

Today we are in the realm of explicit metaphor. Ezekiel describes the growth of holiness in terms of a stream flowing from the Temple of Jerusalem and becoming a river which eventually sweetens and enlivens the waters of the Dead Sea; Jesus recasts the Temple as being himself about to be torn down and resurrected and so becoming the new Temple and the new source of holiness for others; indeed, we become that body, that Temple, in so far as we build on Christ as the sure foundation.

So, today, as we celebrate the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, we are also celebrating the foundation of a people and, more explicitly here, of a people founded in Turvey in 1980, and, as the call to holiness was cumulative then, so it is also a call to examine and celebrate our origins, to go to the source of our charism here, both as Christians founded on Christ, and as monks and nuns founded on that original vision of Dom Constantine Bosschaerts – this will also include the Olivetan and Benedictine connections, too. Is it one stream then, or many? Or rather, variations on a theme? For whatever the particular charisms that have flowed into this river all must be founded on Christ and so on God and reflect what it is to be Godly, to be holy.

I have before me a letter from Dom Bosschaerts written on 15th May 1949 to all the *Vita et Pax* members and it is clear that it is, after all, one river with one ultimate foundation:

Be united in mutual charity.

All the members of the Vita et Pax foundation form but one community and have but one common ideal: UT OMNES UNUM SINT. How can we possibly work for the union of Christians if we do not first ourselves practise unity and charity?

On each altar in each section of the 'Vita et Pax' foundation should be written 'Where charity is, there is God'.

We have it here, at the entrance to this chapel - but it's easily forgotten and the waters become tainted as a result and our work for unity impoverished or, again, in the words of Dom Bosschaerts :

not a single monastery or apostolic work in the Foundation can grow or flourish when charity and unity are not at the root of them; and whatever may be said of alterations or improvements, it is quite useless without this basis.

This is Christ in the Temple beginning all over again – going to the roots of what we are all about as God's people.

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