

01 THE METHOD “SEE, JUDGE AND ACT”

**“We believe we are in a new historical era.
It requires a clear vision to see and diagnose, and then solidarity to act”
(Medellin Document: The Message to the Peoples of Latin America)**

□ FOCUS OF THE SUBJECT

* We are starting a process of reflection and catechesis to follow the path towards the 50th anniversary of the 2nd Latin American Bishops’ Conference that took place in Medellin, Colombia in 1968. Given the historical, theological and pastoral importance of this event, some Christian organizations and churches of the (Latin American) Continent have already set out on this road and we want to offer you these Study Guides that provide an itinerary of catechesis and engagement to distinguish and respond to the signs of the times of today..

We begin reflecting on the methodology of “see, judge and act” because this was undertaken in the Medellin Meeting, because it had been put into practice by many communities, and because, it is in line with the recommendation given by Pope Francis in his sermon in Medellin, and it is what we want to adopt in this learning process.

We hope you will find it useful and that we can achieve the proposed targets. Kindly send us your comments on your own catechetical method to help us enrich this material by emailing it to: infomedellin18@gmail.com

□ OBJECTIVES

Meditate on the elements that constitute the pastoral method “see, judge and act” IN ORDER TO become missionary disciples that know how to see, without inherited short sightedness; that examine the reality from the eyes and heart of Jesus and then judge it and then also take risks, act, accept the responsibility of their commitment.

□ METHODOLOGICAL ITINERARY

Starting from the elements that constitutes the learning process and human activity and, meditating on the method “see, judge and act”, develop a clear understanding and live a better life by following this proposal of pastoral analysis.

1. SEE, UNDERSTAND THE REALITY:

1. What steps do we need to take before making an important decision?

Take a specific case (select a profession, get married, a doctor who has a patient...) - Generally, first we see (SEE). According to the type of decision to make: what is it we? How do we do it?

- In second place, we reflect (JUDGE), we analyse, we place in order all the elements that we see. We make a value judgment. Does it suit us or not? Why? In some cases we enlighten the situation with some doctrine or theory, for example, What theories does the doctor use? Do we use the holy scriptures to enlighten our options? Why?

- Finally, after all this process, we manage to take a decision (ACT). Will it be a good decision? On what will it depend?

- Are we accustomed, after a period of time, to EVALUATE the decisions we have taken?
¿What are the benefits?

- If we managed to carry out the process correctly, with maturity, in depth, with sufficient time, the results will be positive and then, it will be worthwhile to CELEBRATE!

(Then comes the degree, the marriage, the recovery of health, etc.,...) What are the characteristics of our celebrations?

2. JUDGE, ENLIGHTEN THE OBSERVATION:

▣ BIBLICAL ENLIGHTENMENT

Let us meditate: **Ex 3,7-10. I have seen the humiliation of my people.** Questions to raise to study in depth this biblical text and enlighten the previous step, the “observation”.

1. What are the circumstances that encompass this text? (See Ex 3,1-6)
2. Do we find in this passage that God acts, by the method “see, judge, act? Why? (See Ex 3,7-10)
3. Is there any notation at the bottom of the page of our Bible that helps us understand this text?
4. According to the text we are looking at, what lesson does it leave us?

▣ DOCTRINAL ENLIGHTENMENT

Let us meditate the words of Pope Francis in his sermon of Saturday 9th September 2017 in Medellin:

"Brothers and Sisters, the Church in Colombia is called to make a bolder commitment in the training of missionary disciples, as the bishops stated when they met in Aparecida in the year 2007. Disciples that now how to see, judge and act, as stated in that Latin American document that was born in this land (see Medellín, 1968).

Missionary disciples that know how to see, without inherited short sightedness; that examine the reality from the eyes and heart of Jesus and then judge it and then also take risks, act, accept the responsibility of their commitment”.

<http://www.noticiasrcn.com/nacional-visita-del-papa-colombia-medellin/video-y-texto-homilia-misa-del-papa-francisco-medellin>

Questions to raise to study in depth the teaching of the Pope to enlighten this triple methodological step of “see, judge and act”:

What is Pope Francis’s recommendation to make us “see”?

What recommendation to make us “judge”?

What recommendation to make us “act”?

3. ACT: CONVERT THIS TEACHING INTO OUR LIVES

□ What engagement can we acquire so that, over the next few days, we understand how to live better the pastoral method of “see, judge and act”?

□ We must reread the objective of this theme. Have we achieved it? Why?

4. EVALUATE:

At the beginning of the next theme, we will dedicate some minutes to evaluate. Al inicio del próximo tema dedicaremos unos minutos para evaluar.

5. CELEBRATE:

We invite the groups, communities and persons who a following this process to organize a celebration (at the end of the topic) to demonstrate the way they normally celebrate: with creativity, liberty and maturity; they can include chants, prayers, litanies, symbols, gestures...

APPENDIX:

For a better understanding of the method: “See, judge and act”, consult the following:

- The method in The Documents of Aparecida: read the numbers 18 to 22

On internet it is easy to find material about the method, for example:

- <https://www.slideshare.net/zabrina9820/see-juzgar-actuar>

- <http://espac.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/EL-METODO-see-JUZGAR-ACTUAR.pdf>

- <http://www.redescristianas.net/%C2%BFque-es-una-comunidad-ecclesial-de-base-gregorio-iriarte/> especially the chapter on the “method of learning in the CEBs (Grassroots ecclesial communities”

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- IRIARTE, G., Qué son las Comunidades Eclesiales de Base. Guía Didáctica para animadores de las CEB, Dabar, México, 1993. (What are the grassroots ecclesial communities. A learning guide for facilitators of the grassroots ecclesial communities

- MARECHAL A., La Revisión de Vida. Toda nuestra vida en el Evangelio, Claret, Barcelona, 1998. (The Revision of Life. All our life in the Gospel) This has been the classic book on the method “see, judge and act”.