

Pastorale e spiritualità

Some reflections on the process of the ministry of evangelization in the Italian Church

by Virginio Spicacci, s.J.

Last May, the Italian bishops met in Collevalenza to outline the objectives of the pastoral program for the Italian Church in the decade 2001-2010.

The in-depth consultations that accompanied the works of the Assembly revealed that numerous Bishops today, in order to renovate the pastoral ministry, have concentrated their attention on the core of the first announcement or *kérygma*. In this sense, the intervention of Cardinal Ruini, president of the Italian Episcopal Conference, in occasion of the Jubilee of Italian Catechists on June 21st of last year was significant. Addressing himself at the time to the catechists present, he declared: "we are in a situation that is objectively missionary, that carries and practically forces us to be missionaries. We are living among people that have the need and, I would say, the right to be evangelized... We are moving in a rapidly changing cultural context where it is again necessary to plant the seeds of a call to Christianity... Today, in many cases, there is almost a need of a first announcement but made to people who already have a knowledge of Christianity."