

Monday, 29 June 2019

Dear friends in the Lord,

In this month of June, the month of the Heart of Jesus, I am sending you a commentary on the Way of the Heart, the spiritual itinerary proposed by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

As you know, the Way of the Heart was the result of several years of international work led by Father Claudio Barriga, S.J. Like any international document, it is a group effort, which has taken into account diverse cultures, languages, ecclesial and spiritual experiences. It has its richness and its limits.

Why did I write this commentary? The nine steps of the itinerary, proposed in the Recreation Document of the Apostleship of Prayer (December 2014), are very schematic and many have requested to have something more consistent. **The Way of the Heart is essential for the process of recreation that began several years ago.** If one does not know, understand, meditate on, and breathe in this way, it will be difficult to recreate the Apostleship of Prayer in your own countries. We have come a long way in recent years, but we need to go even deeper. **The Way of the Heart is the key to the interpretation of our mission.**

I participated in the elaboration of the international document and, since 2009, I have been present at the meetings of reflection, discernment and writing of the various documents. With this commentary that I propose, I wish to help to deepen each step and to understand the spirit of the process of recreation. **The Way of the Heart helps to enter into the spiritual dynamic of recreation, the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus.**

You can read the article: "The Pope's Prayer Network, in the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus".  
INTRANET

This commentary on the Way of the Heart is a good basis, but I hope that others will complete and improve it, in particular by translating it into concrete life and sharpening its relationship with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. There are other valuable comments found in the INTRANET.

The Way of the Heart is not a way of giving the Exercises, nor is it part of the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, yet it is inspired by them. **It can be considered an adaptation of the Spiritual Exercises** according to Annotation 18. It is a deepening of the spiritual tradition of the Apostleship of Prayer for today, and articulates in an original way essential elements of this spiritual treasure with the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus.

The dynamic of **the daily offering** according to Fr. Henri Ramière, S.J. (1821-1884), articulates Eucharistic spirituality and the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus in an apostolic dynamic. It is nothing else but **the dynamic of availability to a mission of compassion for the world that we propose.** The nine steps of the Way of the Heart are part of the process initiated by Pope Francis

with Evangelii Gaudium, "The Joy of the Gospel". They can be proposed in various ways and among them every first Friday of the month.

After a year and a half of working with an international team, led by our team in Argentina, we have written 11 books on **The Way of the Heart**. Also as part of this work, we have presented a website and an App at the International Meeting (with videos, audios and texts), to provide material and help spread the Way of the Heart. Its first version will be in Spanish.

➤ [www.caminodelcorazon.church](http://www.caminodelcorazon.church)

I remind you that **we are in the third phase of the recreation** of the Apostleship of Prayer as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: to deepen the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the foundation of our mission. The document: "A journey with Jesus, in apostolic availability" (2014) **gives us the key to this interpretation**. We have a specific way of interpretation of the devotion of the Heart of Jesus. **Our own way of entering into the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus is called "The Way of the Heart"**.

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International Director