

Excerpts from Fr. Louis' Conference entitled "The African Woman"

Here are a few excerpts from this wonderful conference. The quotes will be unconnected but it is our hope that they will give you the flavor of our time together.

To open up scripture Father Louis begins by saying: "The oriental cultural orientation centered on the way, the western cultural orientation centered on the truth and the African cultural orientation centered on life. It is from the perspective of "life" that he breaks open the scriptures for us.



"As far as men are concerned we know where they come from, but as for women we don't know", thus says an African Proverb.

"In African society, unlike in Genesis, the man comes from the woman and the woman comes from herself. Because the woman is seen primarily in relation to life, she is the mother of both men and women. She is her own origin apart from God."

"In the beginning, according to the creation myth, the man was made from the earth, the woman from the man. In the Incarnation mystery, the son of God was born of the woman. This establishes a hierarchy that places the woman in a privileged position: She is by nature, intermediary between man and God."

"Thus the Woman, as the representative of the whole human race, is the inescapable collaborator of God for begetting the human person physically and spiritually. As the no of Eve consecrated the fall of humanity into Death, so also the Fiat of Mary consecrated the rising of the human race to a new life."

"The encounter of Mary and Elizabeth at the visitation enkindled the fire of the Holy Spirit in Elizabeth's heart. The birth of the Church through the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, took place in the cenacle where the apostles were gathered around the Woman in prayer."

Father Louis ends the conference with: The eschatological fullness of our understanding of revelation will not "be reached until the life centered African cultural orientation and the way centered oriental cultural orientation will be duly taken into account in hermeneutics."

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