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R. Lucinda Simões, 10,1ª
Lisboa

The Meaning of "entraide" in Pax Romana

The Christian behaviour of every student in the University is in itself a religious value and has an essential meaning within PR. But the Church needs something more from all of us. We must try to bring the Grace of God to our fellows in the University. We must spread the living ideas of Christianity within the University - only these ideas can give to the University the possibility to attain its utmost.

This apostolic action has certain features. The most relevant in this one: we direct our action towards the whole person of every body we meet in our daily life but in doing ~~it~~ we take into account the fact that the University people are (or must be) true intellectuals, who put at the service of the others all the intellectual formation they acquire in the University.

That means that we are living from the basic ideas of PR when we work hard studying the great problems of men and society, when we are worried with the problems of the other students and try to help them, when we fight with all our heart for the fulfillment of the University aims in its institutional life.

This is, of course, the essential basis of PR. But PR is an human meeting. All the apostolic action we do, can and must be lived with the deep consciousness of the efforts that are being made by all the Catholic students. Our local and national groups on their organised from arise from this consciousness of the efforts made by the students in our country.

And far away, outside the barriers of our country, other students are also living from the same ideals and trying to do the same apostolic action. They have perhaps a different way of living and thinking, another cultural and social background. But, as University people, they have also great responsibilities towards the society where they live.

In every sphere of life, in every country, the Christian values must raise up. Christ did not choose any privileged country. He died for every man. All men are called to become the sons of God through Christ. The University students, all over the world, despite the differences owing to their nationalities, are called to assume this task. In this common responsibility they really meet each other.

As we are spread in all parts of the world it is not perhaps too easy to realize this meeting. Only the unity in God can give us the deep understanding of it. A deep universal impact must be put in all our daily life. We must try to be consciously united with all the student in our prayers, in our intellectual work, in our apostolic action.

I don't think about an anonymous presence of our brothers. This presence must be a personal one, where we can recognise the specific values of the others and so love them.

The first step for this personal meeting is the training on open understanding of the personality of others. There are a lot of possibilities to know them. If you have foreign students in your University, did you already approach them in order to know what are their problems, needs and ideals? If you travel during the holidays do you try to contact the students of the countries you cross? Did you already read any publication from the groups of Catholics students? I am quite sure that you could know a lot of wonderful things about these young people who, in other countries are trying to live with Christ in the University.

But this knowledge is only the first step. It asks for a positive action. The unity means a strong help in all the levels - spiritual, intellectual, material.

An hard work you offer to God in the intention of the students in other countries, the Mass you offer every week (do you know that the Tuesday is the day where all the Catholic students are specially united through the Sacrifice of Mass?), the contact you have with a student of other country in order to help him to improve his spiritual life - they are some aspects of a spiritual help.

The interchange of cultural values, ideas and experiences of your apostolic work, the heart of the intellectual help.

At the basis of this attitude of unity and interchange the material help is also need. Find the financial means for travel grants for starting libraries and publications on poor countries; aid actively all the students who are in a difficult situation owing to political or social disturbances; even give what is needed for our lives in favour of those who are privated from all the things necessary to life - just some examples of what we can do.

But don't think that this attitude is restricted to some countries. Every country has something to give and something to take from the others. We must be humble enough to accept the gifts the others have for us. It is the basic condition for a fruitful help. Only this ability to help our brothers spread all over the world and to acquire from them their specific values enables us to live PR as it really is.

This flow of ideas, experiences, material things and friendship is called "entraide". You can understand from what I said why "entraide" is one of the central points of PR doctrine. From all this flow and exchange a new life springs. And this life is the human heart of PR.