucial moment for reparation, a reparation that involves the whole community.

In one of father Dehon's reflections, I stated that father Dehon was a man of devotion, he was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From his mother, he learnt that the whole human's life is around Eucharist that is why for him, all of us are encouraged to contemplate life in terms of the Eucharist and thanksgiving. Father Dehon, says father Barbosa (1986:15) 'found in the Eucharist, strength, enthusiasm, and courage to face the difficulties, in order to have a constant attitude of availability to serve all.

He lived a Eucharist centered in the Heart of Jesus'. Father Dehon always wished his confrere to make reparation during the celebration, to offer themselves as an oblation on behalf of others. He wrote once in his Spiritual Director (V, 4) 'the Holy Mass as Sacrifice is, to all of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus a great act of the day...' It is in the Eucharist that we consummate the act of love, thus father Dehon was always slow in spirit of recollection, without rushing and normally with a long thanksgiving during Eucharistic celebration because in it he experience the Tri-personal God through the anamnesis (remembering), epiclesis (invocation of the Holy Spirit) and doxology (giving Glory to God).

Fr Dehon's whole life, vocation, spirituality and ministry influenced by Eucharistic dimension. It is still fundamental even in our contemporary time to unite our whole being to Christ through the Eucharist. For father Dehon 'Mass is the culminate act of the day, a divine act, an act which characterizes us, it is the reason of being Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus...' (Cahiers Falleur, III, 5). Moreover, father Dehon did not stop in this spirituality of contemplation. He went further; he was convinced that when we contemplate Christ and receive him through the Eucharistic elements, there should always be a room for action which for him was the actualization and the effects of the spiritual aspect of the living Christ. Eucharist draws us to self-transcendence, to see Christ in the neighbour, especially those who are poor, marginalized and suffering injustice.

Father Dehon said once in his Daily Notes (Notas Quotidianas); the Eucharist is the focus, the base, the centre of whole life, whole apostolate- a pastor that does not live the Eucharist does not have more than one word, life and his action are useless'(NQ XXV, 46-47). Understood in this way we can say Mass is endless, it starts as a community gathered in the Church and continues in our daily life.

That is what father Dehon called the “social aspect of Eucharist” where one has to apply and live out what the Word of God says and what the body of Christ demands. Briefly, today we are called to rethink the way we honour Eucharistic celebrations. Many times we rush, we do not take the Eucharist seriously. Mass has become a kind of routine, a social gathering where we come and show off our dresses, dances and performances. Mass is more than that, Mass should help us to come together as brothers and sisters in order to worship God and ask him for the strength to love one another as a way of making this world better. That is what we find in the Spiritual Testament of father Dehon “my last word will be a recommendation, do adoration daily, an official adoration of reparation, however, in the name of the Church...’

DAGGA DECRIMINALIZATION IN MZANSI, A WOE OR A FOE?

Bahati M J Onkanoti, IMC

Aldous Huxley argues that experience is not what happens to a person rather experience is what a person does with what happens to him. In 20th September 2018 South African constitutional court decriminalise the use of cannabis famously known as Dagga or Marijuana on a private basis. This means that one can grow a small garden of dagga by his/her house along with lettuces and spinaches. In his ruling deputy chief justice, Raymond Zondo said: “it will not be a criminal offence for an adult person to use or be in possession of cannabis in private for his/her personal consumption” (BBC News).

South Africa is not the first country to arrive at this, in Canada medical marijuana has been legal since 2001 while recreational marijuana became legal in this month. Uruguay allows both possession and use of recreational Marijuana. Many critics, activists and concerned people have put forward their opinions. Health Experts, in the same manner, aired their views too. Did the Court make the right decision? Will this help the struggle to overcome increasingly drug abuse and other forms of substance abuse in South Africa? How will this help traffic police and drivers? Where is humanity going? All these are legal, moral, social, religious and economic questions hovering over everyone’s mind.

Pro-Marijuana Argument

There is hardly any culture that has not made at least some use of a mind-altering substance. Those in favour will argue giving examples like, “some Native American tribal nations have used the hallucinogenic substance as part of their religious rites for more than 1000 years”. A similar practice can be traced with the help of archaeologists in central, South America, Middle East, Asia and our very own Africa. Viking warriors ate the mushroom Amanita Muscaria before going into battle (Wayne Perry 2008). Even animal and birds sometimes seek out intoxicating substances like naturally fermented fruits. Therefore one in this line of thought will claim that there are no problem-consuming substances, it is a common tendency. It is something that has existed since time immemorial.

Pro-Life – counter-Argument

The consumption does not necessarily imply abuse. According to the American Psychiatric Association’s, diagnostic and statistical manual disorder (DSM-IV), substance abuse is demonstrated by a maladaptive pattern of substances use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress. A typical example given is the failure to fulfil major role obligations at work, school or home (Wayne Perry 2008). The South African government had opposed the move to legalize saying that Marijuana is harmful to people’s health.

The police force also criticized this change by saying that it will create more misunderstanding by sending the wrong signal to criminals. Home secretary Sajid Javid reported by BBC said that there was strong scientific evidence that this drug could harm people’s mental and physical health. It could also damage communities. While it can lead to relaxation, happiness and sleepiness; many experts believe that Marijuana can be harmless increasing anxiety, paranoia, lead to confusion and hallucination. Other side effects are a risk of developing a psychotic illness, it may also affect young people whose brain is still developing, and it impairs memory and cognitive ability in the short term (BBC 19 June).

Prof Morgan believes that some of the effects remain for about 20 days; this is the amount of time it takes for the drug to clear out of the system. Others have argued Marijuana be legalized for medical purpose only, this is debatable and can be thought of.

