

## **YES, MY GENERAL!**

*(P. Ribes, s.j.)*

### **YES, MEANS YES For great exploits we require an unconditional will To follow God's call an unqualified yes is wanted.**

Many years ago, a famous emperor in one of his war campaigns was informed that some of his best men had been trapped by the enemies. They were about to surrender.

He decided to set out immediately a large contingent of his handpicked soldiers to free the trapped men. In the meantime, he wanted his urgent and crisp message to reach the trapped men: "Hold on for a while! I am coming"

For that purpose, one of his men had to infiltrate the enemies land, cross their lines and reach the trapped troops. It was a desperate mission, a well-nigh impossible task!

The emperor asked for volunteers for that mission. Many courageous men came forward.

The emperor interviewed them. To the first one he asked: "Will you deliver the message I am giving you to our men?" The would-be messenger took the little envelope in his hands and replied: "Yes, my General, I'll try my level best!"

Immediately, the emperor took back the envelope from his hands and sternly ordered him back saying: "You are not man I want."

A next volunteer came forward. The Emperor asked him the same question. "Will you deliver this message to our men?" He resolutely replied: "Yes, my General, I will or I'll die!" Visibly disappointed, the emperor said: "Neither you are the man I want", Go back to the lines!"

Now, a third man came forward: When the Emperor asked him the same self-question, unhesitatingly he answered: "Yes, my General, I will." The emperor smiled at him and with approval exclaimed: "You are the man I wanted" Take this message. Deliver it to our troops.

*(Reportedly attributed to Napoleon in one of his war campaigns)*