

Reimagining spaces for the charism



SSJ Chapter Last Phase
Cájar, April 3, 2023
Moment of Prayer 1

Naomi, Ruth, Orpah, Boaz, Obed... "witnesses" who incessantly murmur the invitation to the covenant.

The book of Ruth serves as a memorial of the covenant: not a static memorial, but a living reminder of the creativity of God, whose love makes its way into history through unexpected bonds and mediations that would never have occurred to us.

Perhaps on this day of intimate and personal listening to the Word you can take up again the path with Ruth and Naomi, in a double exercise of continuity and rupture. Of continuity, because the Congregation arrives here with the history lived during the whole chapter process. But today it is also about daring to make an exercise of rupture, to allow the Spirit of the Risen One to awaken new meanings in the enduring Word, and, from there, to prepare yourselves with audacity to build with Him a new, unprecedented stage in the Congregation, for the life of the world.

1.- TODAY: THE HOUR OF THE ALLIANCE

At the beginning of the Chapter, it is necessary to make the exercise of making a pause and "feeling today". Because "today" is God's time, our personal "today" and also the "today" of the world and the "today" of the Congregation. "Now is the favorable time, now is the time of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2).

a.- Today, time to listen

Ps 94: May you listen to the voice of the Lord today, and not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on the day of Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers tested me and tempted me, though they had seen my works. Listen...

Do I put the Lord to the test, asking Him for more signs than He wants to give me? Do I still waver in confidence, even though I have seen the Lord's work so many times? This morning is a propitious time to allow the gentleness of the Spirit to penetrate me and open me to listening.

b.- Today, a time of call

Luke 19:5: When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house. Look inward: From which "fig trees" (sycamore trees) must I come down, if I really want to respond to the invitation of his love and continue to make a covenant with my sisters and with the world?

c.- Today, a moment of trust

Mt 6:11: Give us this day our daily bread. Open myself to humble supplication. What is the "bread" that I need to ask for today in order to live this encounter to the full? How do I experience that, where we cannot do

everything, God comes to accompany us, to become a provident and loving presence?

d.- Today, moment of fulfillment

Luke 4:21: *And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture which you have heard has been fulfilled. When I live with my eyes open, I am able to perceive signs that indicate that God is present and at work, that his hands are tenderly kneading reality and transforming it. What gestures or words whisper in my ear that God is carrying out his work in the world?"*

e.- Today, a moment of amazement

Luke 5:26: *And amazement seized them all and they glorified God; and they were filled with awe, saying, "Today we have seen extraordinary things!"* The capacity of astonishment and surprise can become anesthetized with the passage of time. What spaces in my interior do not manage to marvel because they are enclosed within the walls of disappointment, fear or unbelief?

f.- Today, moment of discernment and mission

Luke 13:33: *Nevertheless, I must go on my way, today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow; for it cannot be that a prophet should die outside Jerusalem.* I too, in spite

of fatigue and difficulties, must go on my way: today, tomorrow and the day after. So does the Congregation. Without worrying about the results of the future, without torturing ourselves for the mistakes of the past, the Lord calls us to share the mission with Him and to do "today" everything that is within our reach. What dream inhabits me today when I think of reimagining spaces for the charism?