

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

XII Sunday of O.T.
Year B

Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?

When we give our life to the Lord, its use and practice must always be by his omnipotence, wisdom and eternal intelligence. He is the Lord of every event happening in history. If he leads face to the shores of the Red Sea, he does not lead so that the children of Israel are taken back to Egypt. He takes them to the seashore because he has to fulfil one of the most powerful interventions in history. Thus, everyone will know that He only is the Lord and everything he wants in heaven and earth is fulfilled. If He takes the Son on a cross to die on it nailed as a malefactor, he takes him since He is the one who has to attest that even in death He is the Lord. Indeed, the third day He restores life to the body of Christ Jesus, turning matter and spirit, into light. Without true faith, for us history will be a monster wishing our destruction, our annihilation. Instead, living from faith in faith, from the truth of faith that we live, in every history we give ourselves to the Lord who comes to create things new.

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that his presence, both agent and dormant, is always salvation, never of death. Tomorrow, in every storm of the history, storm provoked by darkness against the light they bring, the disciples must always remember that the Lord is with them and his presence will always be even more of great salvation, even though they have to pass through the path of persecution or even through death. Even though their body has to die, their spirit will live in eternity before the Lord and one day even their body will be turned into spirit, into light and thus will be light in eternal light that is their God. The Lord will not always calm the impetuous winds of persecution. Sometimes he will let them blow with destructive force. However, He is always present to restore life after death. This faith, He always asks each of his disciple. Without this faith, it is impossible to go through the sea of history.

Today Jesus takes his disciples in the middle of the lake and lets waves become impetuous and savage not because his disciple drown in it, but so that they learn



LAMP UNTO MY FEET

From heart of stone to heart of flesh

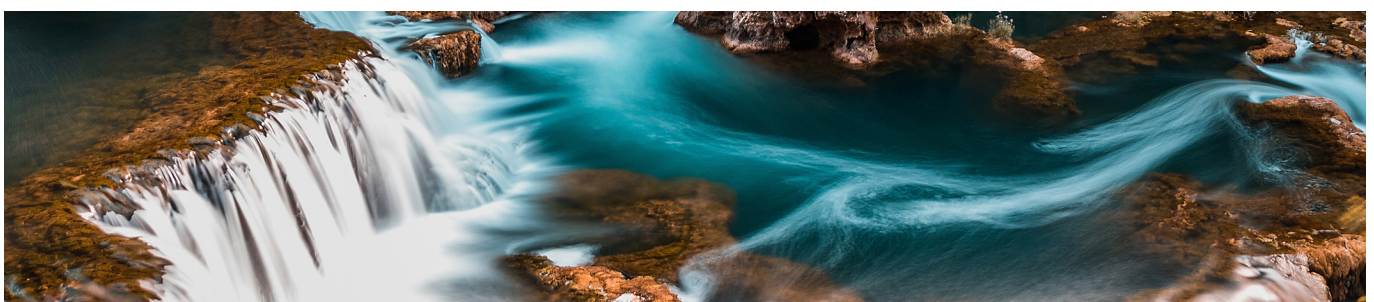
T rue conversion is a change of nature that might never happen by man. Man is in the death and whoever is dead might never change nature. He might never turn from nature of death into nature of life. Every man must ask for his change, that is work by the Holy Spirit, adopting the prayer elevated by David to the Lord. With humility, we recognize our sins. We ask God to be cleansed from it. We invoke him so that he may create in us a new heart not to sin anymore. "Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken

True conversion is not only in the repentance, or in the plea of forgiveness. It is in the change of nature

may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit." (Psal 51,1-14). True conversion is not only in the repentance, or in the plea of forgiveness. It is in the change of nature.

The Lord listens to the prayer of his servant David and, after some centuries, thus he replies through the prophet Ezekiel: "Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the nations and assemble you from the countries over which you have been scattered, and I will restore to you the land of Israel. They shall return to it and remove from it all its detestable abominations. I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the stony heart from their bodies, and replace it with a natural heart, so that they will live according to my statutes, and observe and carry out my ordinances; thus they shall be my people and I will be their God." (Ez 11, 17-20) "Turn and be converted from all your crimes, that they may

be no cause of guilt for you. Cast away from you all the crimes you have committed, and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, says the Lord GOD. Return and live!" (Ez 18, 30-32) "For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God." (Ez 36, 24-28) This great work of God, that is true, new creation cannot happen without the will of man. One preaches the conversion to the Holy Spirit, by the Holy Spirit hearts are pierced. Pierced hearts, in the Holy Spirit, by the work of the sacraments of the Church, are created as new. Without announcement, without the gift of the Spirit, the heart remains of stone.



