

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

XXV Sunday of O.T.
Year B



What were you arguing about on the way?

Our faith is not argument. Instead, it is listening and obedience. The argument arises from the desires of our heart. Instead, the obedience is to the Word springing out of the heart of the Father, given to us by Christ Jesus, in wisdom and intelligence, advice and knowledge, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord in the Holy Spirit. When one does not listen to Christ, one always argues. Instead when one listens to Christ Jesus, every argument immediately ends, one does not even see the light. In fact, the Word of Jesus does not even consider the argument, He nips it in the bud. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. (Mt 5,38-42) Jesus speaks but his disciples do not listen. What is He speaking about? Not about the kingdom He

is going to conquer in Jerusalem, but about his passion, death and resurrection. The Christ Crucified can only give his cross to his disciples, he cannot give anything else. The greatness of the one who follows Jesus is on the cross, not somewhere else.

Whoever wants to be disciple might only be great on the cross, lifted up next to his Master. Jesus can give no other greatness, since other greatness had not been given to Him by the Father. The Father gave Christ the Lord this sole greatness and this sole throne: the cross. The cross will give Christ the Lord to each of his disciple as his true glory. Whoever wants to be really great must reach the same height as Christ on

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the cross as much as he can. The other glories are only vanity and following the wind. Instead, the cross is the true glory, since it fructifies the eternal glory for us. Here is the confession of the Apostle Paul: "But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Gal 6,14). Mother of God, Woman always at the feet of the cross, teach us to choose the cross of your Son.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET

With a God-fearing conscience

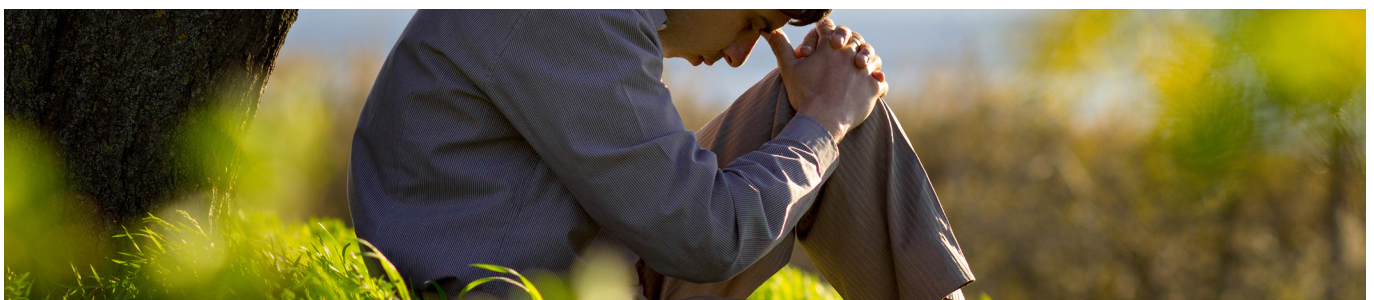
When the conscience of a man goes out of the fear of the Lord, this man is similar in all to a huge rock that from the top of a high mountain falls down to the valley. Everything it meets on its way is destroyed, downed, devastated, trampled, severed. Until one reaches the depths of the hellish abyss, nothing remains intact on his way. Today the one who lost the fear of the Lord is precisely the Christian. He, who was chosen by the Holy Spirit, in Christ, by the will of the Father, and constituted light of the world and salt of the earth, word of truth and light, work of charity and justice, having lost the God-fearing conscience, not only is committing every transgression of the Law of the Lord and of his Gospel, moreover he declares not sin, not evil, not injustice, not darkness, not vice, all these horrible sins that this huge rock of his not God-fearing conscience is producing in the history. The not God-fearing conscience even achieves to despise the fearing conscience of every other man. When a conscience, even the littlest, is trampled, mocked, humiliated, slapped, insulted, then it is sign that we are without the fear of the Lord. The Christian despises the fearing

consciences of the brothers even by reading the events not according to what they really are. He reads them, instead, with his preconceived thoughts, with his will unhooked from every sound rationality, with his false doctrine raised up to measure of every other science and doctrine, or he even pretends to read the history only to perform a farce or a piece of theatre. Thus, one only attests to be without the God-fearing conscience. One is without God in the conscience. I think there is no greater spiritual degradation than this one. One despises the light in name of darkness and one offends the justice in name of the truth.

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Love must always triumph in the disciple of the Lord. This does not mean that evil, wickedness, hate, envy are not an evil before the Lord. Evil remains evil eternally. But the Lord will always let his servants be nailed on this evil so that they show the world how great is their love toward their Lord and God. The servant of the Lord does not oppose against a death sentence. They know that the Lord will precisely use, to redeem the world, their handover to the death sentence unjustly uttered against them. With Abraham, the Lord was

the one who tested his faith and his love in a direct way. With Christ Jesus He tested his love and his faith in an indirect way and thus He will do with all his faithful servants, with all the disciples of the Lord. The disciple needs the trial. God wants to test how great his love is, how strong his faith is, how his hope in Him is invincible, the Mighty One and Lord of every history. When one raises up a cross for the disciple of Jesus, the disciple of Jesus always knows that the time to manifest the Father all his love has come. How does he manifest it? By accepting every cross and letting himself be pierced upon it. "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin." One same cross of Christ and of the disciple of Christ. Thus the disciple participates the redemption of humanity. The more the love for the Lord in the disciple of Jesus is and the greater the mystery of the cross will be. The love of the Christian for Christ Jesus are the nails that will have to keep him nailed on the cross of faithfulness to God.



