

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

This is El Dia de Amistad y Amor in Latin America. They celebrate love and friendship for all. At devotions this morning we spoke of God's blessings to us and becoming blessings to others. We also shared feelings of love for our own family, friends, and yes, our pets. It started the day off just right.

Later in the morning we attended an Ash Wednesday service here at the university. Hymns, scripture, and a short homily were shared in both Spanish and English (for our benefit, I believe). We passed the ashes as though we were passing the peace, one putting ashes on the other and then turning to pass the tiny chalice to another two. As the service ended, we passed the peace much like we do at OVPC, only on a smaller scale of bedlam.

After lunch we heard from two professors here at UBL. Enrique Ramirez shared perspectives on slavery from the Bible and from Mark Twain. It had been a long time since any of us had read *Huck Finn*. Some of the passages were jarring. We also heard from Hanzel Zuniga about the history of education in Costa Rica. Costa Rica has a highly skilled labor force, thanks in part to the many technical high schools here, but I believe Sr. Zuniga was most proud of the optional ecumenical classes offered that focus on human dignity, the rights of the individual, environmental responsibility, and the church as a human community. These classes are taught in every school, and 70-80% of kids choose to participate. His parting words to us were, "In the technical vs. humanities educational debate, there is always room for ethics".

In the morning after devotions Sr. Gustavo Cabrera took us all to school as he analyzed the economic situation, shone light on the reasons for many of the confusing and upsetting phenomena we see, showed us why we have hope in the end. Sr. Cabrera is a member of Servicio Paz y Justicia (The Service of Peace and Justice). It is organized from a Christian and ecumenical perspective, and is active in 12 Latin American countries as an advisory to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and also to UNESCO. I refer you to the website for the Costa Rican branch of this organization.

Sr. Cabrera, a lawyer and theologian, gave us a formula for understanding and for action: Power and Control = 3 M + 2 M vs. 1 M.

The 3 M's are:

Materials (raw materials such as land, water, minerals)

Mano de Obra (the labor force)

Mercado (the market)

The 2 M's are:

Media

Military

And the single M is Movimientos (Social movements of the people) Sr. Cabrera assures us that the movement is growing. "The remnants of the people of God continue. There are a lot of us, and there is a huge reserve of love and caring for our planet and for each other's rights and well-being. Hope must give us the will to continue because we know that Jesus is life and life will continue".

Poder/Control/⊆

3M+2M VS 1M.

- Materia Prima - Tierra - minerales/petróleo/Agua/Bogues/Minería/P.H/
- Mano obra - Barata/esclava/Bonos Francos/Legales/Migrantes/Mujeres/Indígenas/negros
- Mercado - precio/venderse/# - \downarrow tiempo usado

+ Medios Comunicativos

TV - Radio/Internet/Pulpito/Exámenes/Testimonios/
 Paz - Tranq. NO C / - Respetar Auténtica/Dios
 Justicia Respeto DBHH ⊆
 Resp. Pública

Militarización → Convencer

Vencer fuerza - armas/Represión/imposición
 persecución - cárcel - /quemas
 Policias/Ejército/Basistas Militares

+ 1M - Movimiento Social (Real)

Resistencia
 Esperanza
 Amor

- Mujeres - Campesinas - Indígenas - Ecologistas
- Iglesias Solidarias - Comunidades de Defensores Activos
- Estudiantes - Autonomía - Libertad / ACCIONES

PP
 Ocupa
 Indignados/as
 Marcha Mundial -
 Via Campesina

Canada - CUA - Ingl. - Italia - Abm. Franc. - China / como Naciones
 Consejo Seguridad ONU
 + Educ + Tecnolo + Capital + Consumo + Carga / Davos

ganancia
 Negocios
 Inversiones
 Comercio

Transnacionales

Bancos Int. / G7 + 9

Davos → Banca Paris

Regimenes / PPP

GOBIERNOS



- Justicia Social/Misión
- Causas/prop. Solución Alianza
- Corrupción - Afecta Gobi. - Ciudad
- Educación/Salud
- Medio Ambiente/Comercio

Plan Col/IRA

- 3 Causas/prop. Misión

- Corrupción
- Derechos Naturales
- Bandas Armadas
- Globalización