IF YOU LISTEN...

Queen of Virgins

Virgin is the woman never belonged to a man. However, when we speak about virginity we only refer to the body. A person is virgin in the body; but is she virgin also in spirit, in heart, in desires, in will, in thoughts? Speaking about the Virginity of the Mother of God, we must confess that not only has She been virgin in the body, but also in soul, in spirit, in heart, in desires, in thoughts, in will. In this virginity we must include her being without sin since the first instant of her conceiving. The Mother of God has never been of Satan, never of evil, never of sin, never of impurity, never of vice, never of wicked thoughts or desires. Since the first instant, she has been of her existence, until the moment when from the earth she has been carried in heaven in body and spirit, she has always been, in all, in every part of her person, only of her God and for him. Never has she been by earth, never by things, never by men, never by her thoughts, never by her desire, never by her will. Her virginity is in the full, total, uncontaminated, always most holy gift, without failing

to respond to her Lord. The Lord has asked her to be all consecrated to Him, so that through Her He might manifest all his glory and She has let herself be consecrated.

She is Virgin upon every other Virgin. All the other Virgins have been of the reign of darkness until the day of their baptism. Mary has never been of the reign of darkness. Not only has she not known the original sin, moreover she has been fulfilled of grace and Holy Spirit by the Lord. The other Virgins have been virgins in the body, however they had to free themselves from every thought, desire, often also from those most subtle vices slowing the total consecration to the Lord. Not always the physical virginity has been accompanied by a total virginity or freedom even from the smallest venial sins. The Mother of God is Queen of Virgins, Queen upon every other Virgin since no virgin has been like Her: very pure, very saint, immaculate. She has never known the sin, not even in the smallest unexpressed motion of the heart. She is always and in

all, of her God in a growth come to the summit of perfection allowed to a human person. As a Creature, after the Virgin Mary, there is only the Virgin Mary. After Mary, there is only Christ Jesus and his most holy humanity. Truly, the Lord has done great things for her. Queen of Virgins, let every man imitate you in this perfect consecration to your God. Help us become like you: entirely for the Lord, never of ourselves, never of any creature.

The Mother of God is always and in all, of her God in a growth come to the summit of perfection allowed to a human person

FROM JACOB'S WELL

In the Last Supper Jesus blows upon the Apostles in the same way the Lord has blown upon the kneaded dust of the first man, giving them the Holy Spirit. He also gave his heart in the Holy Spirit so that from this heart the Holy Spirit might spring up. With the heart of Christ, also from the heart of his Apostles - that is heart of Christ - always conformed to Him in life, in passion, in death, water and blood will flow, the blood of conversion and sanctification, the water of the new creation of man for regeneration. When one achieves this spiritual height of letting only the heart of Christ live in us, it is then that also from our heart the water of creation of the new heart and the grace of the true conversion will flow.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

When can we affirm to be really converted to the Lord? Are there any infallible signs attesting that we are walking in this conversion?

Our heart is perfectly converted when, from heart of stone, it becomes heart of flesh and from heart of flesh, it becomes heart of Christ. How can we know that our heart is heart of Christ? We realize it if it is ecclesial heart, heart of the Church in us. When it is heart of the Church, we have one only desire: making our body, that is body of the Church, beautiful. "And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love." (Ef 4, 11-16)

How do we know if our heart is really the heart of the Church? If we shed our blood as Christ Jesus: "Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to

sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." (Ef 5, 25-27) The Christian having the Heart of the Church as his heart, loves the Church, he consumes his life for it. To make it always more beautiful he is ready to shed his blood. If he has to renounce to everything, he renounce it. If he has to die, he lets himself be killed like his Master. Without the heart of flesh, never might one live with the heart of Christ, but even without the heart of Christ, never might one live with the heart of the Church.

Our heart is heart of Christ if it is ecclesial heart, heart of the Church in us

Whoever hates the Church, whoever lets it be despised for its scandals, whoever does not cleanse with his own blood every day, whoever does not give all of himself so that it may shine of the same light of Christ Jesus, does not certainly have an ecclesial heart. If the heart of flesh does not achieve the full transformation in heart of Christ, little by little he abandons himself to evil and returns being heart of stone. May the Mother of God help every man to convert, let himself be made heart of flesh by the Holy Spirit, from heart of flesh heart of Christ, from heart of Christ heart of the Church.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Do not be afraid; just have faith

Have Faith in God and Have Faith in Me Too

Queen of All Saints

We know that every Christian is responsible for the Gospel. How does one live this responsibility? Are we all responsible in the same way?

Parish magazine. Free distribution. Reflections upon the writings of Mgr. Costantino Di Bruno.