IF YOU LISTEN...

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord

The Angel Gabriel reveals the Virgin Mary the mystery the Father has established to fulfil for Her, in Her since the eternity. She shall be the Mother of his Only Begotten Son, remaining Virgin in eternity. Virgin in soul, in spirit, in body, in every cell of her person, She shall be all for her Son. Here is her immediate answer: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary is the servant of the Lord. Christ, too, is the servant of the Lord. Between the servant and the servant, there is a substantial, divine, eternal, human difference. The Servant of the Lord is the Only Begotten Son of the Father who made himself flesh in her womb. He makes himself flesh, to take all the sins of humanity into flesh to expiate them in his body. The Virgin Mary is the servant of the Lord since She hands all herself over the Father, so that the Father may give the true humanity to his Only Begotten Son, generated by Him before all centuries. Without becoming true man, the Son might never fulfil the human redemption. It is in this handover that the

incarnation and consequently the redemption of humanity can happen. As true servant of the Lord, the Virgin Mary accompanies Christ Jesus up to Golgotha and, as Abraham, She offers Him in her heart in sacrifice to the Father. What was spared to Abraham was asked Mary. Mary really offers her Son to the Father. This is the sacrifice asked to Her. This the trial to which She was subjected by the Lord.

The Virgin Mary is not the servant of the Lord partially or in a limited way. She is the servant of the Lord since the first moment of her conceiving and She remains servant in eternity. She was, is and will always be the servant of the Lord, always at his service to do his will. Today, in the eternal heavens of God, She is the servant always ready to listen to every Word of the Father for the salvation of her children. Always ready to go in search of the lost children around the roads of this world following chimeras of freedom and living upon the example of the youngest son of the evangelic parable. Hers is a true service of

salvation so that every lost child comes back repentant to the house of the Father and the house of the Father is the Church of her Son. Here is the triple service of Mary: from heaven, through Her, making himself her flesh and her blood, the Son of the Father descended on earth as true man. Through Her, through her mystic womb, every son of Adam, letting himself be made by the Holy Spirit her true son, will have to reach the eternal kingdom of God. Through Her, every lost child is searched and led to her Son. This is the mystery of the Virgin Mary.

Today, in the eternal heavens of God, She is the servant always ready to listen to every Word of the Father for the salvation of her children

FROM JACOB'S WELL

Jesus gives his body on the cross in sacrifice of the expiation for the sins of the world. He gives his flesh and his blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist so that his life entirely lives in our life. Thus, today He might offer our body in sacrifice of expiation for the sins of all our brothers. This means to eat the body of Christ: giving Christ our body so that He may perpetuate his mystery of redemption in us. If we eat Christ and we do not give our body to Him so that He lives all his life in us, in fullness of his mystery – He is made sin in our favour, we are made sin in Him in favour of the world – the Eucharist is received by us not according to truth. We receive it vainly and oftentimes even in an unworthy and sacrilegious way.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 18, 3) What do we have to do to become as children?

We are called to become children for the kingdom of God. How might this happen? By accepting everything as a gift of God. Jesus accepted his cross as most pure gift of the Father. The Father made it gift of redemption and of salvation for the world and He let himself be made with an obedience until death and a death on a cross. When do we know that we became children for the kingdom of heaven? When we let ourselves be nailed on every cross, seeing in it the will of the Father. Instead, when we let our thoughts, our rationality, our desires, our heart triumph, then we have not become children for the kingdom of God yet. Our life is not lived as a gift of God. We still want to live it by our will and by our heart. How does one become children? By constant creation in us of the Holy Spirit. By nature, we feel ourselves adults, grownup, people capable of ruling our life by our will and our conscience, even if the will is without obedience and our conscience is devoid of every fear of the Lord. No transformation of our life, neither little nor great, can happen without a daily creation of the Spirit of the Lord. We daily hand ourselves over the Holy Spirit, we put ourselves in his hands in the same way as Christ Jesus, and He, with his divine omnipotence little by little

frees us from our humanity of sin, darkness, death and makes us children for the kingdom of heaven.

A truth must be immediately put in our heart. If we go out of the full handover to Him, flesh suddenly regain its vigour in us and brings us back into our old humanity. If we want to remain in our new humanity and accept every cross as gift of the Lord both for our greater sanctification and for the redemption and salvation of brothers, in Christ, with Christ, from Christ, we must remain faithful to the handover. Jesus remained faithful to the Holy Spirit until the handover of his spirit to the Father. He accepted the cross and lived it as most pure gift of his Father. Never, neither in one moment, did He place himself out of the Holy Spirit. His faithfulness, in Him, with Him, for Him, must be our faithfulness, as well. Not only will we become children, we will even become as new-borns in the arms of the Holy Spirit and He might do whatever He wants of us. In the faithfulness to the handover, we will grow as Jesus. May our Mother obtain for us the grace of always remaining faithful to the Holy Spirit.

We know that we became children for the kingdom of heaven when we let ourselves be nailed on every cross, seeing in it the will of the Father

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

If your hand causes you to sin

For the edification of the community

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

Why is the one who can tame his tongue perfect? Are the sins of the tongue really so serious to make us imperfect before God and men?

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

