

[ENGLISH]

VIRTUAL PRAYER, REFLECTION AND FRATERNAL SHARING MOMENT FOR POPE FRANCIS

Welcoming and song

Song

Played by Andrei Thomaz

Pope Francis' inheritance...



**From the address of Pope Francis to the delegation of EoF -
Wednesday, 25 September 2024**

" Today I would like to leave you with three words: *be witnesses, do not be afraid, hope without tiring*. Be witnesses, do not be afraid, hope without tiring.

First, ***be witnesses***. If you want other young people to approach the economy with your ideals, those that we agreed to in the Assisi Covenant of 24 September 2022, it will be your witness of life that will attract them. Be consistent in your choices – consistency is not in fashion today! Seek to be appreciated for your projects and

achievements, not for being numerous and powerful. Instead, transmit to many what you have received, namely the "good news" that, inspired by the Gospel, even the economy can change for the better.

Second: ***do not be afraid***. I repeat what I said to the young people at [WYD in Lisbon](#): "do not be administrators of fears, but entrepreneurs of dreams". Pursue your dreams. There is so much to do, we must dare to use new words: Christians have always done this, they have never been afraid of novelties. They know that God is the Lord of history. It hurts me to see those Christians who hide in the sacristies because they are afraid of the world. They are not Christians, they are "defeated retirees". Christians know that God is the Lord of history and they keep going forward.

Third word: ***hope without tiring***. I know it is not easy to propose a new economy against a backdrop of new and old wars, while the arms industry prospers by taking resources away from the poor. Did you know that in some countries the most profitable investments are the manufacturing of arms? They profit by killing. In these cases, democracy is threatened, populism and inequalities grow, and the planet is increasingly wounded. It is not easy, in fact, it is very difficult. Perhaps sometimes you have the impression that you are "tilting at windmills". So let us remember what Jesus said to the disciples: "Do not be afraid". He will help you, and the Church will not leave you alone.

(...)

In your midst, may **a new way of being together and doing business** be born that does not produce waste but material and spiritual well-being.

Have courage, dear friends, have courage! **If you are faithful to your vocation, your life will blossom**, you will have wonderful stories to tell your children and grandchildren.

From the Gospel according to John 20:11-18

Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping.

And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

She thought it was the gardener and said to him:

"Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.”

Mary went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and then reported what he had told her.

For the prayer/ reflection:

This is one of the Gospels telling the resurrection and so among the ones we are reading in this Easter week...

It's the day after Jesus' burial and Mary Magdalene went to the tomb with the oils that in Israel were used to perfume the bodies of the dead and to conserve them. Surprisingly the tomb is empty... And, after having called the disciples and Peter and John, who had run there, went home, she remained there...alone...outside the tomb... And here we find her, crying and gazing at the emptiness that always leaves death. Maybe we felt like Mary when we received the news of Pope Francis' death.. stunned, incredulous, sad, grieved...

At some point **Mary's weeping is broken by a voice**... a call repeating itself twice: “*Woman, why are you weeping?*” and the second time: “*Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?*” (John 20:13.15)

We too have received a call... someone from the Pope's letter of May 1st 2019... someone else later, maybe taking part in the event in 2022, or maybe from a friend..

But **each one of us answered this call as a result of a search**, just like Mary: “*They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him.*” (John 20:13)...

A search for meaning in our work, in our mission as economists, entrepreneurs, change makers... a search for someone else sharing our same call ... **And EoF, for us, has been the answer to this call.**

Mary Magdalene is a woman who terribly suffered in her past, a woman who is there for gratitude towards the one who saved and changed her life radically and permanently... Similarly, **we are all here today with the same feelings of Mary... commotion** but also **gratitude** for a man who had the intuition of focusing his magisterium and efforts on economic and social topics and to call the youth to put into practice this...

What is interesting here is that **the turning point for Mary**, what really enables her to switch from the weeping to the joy, **is hearing and feeling to be called by name**: “*Jesus said to her, “Mary!”*” (John 20:16)... Maybe during the time of silence we will live, I can make this call echoing into me, resounding with me, with my name... So we can think about when we felt called to take part in EoF the first time and how this personal call to transform an “economy that kills at the root” (Pope Francis), a call we probably felt even before meeting EoF, has become a common call... **from personal call to common call**... as we are walking together with others who felt the same call and who bring the same desire in their hearts..

As happens to Mary, **when you find the source of your joy and of life**, for what, and for who, spending and offering your life, **the temptation is to hold it**, to take possession of it... For this reason, Jesus says to Mary: “*Stop holding on to me (...) But go to my brothers*” (John 20:17).

This can also be our temptation... to handle EoF as something personal, something I realized , something where I am at the centre, **risking losing the dimension of the**

gift, that is what we have done was born from a gift and must be a gift for others, something continuing even without us... We all run this risk in our work, family, voluntary work and even in EoF... Maybe not remembering that if something is from God goes ahead independently from our efforts as the Psalm says : "*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.*" (Psalm 127).

Conversely, the picture we have seen before, the Pope gesture, I think can really illustrate what Jesus tells Mary... **the Pope told us goodbye to let us free and especially to go to our brothers and sisters**, to carry on our mission with the same style, so not holding but loving with freedom.

Indeed, like St. Francis taught us: possession is the opposite of love.

To conclude, I believe that independently from our concrete results as community, from our personal stories and engagement with EoF that obviously changed during these years - as we got married, we had children, we took another vocation, we changed job or started working - each one of us can recognise that there is **at least one fruit EoF brought** to each one of us: **bring us together**, meeting brothers and sisters, **giving a different meaning to our quotidian life**, and **enable others to meet the same**: "*Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what He had told her.*" (John 20:18)

Moment of prayer and reflection

Fraternal sharing moment

Lets' share in simplicity, fairness and briefly our personal memory of Pope Francis, who he's been for me, how he changed my personal history, how I would like to carry on his inheritance with EoF or differently...

REM: Be personal! Not theoretical or abstract!

Final song

Played by Guilherme Augusto