



The Holy See

POPE FRANCIS

MORNING MEDITATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE
DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE

Magnanimity and humility

Thursday, 25 April 2013

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 18, 1 May 2013)

Magnanimity and humility characterize the lifestyle of Christians who truly want to be witnesses to the Gospel in the farthest reaches on earth. Pope Francis sketched the outline of this way of being “missionaries of the Church” on Thursday, 25 April, at the now- traditional morning Mass in the Chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae.

Among the concelebrants were Archbishop Nikola Eterovi?, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, and Bishop Eduardo Horacio García, Auxiliary of Buenos Aires. Also taking part in the morning's celebration were the religious and lay members of the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, a group of Gendarmes of Vatican City, led by their Inspector General, Domenico Giani, and many families.

As always the Pope commented on the day's readings, on this occasion from the First Letter of St Peter (5:5-14) and from Mark's Gospel (16:15-20). “Before ascending into heaven Jesus sent the Apostles out to evangelize, to preach the kingdom. He sent them to the ends of the earth. ‘Go into all the world’”, he urged them. Francis then stressed the universality of the Church’s mission, noting that Jesus did not tell the Apostles to go to Jerusalem or Galilee but sent them out into the entire world. This explains the missionary outreach of the Church which continues to preach “to

the whole world. But she does not go by herself”, the Pope said. “She goes with Jesus”.

The Christian, Pope Francis explained, “preaches the Gospel with his witness rather than with his words”. The Pope ended by asking those present to pray to the Lord that they “become missionaries in the Church with this spirit: great magnanimity and also great humility”.