

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

IV Sunday of Lent -
Laetare
Year B



So must the Son of Man be lifted up

In the desert, the bronze serpent lifted up on a pole and set in the centre of the camp was given as salvation from the lethal bite of the fiery serpents. Who looked at that serpent with faith remained alive. Who did not look at it went toward certain death. Every man lives on the earth with the death right in his spirit because of the bite that the serpent has directly given to the woman and, through the woman, to the man in the Garden of Eden. Against this bite of death, the Lord has given his Only Son. He has lifted Him up on the Cross for the entire world. Every man is in the death. Every man willing to return to life, in the eternal life, must look with faith at Christ Jesus Crucified. It is not, however, a transient gaze, as it was in the desert. It is, instead, a gaze that lasts a lifetime consisting in the obedience to His every word. Who wishes to return to life must believe in Jesus Crucified. But, also whoever wishes to remain alive must persevere in the faith. One perseveres in the faith dwelling in His Word, owing obedience to it. Who does not believe in Christ Crucified remains in the death. No one else was constituted by the Father a way of redemption, salvation, justification,

eternal life.

Also not to return to death it is necessary to always believe in Christ Crucified. Today one wants to make the faith in Christ Crucified a private matter, hidden. But if Christ Crucified is not preached, announced, given to the world as the unique name in which it is decided that we shall pass from the death to the eternal life, the world remains in the death. It is true to affirm that it

is not love to leave the man in the death of his soul and his spirit, that results in physical and eternal death, in the name of the love and respect for the man. It is, rather, condemnation of the man to the death in time and eternity. No man might ever replace the Gift of Christ Crucified

with other gifts. Any other gift is poisoned with eternal death. May the Mother of God, who conceived in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit the divine and eternal Gift of the Father, help us not only to live this Gift in the purest faith, but also to give this Gift to the entire world.

*Every man is
in the death.
Every man
willing to live
again in the
eternal life
must look with
faith to Christ
Jesus crucified*

LAMP UNTO MY FEET

The Path of Life and Truth

Who wishes to walk on the path of life must remain in the Word of the Lord without ever leaving it. The Word of the Lord belongs to the Lord and no one has power over it. Not even the Lord has the power to change his Word, since his Word is life itself. If the Lord modified his Word, he would not be the Lord. This law itself is true for every disciple of Christ Jesus. Being he in the world life of Christ Jesus in the Holy Spirit, even he cannot modify the Word of the Lord. If he modified the Word, he would not be disciple of Jesus anymore, since he is not life of Jesus in the world. Every member of the body of Christ is from the Word, lives in the Word, lives for the Word. If all the members of the body of Christ had to change, modify or alter in little or in much the Word of the Lord, he is forced to always remain in the Word, live all the Word, devote his life to the proclamation of the Word. This law is even true in the face of the father, the mother, the brother, the sister or the dearest friend. He must always remain in the Word, live all the Word, be at the service of the Word, even if he had to lose the entire world. Jesus says: What doth it profit a man,

to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? For certain, who does not observe the Commandment, according to the fulfilment given by Jesus to the Law and Prophets, changed the Word; from the Word of the Lord he passed to the word of man. Also who despises, insults, offends, denigrates the brother for which Christ Jesus died on the Cross changed the Word. The Christian is called, as well, to give his life for the salvation of his brothers.

Disdain, calumny, falsehood, insult, negation of the historical truth, immorality in many aspects, idolatry, self-exaltation, dishonouring, humiliating others, never might they be declared in the Gospel Word of our Lord Christ Jesus. The Word is before and after every man. Also the truth is before and after every person. We are called to walk on the path of the Word, of the life, of the truth. It is true

for every member of the body of Christ what the Apostle Paul said about the Angels of Heaven and himself: I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by (the) grace (of Christ) for a different gospel (not that there is another). But there are some who

are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach (to you) a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed! (Gal 1, 6-9). The Apostle Paul invokes the anathema upon himself if he, as well, had to announce a different gospel. This is the honesty of a man who is aware that he himself could fail in the mission received by preaching another gospel. Before the Gospel of Christ Jesus every man must annul, annihilate himself, crucify with his own hands so that only the Gospel might triumph and, it alone, be radiant in all its splendour and divine beauty. Here is, again, the great honesty and charity that enlivens the heart of the Apostle Paul: "But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me" (Phil. 2, 17-18). In the true adoration of God our life is sacrificed for the Word. In the idolatry, one sacrifices the Word for our life. True error of death!

In face of the Gospel of Christ Jesus every man must annul, annihilate himself, crucify with his own hands so that only the Gospel triumphs and it alone be radiant in all its splendour and divine beauty



IF YOU LISTEN...

Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant kept the Manna, the two Tablets of the Covenant, Aaron's rod, the book of the Law. They are all signs of the presence rich in love, mercy, compassion, justice, benevolence of the Lord toward his people. Further, from the lid of the Ark, the Lord spoke to Moses and Moses reported to the sons of Israel. The Ark was the holiest thing on earth, first kept in the holiest place of the tent of the meeting and then in the temple of Jerusalem. Even though the Ark is the figure of the Virgin Mary, between the Ark and the Mother of God the difference is infinite, as indeed any other figure of the Old Testament in relation to its fulfilment in Christ is infinite in the difference. What does the Virgin Mary treasure in her heart? First, she treasures the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that chose her heart as the purest Paradise. Mary is pure temple of God and, together, true Ark of the Covenant. In her heart she treasures the entire Church of her Son. She treasures it with an infinite love that turns into prayer, intercession, efficacious wish of true salvation. If the

Church were not in the heart of the Mother of God, Satan would even be able to destroy it. Instead, God has placed it in the heart of her Mother and Satan can do nothing. Constantly she intervenes visibly and invisibly and operates powerfully for its salvation.

Those who say they do not believe in the visible presence of the Mother of God in the history of the Church are foolish by nature. They are foolish since they neglect a historical truth in name of ideologies, philosophies, anthropologies that have nothing to do neither with the true revelation nor with the true theology. The true theology does not have only the Scripture, the Tradition, the Magisterium as instrument of elaboration, but also the history that is necessary instrument to open to the great mysteries of God, our Lord, for the benefit of the salvation of man. Those who neglect the visible presence of the Virgin Mary in the history of the Church are intellectually blind and myopic readers of the History. Still, in the heart of the Virgin Mary Her Son has pla-

ced every man living on our earth. He gave him to her, Her Son, so that he might take an interest to attain salvation through the faith and the public aggregation to the body of Christ that is the Church. Finally, in the heart of the Virgin Mary the Father has placed all the miseries of humanity to give them solace and consolation. She is the Mother of Hope since she has the mandate to create hope in every heart. Heaven and earth are placed in the heart of the Mother of God, of these was she constituted Queen for eternity. The mystery of Virgin Mary is great. She is the precious Ark keeping all the treasures of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These treasures might never be stolen since Satan might never enter this purest heart. There is a wall of divine light that guards it. Mother of God, Ark of the Covenant, come to our rescue. Help those who do not believe in your mystery so that they might open their mind and become involved in your mission of salvation that is now invisible and now visible for the greater good of the Church of Christ Jesus.

FROM JACOB'S WELL

In the body of Christ one lives of two obediences: obedience to Christ, to his Word and obedience to the Holy Spirit, to the charisma and ministries conferred by Him, to vocations assigned by Him. This obedience is necessary so that one receives and donates life. Obeying the Word is equal for all. The Gospel is one and the obedience is one. It may change in intensity, love, perseverance, but the Word is the same. Instead, the obedience to the Holy Spirit is different. How does one obey the Holy Spirit? By obeying, us, to each charisma, each ministry, each vocation, each mission, any other manifestation both ordinary and extraordinary of each member of the body of Christ. This obedience donates life to the body of Christ. Without this obedience, the Holy Spirit does not operate in the body of Christ.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

I need a word of light about the Communion, so necessary in order that one could edify the true Christian community. What is the true Communion and how is it created?

In our holiest faith, the Communion is true source of life. In the Most Holy Trinity, the Father generates the Son in the Holy Spirit. The Son generated from the Father in the Holy Spirit, eternally in his heart and his will, "generates" the Father as his eternal source of life. This is the obedience requested to him: always being, by will and welcoming, from the Father. The Holy Spirit, that proceeds from the Father and from the Son, is the life that from the Father is all given to the Son by eternal generation and from the Son is entirely given to the Father through a "generation", that is obedience always new, love always new, gift eternally new. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are Eternal Life given without any interruption. This is the Communion for circuminsession. The man is made in the image of the mystery of his Lord and Creator who is mystery of unity and communion. This mystery is lived in truth if every man becomes life for any other man. Since the man is not life for nature, but for gift, the man can be life for any other man if he lets his Creator to fill him with life and, in the same way as Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit: offering God his life with full obedience to His every Word.

Who lives, then, of true Communion? Who, dwelling in

Christ, living with Him and for Him, allowing himself to be led by the Holy Spirit in an even greater obedience to the Gospel, makes his life a gift to the Father, so that the Father makes this gift a holocaust, for the expiation in Christ Jesus, of every sin committed on the earth and also a sacrifice of communion of eternal life for any other man and, particularly, for the body of Christ Jesus, that is His Church. Without our permanence in Christ - and one dwells in Christ when obeying His Word - there is no Communion. The eternal life is the Father. The eternal life of the Father is in Christ Jesus. One lives in communion with Christ in the Holy Spirit, fills himself of eternal life, gives it to all the body of Christ for its greater sanctification and for the conversion of any other man. In the body of Christ the "generated" is called to "generate by will" the generating in his heart, in his life. Let us apply this principle to the family. The husband must generate in his heart, by will, the wife and the wife the husband. Thus, even every son must generate in his heart, in his life, the father and the mother. True communion for generation of the other in our life.

The mystery of unity and communion is lived in truth if every man becomes life for any other man

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Father, glorify your name

The Christian: the responsibility of the Word

Gate of Heaven

Why can the faith be based only on the ontological truth and why does only the ontological truth become soteriological truth? Can it offer a word of light?

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

