



DREAMS AND RESPONSIBILITY!

by Bro MARIANO DI VITO OFM Cap.

In Pope Francis' homily given on 2 February 2017, addressed to all religious, he used the word "dream" at least ten times. He spoke of the dream of their founding fathers and mothers, the dream of their elders, the dream of the younger generations, and the dream of all those, even if not many still numerous, who have not given up on the greenest of all virtues, hope.

Yet that aspiration to go beyond ourselves, to venture into unknown territories, seems to have fallen out of fashion.

It has become the past instead, the already seen, the safety of boundaries and the protection of walls that more and more frequently occupy the agendas of governments and political powers in the many different parts of the world.

Undoubtedly the worries and the fears of failure are many, and the temptations to make do with little, to hold on to what we already have, "to be prudent" as the saying goes, loom large with their promises of safety. We want nothing too adventurous, no leaps in the dark!

The men and women who

traced out new paths, opened fresh vistas, built bridges and who, most importantly, wish to continue doing so, do not think along these lines.

Perhaps we do not realise how the peace and well-being that we have, at least in our part of the world in Europe, beset for so many years by hatred, wars and concentration camps, we owe to people who fought and believed in the dream of being able to live together in peace and solidarity, because, first and foremost, they believed we belong one to another. The rabbis of Israel would say that dreams are "little prophecies," heralds of the light of the Spirit, apertures through which God moves man's heart with that fervour to do great things, to those visions of the promised land, possible already now while still living in the arid Kadesh wilderness.

To be able to dream does not mean thinking along those ready made furrows of the world. To dream is something that we can all do, but it requires an attentive listening. For us men and women of the Faith it means reading our everyday reality (the fam-

ily, the church, the school, the work ambient, the political and social scene...) in the light of the Word of God, the example of the saints and the two thousand year wisdom of the Church, to be ready to dialogue and not to simply make do with the way things are, but to believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose breath renews everything to new life.

The road is equally open too, as it has always been, to those who are not religious and do not have the Faith, to dream and to build the earthly city, whose right to citizenship, before and above all differences, is founded upon the common destiny and interdependence of all mankind.

May these forty days in preparation for Easter be used by us to learn how to dream again and to allow ourselves to be filled by the wonderful and powerful light of the Spirit.

May we experience the necessity and also the responsibility! A fruitful Lenten journey to all of you!

Fr. Mariano Di Vito