

Homily of Father Adolfo Nicolás SJ

World Ecclesial Assistant of Christian Life Community (CLC)

Visitor's Day - 2008 World Assembly – Fátima, Portugal – August, 17th

Readings: Isaiah. 56:1.6-7 ▶ Foreigners = local. Law & Justice
 Romans 11:13-15.29-32 ▶ Mercy for All
 Matthew. 15:21-28 ▶ Canaan. Great Faith. Healing

1. Current Situation: Then and Now

- The Canaanite, the pagan woman, she announces a new Christian era where all can see and treat each other as brothers and sisters.
- The reality is men are the ones who govern and remain in power.
- Locals are the "only ones" who have power and control.
- Foreigners do not count.
- Women count even less than foreigners.
- Today we experience the same in our society, as well as in the Church; especially in Groups, Associations, Parishes. We have to humbly and truthfully recognize that we frequently experience something similar: Men, Clergy and Leaders are the only ones being recognized (even though this does not really happen with CLC leadership).

2. Jesus makes changes

- He begins with the status quo of the times.
- He accepts being challenged by a woman... a foreign (Even though today it is more important to highlight the foreign aspect than the gender).
- He admires the work of the Holy Spirit: her faith and courage.
- He changes his attitude and way of proceeding.
- This ability to change on important issues, challenged by the Gospel, it is always a sign of hope.
- CLC, as well, has changed from being many communities to ONE, UNITED and APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY.
What are the challenges we will be encountering in the future?

3. New Situation

- We are all equal: Men and Women, Foreign and Nationals.
- Jesus is telling us how and where the Spirit will be taking us, leading us.
- We are a community that accepts differences.
- One Lord – One family – Being compassionate with each other and sharing life together.
- Healing wounds, prejudices, the past, being different: old and new; Christians are like "Therapeutes" – Health promoters, sonorous...
- A new life explosion – New community horizons.