

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

IV Sunday of Easter
Year B



I give my life for the sheep

The Lord, by the mouth of Ezekiel, reveals the work of the bad shepherds and of those who are mercenaries: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have been pasturing themselves! Should not shepherds, rather, pasture sheep? You have fed off their milk, worn their wool, and slaughtered the fatlings, but the sheep you have not pastured. You did not strengthen the weak nor heal the sick nor bind up the injured. You did not bring back the strayed nor seek the lost, but you lorded it over them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered" (Ez 34, 3-5). These shepherds use the sheep for their personal earning. Actually, they do not love the sheep, since they do nothing for their good. Jesus, that is the Good Shepherd, does not come to deprive the sheep or to kill them. He comes to give his life for them. He gives the life on the cross: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3, 16). But he also give it daily in his Eucharist. His sheep feed on the flesh of the Son of the man and quench their thirst drinking his

blood. Mystery of the Crucified and Eucharistic Love!

Jesus offers the life from himself. It is not taken from him. "I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me (Jn 14, 30-31). In the constriction there is no love. The love is very pure gift arising from one's own heart. How far does the love of Jesus come?

As far as he voluntary hands himself over death. As far as he makes himself Eucharist for us. As far as he is empty of himself and annihilates himself to make us rich. He deprives himself of his life to make it a gift to us so that we can also live. Before such a great love,

the Christian is called to also make himself gift to Christ, so that Christ in Him, with Him, for Him, might offer it to the Father, in order that, by means of this offer, many other sheep might find the sheepfold of Christ and be by him guarded for the eternal life. Mother of the Good Shepherd, give rise to a flock of shepherds that are life of Christ Jesus in his Church.

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LAMP UNTO MY FEET

Walking with the Gospel in the heart

The Lord has a desire for each of his disciples: that they walk with the Gospel in the heart. When does one walk with the Gospel in the heart? When one walks with the Holy Spirit in the heart. Holy Spirit and Gospel are one only thing. Whoever walks with the Spirit in the heart walks with the Gospel in the heart. Whoever separates himself from the Spirit always separate himself from the Gospel. How do we realize we are separated from the Holy Spirit? Jesus is in the Holy Spirit, he wants what the Father wants, he thinks what the Father thinks, he always acts according to the will and the thoughts of the Father. When we do not make the will of Christ Jesus and we do not think with his thoughts, we are not with the Holy Spirit in the heart, we are not even with the Gospel in the heart. It is the thought of Christ Jesus ruling all our life the evident sign that we walk in the Holy Spirit, in his truth, in his light. The thought of Christ Jesus from the Holy Spirit, through the hagiographers, has been set in the Gospel and in every other script of the New Testament. No one of our thought might ever contradict, annul, modify, transform neither in much nor in little one only Word of the Gospel. Pure to us the Word was

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delivered and pure must we keep it in the heart. The Word is kept pure in the heart if pure the Holy Spirit is also kept.

Today a worm has penetrated our thoughts and has devoured the entire Gospel from it. By what do we realize that this worm has devoured all the thoughts of Christ Jesus sealed by the Holy Spirit in the Gospel? By the fact that by now we do no longer speak from the thoughts of Christ set in the pages of the Canonical Books, but we do speak of a thought of Christ and God emerging from our heart and our mind. By now, there is no distinction between the objective and the subjective. The objective has been devoured by the worm and in its place we have introduced the subjective. What we think is will of God. What we say is thought of God. Our heart has been constituted seat of the Word. Our mind is the elaborator of the Word.

Our mind is the true workshop in which the Gospel is created. What is today our Gospel? The preaching of a mercy of the Lord that, annulling all the objective Words set by the Holy Spirit on the roll of the Book, opens the door to every transgression of the Word

and of the Prophets, of the Word of Christ Jesus and of the Apostles. Our Gospel is the sin today. It is the declaration of good made on every deviation from the Law of the Lord, from his Commandments, from his Statutes.

It is necessary to remove this worm from the heart. How might one remove it? By putting the Holy Spirit in its place. If the Holy Spirit returns in us, always will the Gospel return, that of Christ Jesus. Instead, if the Holy Spirit is kept away from the heart, the worm will devour not only the Gospel, but also every trace of truth, justice, law, good coming from God. We may affirm that today this worm is devouring not only the supernatural truth, but also the truth of nature. Thus is. When the worm devours the supernatural truth, always will it devour the natural truth. There is no distinction between darkness and light, licit or illicit, good and evil. Today everything is light, everything is licit, everything is good. Having removed the Holy Spirit from the heart, all of what is its fruit also disappears.



IF YOU LISTEN...

