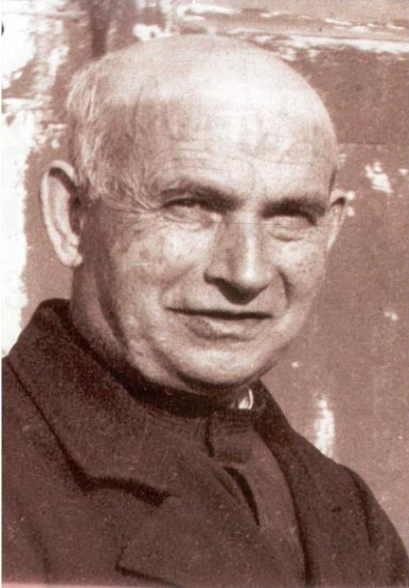


IN THE FATHER'S HANDS I

ENTRUST MY LIFE (12/18/1899)



Today, 125 years ago, Fr. Butiñá was offering his life in the Father's hands. In the hands of Him to whom he has consecrated his life on a Thursday, October 30, 1856 by pronouncing his vows in the Society.

Let us unite ourselves in prayer; silencing our lives to remember and to try to contemplate the mystery of his life, his surrender in plenitude and ask ourselves now, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, How is my self-giving?

We also celebrate today the feast of Our Lady of Hope and with her as our Mother, we dispose ourselves to contemplate today's Gospel.

Song: To pray is to love

Gospel according to St. Matthew 1: 18-24

The generation of Jesus Christ was in this way: Mary, his mother, was betrothed to Joseph, and before they lived together, it turned out that she was expecting a son by the work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being just and unwilling to defame her, decided to divorce her privately. But no sooner had he made this resolution than an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for the child that is in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus...."

LET US SING Carpenter of Nazareth (CD Nazareth)

Surely Fr. Butiñá contemplated this passage many times, as presented to us by St. Ignatius in the Exercises. Let our soul be filled with light.

- In silence we contemplate the passage, as if we were present.
- We look at the disposition of Joseph who, in a dream, receives a double mission: **to welcome and to name.**
- Butiñá also receives a mission. He dreamed of evangelizing the poor working world, especially women. **Welcoming and naming.** What do we dream? Have I lost my ability to dream, even in uncertainty, in doubt, and when things are not clear to me? **Do I name and welcome my dreams?**

We leave time for silence and then share

Today, after 150 years, Butiñá's dream is still alive, but we ask ourselves: How do we do it, can we make it come true? Fr. Butiñá looks at reality with eyes of mercy and tenderness and when one looks at the reality of the world with mercy, HOPE springs forth. How do I look at reality? How is my HOPE at this moment?

We leave a time of silence and then we pray the following psalm in two choruses

NEW EYES

Give us, Lord, Lord, new eyes
to see the newness of your Spirit
that dwells in every time and place.

To discover the life that beats and wants to sprout
in any piece of earth that someone stirs up
as he passes by.

To look differently at what seems to be
the same, but is the here and now
where you, Lord, are there to make new
the things that I cannot change.

Give me, Lord, new eyes to look beyond
the myopic gaze that never helps to move forward.

To discover your signs of hope
and truth, in simple people,
in every moment and difficulty.

To contemplate life from within,
in depth, so that your gaze of goodness
may shine in OUR eyes.



ADVENT:
TIME TO
KEEP
WATCH
WITH
HOPE

We echo what we have prayed and sing the Magnificat.

PRECES

Like Fr. Butiñá, *You send us, Lord, to work in solidarity among ourselves, in our communities and in the countries where we are, confronting the abuse and exploitation of women and children. We want to put our lives into it.*

Like Fr. Butiñá, *You call us to a commitment to women by promoting an education and formation that will enable their integral development so that, appreciating the gifts you give them, they may promote and enhance life. We want to put life into it.*

As Fr. Butiñá did, *You want our communities to live in the style of Nazareth by living the phrase “In all things love and serve” committed to concrete actions in the world of work We want to put life into it.*

As Fr. Butiñá did, *You want us, in our communities, to live attentive to the cries that come with a voice from different cultures and You call us to respond as disciples of Jesus. We want to put our lives into it.*

Fr. Butiñá deeply loved his land, the lake, the Montseny, the fields of Castille, *Lord of Nature, You want us to take care of Mother-Earth and do everything in our power to avoid the destructive behavior that threatens all forms of life on our planet. We want to put life into it.*

Butiñá was creator of life and You are Lord of Life, *You who oppose all war and violence, You want us to build a culture of peace where the coexistence of those who think differently is possible and we join the voices that denounce death. We want to put life into it.*

... We add our concerns and we present them to the Father with the recitation of the Our Father.

FINAL PRAYER: Holy Mary of Hope, Virgin of Advent, admit us into your company and that of your spouse Joseph, so that in the place where each one of us is, we may know and want to encourage hope, that we may, with our life and dedication, open roads for life, as did Father Butiñá who did not cease in his efforts to create communities in the style of NAZARETH.

SONG: Vuelve Profeta (CD Nazareth)



Madrid. December 18, 2024