Where is the Church?

At one point, substance abuse is obviously an individual problem. Two people can use the identical amount of the same substance and yet one may develop symptoms related to abuse and dependence while the other person may not. It is safe to assume that substance abuse affects each individual differently depending on their intrapsychic variables. Dagga can ruin people lives. Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers released a document in 2001 called "Church, Drugs, and Drug Addiction" (internet source) in this document they declared that "drugs are one of the main threats facing young people, including children". In this document, Pope John Paul II thinks that "the decision to use drugs might often spring from an ambience of skepticism and hedonism " it goes further to emphasize that a lot of people turn to the drug because modern life leaves them unsatisfied and worried about their future. "It is a serious error", notes the document, to think that our desires for peace, happiness and personal satisfaction will be automatically fulfilled by means ingesting some type of drugs.

The Catholic Church is against any form of "illegal drugs" especially those that offer people the false illusion of liberty and fake happiness. Pope John Paul emphasizes that the use of a drug is always illicit because "it involves an unjustified and irrational abdication of our capabilities to think, choose and act as persons. It's also false to speak of any "right" to drugs because we never have any right to abdicate the personal dignity that God has given us. Using drugs, John Paul II said, not only damages our health but also frustrates our capacity to live in the community and to offer ourselves to others"(Zenith 2001). This being said, he called all those in public authority to fight against all forms of harmful drugs.

Pope Francis, (Gen. Audience April 2016) speaking against substance abuse remarked "Drug addiction is a contemporary form of slavery" he says. This addiction affects everyone in society at all levels. This being said, he encourages despite the risk, that human family, youth and children must be defended and protected. This is not a matter of momentary discipline but an endless task.

Catechism of Catholic Church, on the other hand, teaches (2288), "Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God". it continues (CCC 2290) the virtues of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess, as a matter of facts, the use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. "Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offence". Production, transportation and supply are immoral practices (CCC 2291).

To be continued

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET
UMUNNAKWE IFEANYICHUKWU JUSTIN
(Klerksdorp Diocese)

Change! The word 'change' is perhaps the most dreadful word ever seen in the human dictionary. If there is a word people fear so much, it is 'change'. Yet, it is the essence of the things we see. Nothing has ever happened in human history without it. No growth, development, emancipation, upliftment, breakthrough, sanctification or even incorruptibility occurs without change. Change is the force of things that are visible.

YOU CANNOT RISE IF YOU REFUSE TO CHANGE! Recovering from a mistake or rising from a fall does not happen like magic. It follows a principle, the principle of change. This principle is a must for all who wish to rise. Anyone who wishes to conquer his or her failure must be willing to change. You cannot conquer the defeat complex if you cannot change the complex.

YOU CANNOT GO FURTHER THAN YOUR MIND CAN SEE! Change is indispensable. We need not change everything but there is something we need to change. Your mindset, the human mind is to the situation what a remote is to a television. Each time you press the remote, something new happens to the television. If you do not touch the remote, then the television will remain as it is.

Each time you change your mindset, something new occurs in reality. A mindset changed is a situation altered. If you do not change your mindset, then something new will not happen and the situation will not alter. You cannot go further than your mind can see. If all your mind sees is a failure, then it will be impossible for you to rise or succeed because you cannot go further than what your mind can see. You need to change your mindset so that it can see success in failure, victory in defeat, opportunities in mistakes, and blessings in curses.

Impossible? Wait a moment. Until Jesus, the cross was seen as a sign of defeat, curse or failure. Today, the cross is seen as a sign of victory, blessing or success. How did this come about? What did Jesus do? Was he a superhuman? No. he just did an ordinary thing extraordinarily. He did the usual unusually. What was that? Mindset! He confronted mindset.

He brought the crown out from the cross, success out from what is considered a failure, victory out from what is considered a defeat. He had a different mindset. St. Paul admonishes “have this kind of mind which is found in Christ’ (Phil 2:5).

Confrontation does not always bring a solution to the problem, but until you confront the problem, there will be no solution- James Baldwin

I do not know what the problem is. I do not know what you are undergoing. But I know that there is something you have to confront. If the problem is a pain, failure, doubt, defeat, loss, bankruptcy, ignorance, mistake, misfortune, then confront it with a different mindset and draw something positive out of it.

Change your mindset. You cannot confront any problem with a different mindset if you refuse to change your present mindset. Nobody reaches his or her expected height without a correct mindset. No perfection is attained, nothing acceptable is realized by anyone without a renewed mindset. How can someone reach perfection, come to what is good and grasp the will of God for himself and for others by the renewal of the mind (Rom 12: 2). It is when the mindset is renewed and changed that other things can also be renewed and changed. New results, new mindset; a renewed result, a renewed mindset: they go together.

As long as your mindset remains the same, the situation will never change. Hear this once again, “if there is any height you cannot reach, it is not because you failed, but because you refused to rise.” And you cannot rise unless you accept change. For the desired change to occur, the desired mindset is required. Nothing will stop them from doing what they have imagined doing”, (Gen. 11:6). It is the mind that controls the will and the will control the imagination. Imagination, asserts Napoleon Hill, rules the world. Imagination does not exist in a vacuum. It exists in the mind. To rule the world, one should first be in conservation with his or her mind.

Let me explain: if you are in need of a new world, new height, new level, new stage, a new rank, new status, new phase, new ground, new discovery, new target, then go for a new mindset by the renewing of your mind. If there is any height you cannot reach, it is not because you failed, but because you refused to rise.



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