Help of the Christian

When we invoke the Virgin Mary under the title of Help of Christian, we do not have to think about an external help, outside us, next to us, given to us by Christ so that we can use it when some necessities that we cannot solve in any way arise. Mary is inner help to us, as inner to us is our heart, our soul, our mind. Mary was given to us by Jesus so that she becomes heart of our heart, soul of our soul, thought of our thoughts, desire of our desires, will of our will. Not even must she be seen as heart, soul, will, spirit, feeling, desire. This is not the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Virgin Mary was given to us to be the Ruler of all our life and this may happen only if we make of all ourselves a gift to Her. This is the true consecration to our Mother: "Virgin Mary, from this instant my life is entirely placed in your hands. Rule it according to your desires and to your will that are desires and will of the Holy Spirit".

If we consecrate to her so that She may be the Ruler of our life, we can no longer be from our heart or our

mind, from our desires or our will. Once the life has been donated to Her, this gift must be forever. If we take our life again, She can no longer rule it and it is then that she can no longer be our help. Sure. To Her one will always address to obtain some grace, but this is not the mission given to her by her Son. Her true mission is when She brings us from her heart into the heart of Christ Jesus, so that we always make the will of our Father that is in heaven. The Virgin Mary must help us so that we live in Christ, for Christ, with Christ, spending all our life to make the body of Christ beautiful, rendering it true instrument of salvation for the entire world. As long as we think that the Virgin Mary was given to us to obtain for us some grace for the body, we will not have still understood anything of the great gift that Jesus has made us. As the Virgin Mary helped Jesus in his mystery of Incarnation, so was she given to us so that she helps us in our mystery of christification. Mother of God, woman consecrated to the Father, help us, disciple of Jesus, so that, today and always, we may

bring to fulfilment the mystery of our christification. You shall enliven us and we will bring to fulfilment the mystery of Christ for the redemption and salvation of the world. Amen.

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FROM JACOB'S WELL

Every disciple of Jesus is called to walk with the strength of the Holy Spirit. This will be possible as long as the Spirit of the Lord dwells in us in the same way it dwelled in Christ Jesus. Jesus is heart without sin. He is soul full of grace. He is mind and thought full of very high wisdom. He is body covered with every virtue. Jesus through the love of the Father annihilated himself until the death and a death on the cross. The aim to be attained is the perfection in the obedience of Christ. Unfortunately today for many disciples of Jesus the path is according to the world, with its fragility and weakness, with its total delivering to the evil, to the sin, to the transgression of the Law of the Lord, in the greater ignorance of the demands of the Gospel.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

What is necessary so that the Christian might announce the Gospel of Jesus to the world today? Are there any particular rules to observe? Is the only will enough?

In order to announce the Gospel it is necessary that it is made to become our heart, our mind, our soul, our desires, our will, our own body. Christ Jesus is the Thought, the Will, the Desire, the Heart of the Father. From his mouth a Word of truth, light, wisdom, intelligence, grace, mercy, justice, sanctity, forgiveness, compassion always comes out. As the Word of God is omnipotent and creating, so also the Word of Christ is omnipotent and creating. Acting the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus with every wisdom, intellect, fortitude, advice, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord, never was in Him neither a word nor a work coming from his Person that was not very pure manifestation of the divine will. We may say about Christ that He announced the Gospel manifesting the divine and eternal beauty of the Father.

Whoever is willing to announce the Gospel must have a great desire in the heart: asking without interruption to the Holy Spirit that it creates in him, in his soul, in his body, in his spirit, in his will, in his desires, in his thoughts, such a deep unity with Christ in the same way - but the ontological differences that are only of Christ Jesus and of no one else - Christ Jesus was one only thing with the Father. The perfect unity with Christ must become perfect unity with every other member of Christ. But

never might a perfect unity among the members of the body of Christ exist, if each member does not use every spiritual energy to realize the perfect unity with Christ Jesus.

This is the great miracle that is only fruit of the Holy Spirit in us: operating the perfect unity with Christ Jesus, to be us life of Christ in the same way that Jesus is life of the Father. In order to reach this perfect unity, every day the Christian must fill himself with all the strength and the power of the Holy Spirit and today more than ever we need all this strength and power so that we may convince ourselves that only one is the Word that saves our life: the Word of the Gospel of our Lord Christ Jesus. Not only this can save our life, but the life of the entire world, as long as it is lived by us in the purity of

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its truth and in the purity of its truth announced by us by land and by sea. May the Mother of Jesus obtain us every strength and power, every hope and intelligence in the Holy Spirit. We will live the entire Gospel with this strength, and from the lived Gospel, always with this strength, we will announce it according to purity of truth and doctrine.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

In this is my Father glorified
The true richness of the Church
Queen of Angels

The richness of the world is the Church of Christ Jesus.
In what terms can we affirm this? On which doctrinal or of revelation basis?

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

