

SEVENTH CATECHESIS

THE CULTURE OF JOY

“WHEN THEY SAW HIM, THEY WERE ASTONISHED” (LK 2:48)

The Good News through Music

The Joy that Comes from Faith

The piece to listen to: **David Foster, *The Prayer***

Keywords: happiness, education, young people

Introduction

One of the main characteristics of Christians is joy. This feeling cannot be born alone, but it is an answer to a gift that is received. The first of these gifts is the faith that makes us participants in God's life.

Listening Guide

Questions to facilitate the discussion of the piece

Did you like the piece you listened to?

Describe in three words the feelings that it aroused in you.

Have you already heard music like this before?

What instruments did you recognize?

Can you recall the melody?

With regard to the lyrics, what strong points appear in the song?

The Prayer is one of the most successful pieces interpreted by Maestro Bocelli. It was written by D. Foster (1999) to be a duet with Celine Dion. Once again, we are faced with the symbolism of the couple, now united by prayer. The last verses then are a good restatement of the whole song's spirit: "And the faith you have lit in us, I feel that it will save us."

The lyrics:

La luce che tu dai

Nel cuore resterà

A ricordarci che

L'eterna stella sei

Nella mia preghiera

Quanta fede c'è

Lead us to a place

Guide us with your grace

Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Sogniamo un mondo senza più violenza

Un mondo di giustizia e di speranza

Ognuno dia la mano al suo vicino

Simbolo di pace e di fraternità

*La forza che ci dai
È il desiderio che
Ognuno trovi amore
Intorno e dentro a sé*

*Let this be our prayer
Just like every child
Needs to find a place,
Guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe*

*E la fede che
Hai acceso in noi
Sento che ci salverà*

The Good News

Prayer is the certainty that God does not leave us alone. As Jesus did with his disciples, the Teacher taught us how to speak to the Father in the prayer of the *Our Father*. Prayer is a dialogue, in which we listen to what God has to say, and we can say to Him what is in our hearts. The conversation with Him is a precious indication of the dialogue that must exist in the couple and in the family. Each of its members is invited to enjoy the intimacy of their mutual relationship, made of sharing, openness, thanksgiving, and praise. These are authentic relationships with the members of the family and with the heavenly Father that give rise to joy that no sadness in life can dim (AL 130).