

ONLINE 2021 MARIAN LECTURE ONLINE 2021

Marist
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ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Questions for reflection

1. Christopher Lamb spoke of Pope Francis embarking on a Church renewal based on rediscovering the radical nature of the Gospel. He spoke of the 'three C's, calling the Church to be Compassionate, Close to people and taking Concrete steps. He spoke of the Church needing to be a "field hospital" (from *Evangelii Gaudium*), where the "tent is pitched amongst the people".

What do you feel are the priorities in rediscovering the radical nature of the Gospel?

2. Christopher Lamb gave us three insights into Francis' papacy. He spoke of the Pope as a 'disrupter' - to challenge the way things have "always been". To be 'missionary' - that the social action of the Church is at the heart of what the Church does; and to be 'peacemakers' - the synodal approach to dialogue.

In the light of this comment, what does it mean to be 'missionary' in our contemporary Australian context?

3. In speaking about the need for a more Synodal Church, Christopher Lamb suggests being Synodal is "not just a church of meetings and committees", but rather "it is a style." This style is very much about dialogue, but a dialogue "that God wishes to have that can deepen our faith and open new possibilities."

What are the opportunities for us to build unity, break down walls and create spaces for dialogue?

4. Christopher Lamb quotes Cardinal Carlo Martini when speaking of the need for change in the Church. "*I see in the church today so much ash under the embers that often I'm hit with a sense of impotence. How can we liberate the embers from the ash, to reinvigorate the fires of love?*" In continuing this metaphor, Lamb suggests that the 8 year pontificate of Pope Francis has been about fanning the embers to liberate them from the ashes and breathe new life into the Church.

What is the 'new life' that you would hope to see emerge?

5. In answering a question on the need for Church structures to change, Christopher Lamb suggests looking at how the early Church was structured and emphasises Pope Francis' call for "Missionary Simplicity."

What might this look like in the Twenty-First Century?

