

THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH AS ADVOCATED BY POPE FRANCIS

CLC European meeting
A kairós moment

Lille, 1-4 March 2018

Giuseppe Riggio SJ
Aggiornamenti Sociali

A new music in the Church

“He has not
changed the
words,
but he’s changed
the music”
(Nicole Gibbs,
Time)



Francis' Words and Gestures

Their authenticity strikes

Puts in question

Christians,

believers of other

religions and not believers

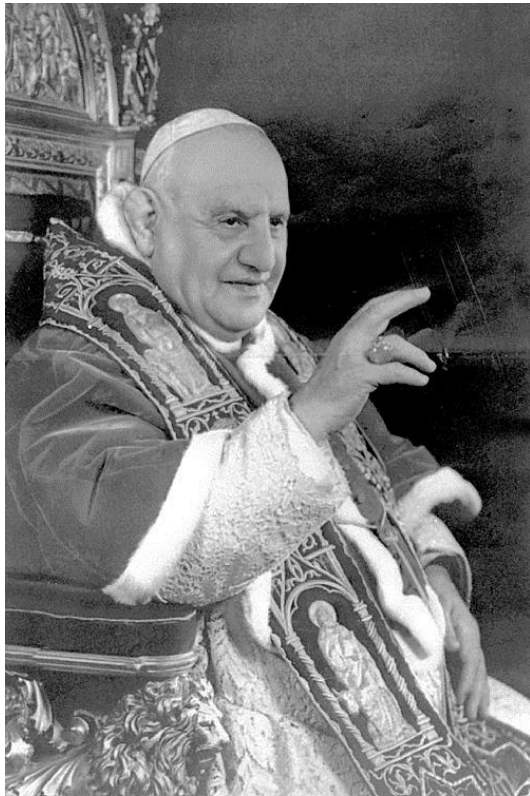
But there is the risk to

consider them just

folkloric

**WHAT DOES
RENEWAL
MEAN FOR
THE CHURCH?**

John XXIII: opening speech to the Council



In the present course of human events, by which **human society seems to be entering a new order of things**, we should see instead the mysterious plans of divine Providence which through the passage of time and the efforts of men, and often beyond their expectation, are achieving their purpose and **wisely disposing of all things, even contrary human events, for the good of the Church**

Francis to the Italian Church

«Today we are not living
an epoch of change
so much as an **epochal change**»

In what does the epochal change consist for me?

Can I list the key elements of this change?

The situations that we are living in today therefore pose **new challenges** which, at times, are also difficult for us to understand. Our time requires us to live problems as challenges and not as obstacles: **the Lord is active and at work in our world.**

- Individualism and very weak social links
- The lifestyle, production and consumption
= Progress, technology, IT
- + Quest for the sense of the life
- + Concrete examples of “resistance” (LS 112)

**THE RENEWAL
ACCORDING TO
FRANCIS**

A call to personal conversion...

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to **a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ**, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the **joy** brought by the Lord” (EG 3)

... and to missionary activity

Thus, **go out** into the streets and go out to the crossroads: **call** all those whom you find, excluding no one (cf. Mt 22:9).

Accompany especially those who are on the roadside, “the lame, the maimed, the blind, the dumb” (Mt 15:30).

Wherever you may be, **build** neither walls nor borders but village squares and field hospitals.

Some key points of the renewal

Some **words** are always present in Francis' speeches and documents:

- joy, mercy, care
- corruption, inequality, individualism

A specific **way** to proceed:

- together as God's people
- discernment

The **posture / self comprehension**:

- a Church poor for and with poor

**A biblical image:
the good
samaritan
(Luke 10:25-37)**

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

