

Valencia1983-2023 50 years of the Alumni Congress

P Arrupe sends a message to Alumni...

Men and Women for others!

This year, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary that Father Arrupe gave the famous closing speech of the European Congress of Jesuit Alumni Associations, the year where he also convened the 32nd General Congregation of the Company, which was a milestone in the history of the Society of Jesus. the proclamation of faith in God had to go hand in hand with the fight against social injustices.

Pedro Arrupe, superior general of the Jesuits between 1965 and 1983 and twenty-eighth successor of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, with his usual energy and enthusiasm, delivered a historic speech at the close of the Alumni meeting that marked a change in the education that it provided up to now with greater openness and focus on training oriented towards social change and people's needs».

"Men and Women for others".

This famous phrase marked a turning point in the history of the Society of Jesus since, following the Second Vatican Council and the rhythms set by society in the 1970s, it served to update education, the commitment within Ignatian spirituality.

Pedro Arrupe, Born in Bilbao in 1907 and is considered one of the most important men of the Church of the twentieth century. as his biographer P Lamet S.J. "witness of the 20th century and Prophet of the 21st Century" I could not understand that society looked to the future and the church still looked to the past,... "I am frightened that we can give yesterday's answers to tomorrow's problems"... "and I don't I want to defend mistakes, but I also don't want the biggest of all, which is not changing anything for fear of making a mistake..."

The renewal of religious life following the guidelines of the Second Vatican Council was one of his great contributions to the Church. "men and women for others". ... a key to our humanist tradition in the modern world derived from the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, since only by being a man-or-woman-for-others does one become fully human, not only in the merely natural sense, but also in the sense of being the "spiritual" person of Saint Paul.

Some significant points of Fr. Arrupe: ... Missionary in Japan who influenced him to the point of writing the book "the incredible Japan that I knew"; Exceptional spectator at the first atomic bomb; Dialogue with other religions, Prophet of our time; Faith and justice ("a faith that does not cry out against injustice...is not a gospel faith", Jesuit Refugee Service, "Every Priest must fulfill his prophetic mission against war and in favor of peace..."; Contemplative in action and in the Passion... ...he was a sign of contradiction, misunderstood inside and outside the Society.....

Father Arrupe (2) drew from the "jar of essences" of the Ignatian charism the best of... reading the changing circumstances of our time. ... today's company is the same as S Ignacio, but passed through the renewing FILTER of Saint P Arrupe who, as a faithful disciple of Ignatius, knew how to put the company on the path of discernment, of listening to reality, which is as much as wonder WHAT GOD WANTS OF US TODAY.

It has been more than seven years since the beatification process began, coinciding with the 28th anniversary of his death. An inexplicable and unfairly slow process at the beginning and long in its course for a man of God, a man of Christ, an example for all Christians, and an authentic saint such as Pedro Arrupe.

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