

82. At Nazareth, living the ordinary life of a youth of his time, he grew “in wisdom, age and favor before God and man” (Lk 2, 52).<sup>25</sup> Situated in a specific time and place, Jesus embraced the attitudes prescribed by his social, political, cultural, economic and religious environment. An authentic man, an optimist is facing the future, he confronts conflict, he lives in freedom and frees others; he goes out to meet people. In solidarity with his people Jesus prays to the Father. He extends an invitation to form communities because that is the only way one can experience and understand the Kingdom.
83. Only in a small community is it possible to learn the fundamental values of the new style of life that Jesus proposes: goods shared in common (Mt 6, 24); fraternity and equality among all (Mt 23, 8-10); authority seen as service — “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all” (Mk 9, 35); friendship to the point of having no secrets (Jn 15, 15); and a reaffirmation of the bond between a man and a woman in marriage (Mt 19, 1-9). His plan of salvation is most fully grasped in community and service to others.<sup>26</sup>
84. Jesus calls young people together to fashion and live a life rooted in love, to pray from their lived experience, to proclaim with their joyful and eager lives that genuine love is possible, and as their journey unfolds to recognize the presence of the God of Life. He invites us to forgive and be forgiven. Today people continue hearing that very same invitation of his to bring encouragement to countless young people disheartened and dejected by the difficulties that they have to contend with in life.<sup>27</sup>

25 CELAM, *Civilização do Amor: Tarefa e Esperança*, 1997, p. 98.

26 CELAM, *Civilização do Amor: Tarefa e Esperança*, 1997, pp. 107-08.

27 CELAM, *Civilização do Amor: Tarefa e Esperança*, 1997, pp. 110-114.

## Evangelization, essence of the Marist mission

85. The person of Jesus of Nazareth is the foundation for the vocation and mission of the Church in the world: to proclaim the Gospel