

Fr. Aris Martin
School of Leaders Presentation
July 10, 2021
Summarized by Sabina

The message of Pope Francis on “The Joy of the Gospel:”

- Our source of joy emanates from our deep encounter and grace with Jesus.
- A Christian speaks and live a life of joyful witnessing.
- Christianity is not an ideology. Tragedies, difficulties will help us encounter Jesus.

The Apostolic Exhortation happened after Vatican II. The bishops gathered in synod every two years and go to Rome to discuss problems. As a result of the synod, the Pope writes the Apostolic Exhortation to address these problems and issues.

Evangelii Gaudium – means the “Fruit of the Church.”

Chapter One Highlights:

- Joy is something that comes from a deep encounter with Jesus.
- Disturbances will not stop us from serving God.
- While the joy is coming from within, it is not superficial.
- The source of transformation in the church is the stirring of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter Two Highlights:

- Commitment in the midst of crisis. Mother Theresa’s saying, “The call is not to be successful, but to be faithful.”
- What make us joyful is faithfulness. In relationships, we find few people that are “faithful.”
- Pope Francis reminds the young people to “Believe that there is forever.”
- A joyful heart is a heart of committed man or woman.

Chapter Three Highlights:

- In the proclamation of the Gospel, joy is coming from your life as a Christian. Not by words, but by action.
- Young people listen to those preachers who live their lives through their action.

Chapter Four Highlights:

- On social dimension, no matter how personal our encounter is, it will have an effect on those around us.
- We cannot fake holiness.
- When we go to the Blessed Sacrament, without our solidarity to the poor, our love of God is superficial and reflects upon us as hypocrites.

Chapter Five Highlights:

- We should be spirit filled evangelizers or are we self-filled?
- Ego is our enemy. Let us remove our ego and give space for the Holy Spirit to work in us.
- The Blessed Mother is filled with grace and full of joy.
- The holy person is a joyful person. People will be attracted to go to God through us because we exhibit our joyfulness in God.
- “The glory of God is humanity fully alive.” – St. Irenaeus
- We cannot fake joy and holiness.