

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

XVIII Sunday O.T.
Year C



You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you

Jesus is the Mediator. He is the only Mediator between the Father, humanity, the entire creation. He was made a the unique and universal Mediator so that He shows, reveals, gives every man the most pure Word of the Father, his will, his thought. He was not made the Mediator between a man and another man for the things of earth, but only between the Father and every man for the things dealing with God. He was sent to put everyone before the truth of the Father, from which the truth of every man is. Without the knowledge of the truth of the Father, there can never be for man the knowledge of his truth, a truth that does not only embrace the time, but above all the eternity. Here is the first truth of man: his breath is on loan. The Lord might take the breath given to man in any moment, in any instant, in any place, in any condition, with no warning. This means that one prior moment one is in time and one moment later one is in eternity.

Here is the second truth now: he has come bare into world and he moves bare into eternity. He can take nothing with him of what is

on earth. Everything must be left. Here is the third truth now: he will take with him into eternity each thing of earth that he will have turned into love, into charity, into alms, into deed of mercy both spiritual and material. Taking the earth turned into deed of love, not only will he have wasted no things of earth, moreover he will have gained a great glory in the holy heaven. Our charity, fruit of obedience to our most pure truth, makes us pleasing to the Lord and it lets us enjoy a place of eternal life in the blessed heaven. Instead, if we show up as bare, deprived of any good work, for us there will be no place in the eternal kingdom of our Father. Here is then the commitment of every man living on

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earth: doing, working, thinking, acting, studying - always led by the Holy Spirit - how his entire life may be turned into a deed of charity, of mercy, of love. The body too is to be turned into charity and into love and this is why we are called to do an offering pleasing to God. Mother of Jesus, obtain for us the grace of turning our entire life into offering pleasing to God.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET

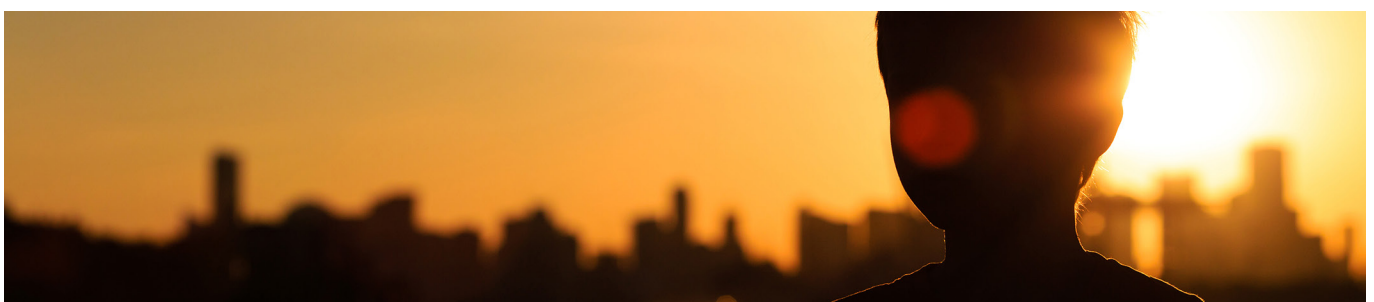
Proclaiming the Gospel showing the Gospel

It is a righteous thing to ask: "How does one proclaim the Gospel?" The true, right, perfect answer is only one: "One proclaims the Gospel in becoming, its announcer, living Gospel." If there is no perfect identity between the Gospel and the proclaimer or the missionary of the Gospel, then the Gospel one proclaims is not the Gospel of Christ Jesus, even if the letter of the Gospel could be the same as what is written in the Holy Texts, the spirit of the Gospel is not in the letter one proclaims. Now, without the spirit of the Gospel that has become our life, every proclamation of the Gospel is fruitless. It lacks the truth of the letter and the truth is given by the spirit of the Gospel governing our life. After all, the spirit of the Gospel is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has written the Gospel, the Holy Spirit is the truth of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit is the life of the Gospel, for He is the truth, the wisdom, the intelligence, the life of the Gospel. The Spirit is also the one who converts to the Gospel. Without the Holy Spirit governing the heart of the one who proclaims the Gospel, the proclamation will always lack its truth, wisdom, intelligence, life. It will also lack the conversion and the faith in it. All these things are fruit of the Holy Spirit in the one who proclaims the Gospel.

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How does one become living Gospel? Obeying, we first, every truth contained in the Word. Since the Holy Spirit knows the truth contained in the Word and only the Holy Spirit can create it in our heart, so that we give it fullness of life and take it to the highest of its development, it is necessary that the Spirit always dwell in our heart. He is the sprout of the life of every Word of Christ Jesus. If He does not govern our life, the Word is without sprout of life. It is a dead word that will never bear one only fruit of eternal life. Not even a fruit of faith will it bear, for it is Word without the sprout of true life, true wisdom, true intelligence, true faith, without any truth. It is a Word deprived of Christ. The Word of the Gospel has one only purpose: taking Christ's life into hearts and help every heart to give perfect life to Christ Jesus. Now, if the purpose of the Word is that of taking Christ into hearts, so that one gives Him full development into our life, so that our life becomes life of Christ and Christ's life our life, a word spoken, not filled with Holy Spirit, might never take the sprout of Christ, since only one can take Christ into hearts, in the same way as it has taken him in the most pure womb of the Virgin Mary: the Holy Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit should not stay in heaven.

He should stay in our heart, instead, and have its full government. The more we grow in the Holy Spirit, the more the Holy Spirit grows in us and the Word of the Gospel we proclaim is filled with the sprout of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit plants the sprout of Christ in the heart who listens, he is converted, believes in the Gospel, and the grain of wheat that is Christ begins the path of his new life in the believing heart. But all of this can happen only through the work of the Holy Spirit that is the Spirit who has the entire life of the missionary of the Gospel in his hands, and uses it both to show the beauty of the lived Gospel and so that, through his Word, he may take the sprout of life that is Christ Jesus in every other heart. Here is why whoever does not become living Gospel, even if he proclaims the Gospel, will speak its letter. Through his word, the Holy Spirit might never plant the sprout of Christ in another heart. The Holy Spirit does not draw the true sprout of Christ in heaven, He draws it in the heart of the missionary of the Gospel. Now, if Christ Jesus is not in the heart of the one who proclaims the Gospel, the Spirit can never draw it and no plantation of Christ the Lord will never happen in another heart. Here is why the missionary of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit and Christ the Lord must be one only thing. Not three separate things, but one only thing.



IF YOU LISTEN...

To you do we send up our sigh, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears

Because of his sin, man has been placed from the garden of delight into a valley of tears, with no possibility to come back there where he was placed after his creation. This valley of tears, valley of weeping, suffering all the consequences with patience and love, is not his dwelling for life. He has an eternal town waiting for him, but he must purify himself first, sustained by the grace of his Lord, beginning a true journey of abandonment of evil in order to be planted and remain in the purest good forever. The Lord in his endless mercy has not left him alone. He has given him a Mother toward whom always to tend his eyes and to invoke Her with his heart so that She takes care of him and makes the valley of tears less heavy, less sorrowful, less tiring in its passage. Indeed the valley of tears must be crossed until reaching the eternal Homeland. If our eyes are not perennially turned to the Virgin Mary, the valley of tears will be crossed with ever greater tears, but these tears do not purify the heart, they immerse it more and more in sin, and from the valley of

tears on earth, one will move into the valley of eternal tears.

Instead, our eyes are turned toward the Virgin Mary, to Her we show our sorrow and our suffering, to Her we demand every help, we invoke Her to intercede for us, to Her we ask to be our travel companion and with Her on our side the valley of tears will be less hard and less tiring to cross. This means to send up our sigh to Mary: yearning for her closeness, that is the closeness of the Mother who takes care of her children. But today man, instead of sending up our sigh to Mary, is sending his sigh to sin, and the greater the sin he commits is and the more abundant the tears he will shed are, with no possibility of salvation. Until one commits sin, there is no salvation. Salvation comes from conversion that is the renouncement of man to sin to fully obey his Lord and God. Now this path leading from sin to grace must be done, can be done if we send up our sigh to Mary, asking Her for every help so that this passage must be fulfilled efficaciously, without turning back.

The Christian piety has always seen this powerful help in Mary. It is the help of the Mother who wishes the salvation of his children. Either we send up our sigh to Mary with no interruption, or the valley of tears will be a valley of death and of desperation for us.

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FROM JACOB'S WELL

Only Christ Jesus, through the work of his Holy Spirit, creates the new nature capable to do only the good. Until man remains in his sin, he will always create divisions, schisms, separations, contrasts, oppositions. These are all works of flesh. While the one who is moved by the Spirit of Christ Jesus bears the fruits of the Spirit: "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Gal 5, 19-23) Only in Christ one becomes brothers on the condition that his Holy Spirit will always lead our life.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

What is necessary for every disciple of Jesus to be true instrument of salvation, of redemption, of reconciliation, of peace? Is his only will enough?

If the disciple of Jesus wants to be instrument of salvation must always ask Christ with relentless prayer to make him a gift of his heart, because only with his heart one can love with a love of salvation and true redemption. We know that this is possible because for the Apostle Paul it was possible. Here is what he reveals in the Letter to the Galatians: "For through the law I died to the law, that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me." (Gal 2, 19-20) Christ is the one who lives in Paul, who governs all his love, that is love of true and righteous evangelization, crucified love for the salvation of every man, love that is made example for every other disciple of Jesus of what one is capable to stand to show the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus the Lord. The entire thought of the Apostle Paul, shown in his Letters, is the fruit of his love for Christ Jesus, or better, the love of Christ Jesus lives in Paul.

Here is one of his testimony about the love of the Apostle: "For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who

live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the

Why does the love of evangelization lack in the Christian? Because the heart of Christ moving our heart lacks in it

ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2Cor 5.14-21). Why does the love of evangelization and the love inviting to let oneself be reconciled with God lack in the Christian? Because the heart of Christ moving our heart lacks in it. Not having the heart of Christ, not even the love of Christ can ever prompt us, and this is the reason why Christ Jesus is declared useless in order to the salvation of man.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be
Mission and Gospel

Turn then, most gracious Advocate

"Why is the holiness of the missionary of Jesus necessary to the evangelizing mission?" Is preaching the Gospel not enough? What is the use of adding the holiness?

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

