**Year XXXIII n. 21 October 9, 2016**

**It is the refulgence of eternal light**

Meditating on the Gospel in every word and event, we must confess that Jesus is enlightened and moved by the highest wisdom. It is right to testify that He is the Eternal, Divine and Immaculate Wisdom. He is the: "*Spirit intelligent, holy, unique, Manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained, certain, Not baneful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly, Firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing, And pervading all spirits, though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle. For Christ Jesus is mobile wisdom beyond all motion, and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her*. *For he is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness"* (See Wis. from 7.1 to 30).

The Letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus is the reflection of God, the Eternal, Divine, Uncreated, Immaculate Wisdom and the Eternal Light, "*God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs*"(Heb 1.1-4).

Jesus is begotten by the Father as the Eternal Divine Person, in the beginning, forever. There is no first the Father and then the Son. There is eternally the Father, the Son, in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Person, not the nature is generated. The nature is one. In it Father, Son and Holy Spirit subsist. Since it is true divine nature, other than true human nature, the Person of the Son, who is "the *refulgence* *of his glory, the very imprint of his nature*", has, in the Holy Spirit, all the wisdom of God. The Spirit of God was given with all power of truth, grace, holiness, even to his human nature. This is why Jesus, in both his divine nature and in human nature, is very pure wisdom.

Man was created in the image and likeness of God and, even after sin, he has some wisdom. This wisdom is rendered blind, inactive, almost blurred and dead by personal sin. Even the Law given to the people of the Lord, put in the human heart, is reduced to lie by personal sin. The law, to be true Law, needs the wisdom that is outside of it for it to be understood in truth and in all its light. Even the Gospel, Wisdom turned into pure love and light of charity in Christ Jesus, placed in the heart of the man, becomes closed, dull, stupid, foolish, even false and misleading wisdom. For it to be today and always true evangelical wisdom, it is necessary that Christ Jesus pours in our hearts the current, perfect, free, manifold and subtle wisdom, which is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes, illuminates with the divine and eternal wisdom, the written wisdom, which is historical wisdom, always in need of being revitalized, updated, upgraded by the eternal wisdom of Christ, in the Holy Spirit and it lives.

The Holy Spirit is both the Spirit of Christ and the Church, in Christ and in the Church, of the Church and in the Church founded on Peter. Those who do not have the Church founded on Peter, do not even have the fullness of the Spirit and the evangelical wisdom in them is static and not dynamic, closed and not opened, often dead and not living, unchanged and not varied, tired and not agile, extinct and not burning. Christ, the Spirit, the Church and the Gospel are not separable realities. Christ lives in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit in the Church, the Church in the Word, the Word in the Church, the Church in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit in Christ and Christ in the Father. If this circuit is not accomplished, the evangelical wisdom becomes foolishness, ignorance and darkness. It does not give life.

Everything is from the body and in the body of Christ. If we separate from it, even with a single mortal sin, one is placed immediately out of this life circuit. The Church needs me in order to be. Christ needs me to live. I need the Church in order to be. The Church needs Christ to remain the true Church of God. He is the true Church of God who is in Christ, but built on the solid visible foundation that is Peter. It is in this circuit of love, light, truth and wisdom that our light, wisdom, love and truth become powerful spreaders of divine life on earth. Out of this circuit, one is torn from the body of Christ, he lives as a dead cell and is consumed in a foolish wisdom.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Mother of Divine Wisdom, help your children so that they never disintegrate the circuit of light and truth which is Christ's body, which is in the body of Christ. Also help those who have disintegrated to be reintegrated. This is required by the wisdom that is in them; let it be wisdom of light and truth and not instead wisdom of darkness and falsehood.

***Father Costantino Di Bruno***

 

***"Who can imagine what the Lord wants?"***

*Reflections starting from the Homily of H.H. Francis in the canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta (04/09/2016)*

*“Who can learn the counsel of God?” (Wis 9:13). This question from the Book of Wisdom that we have just heard in the first reading suggests that our life is a mystery and that we do not possess the key to understanding it. There are always two protagonists in history: God and man. Our task is to perceive the call of God and then to do his will. [...]. In the same passage of wisdom we find the answer: “People were taught what pleases you” (Wis 9:18).*

The man always remains a fragile creature, able to easily lose his way and to confuse darkness with light. That's why the Lord always intervenes in history to bring him back on track, by illuminating his mind and his heart. How can the weak man, with the corrupt nature by sin know what is in the mind of the infinite? This might never happen by itself, but God in his mercy has decided to come down to make the heart and the mind of his creature win back the truth that saves. Two are main characters of history Pope Francis tells us: God and man. It is up to the latter to perceive the call of God and accept His will, because in it our lives is fully carried out and like a small nog is going to enter the great project of the Kingdom of God.

In trying to do the will of God often a big risk is at stake, the one of doing the good, but in the wrong way. That's why the passage from the book of Wisdom stresses education on the part of God, which for us involves the guidance of the Holy Spirit in every moment of life. The Holy Spirit that makes us really understand things. Scripture as an objective fact is not enough; in fact, even the Pharisees had the law, but interpreted it in their own way; and not even doing good works without a clear order. We must ask ourselves if what we are doing is really God's will. It is the Holy Spirit the one who makes an understandable and objective truth, that is valid for everyone. It is the Spirit that helps us to truly understand God's will, which remains the absolute good for man. It is the Spirit conquered by my holiness that gives me the strength to perform acts of charity according to the manner and timing of God.

*"God is pleased by every act of mercy, because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see (cf. Jn 1:18). The Christian life, however, is not merely extending a hand in times of need. If it is just this, it can be, certainly, a lovely expression of human solidarity which offers immediate benefits, but it is sterile because it lacks roots. The task which the Lord gives us, on the contrary, is the vocation to charity in which each of Christ’s disciples puts his or her entire life at his service, so to grow each day in love"* (Homily). The Holy Spirit illuminates the man so that he can seek God in man, making of his brother the true worship to God, for faith without works is a meaningless and dead faith.

But we must not forget that even in this case, so that the charity does not remain a simple act of human solidarity, even in strong times, it must be brought back like everything in God. It is God who gives us the determination to always persevere in our choices, to love more and to be more human. I want to be a man of charity, then I put everything back in the true charity which is God. I really want to love my neighbor without options, then I put it back all in God, that will make me love my brother in complete freedom. The human error is in loving the neighbour starting from himself and not from the other. Here is that the love of God gives us the strength to come out of ourselves to really give ourselves to the one we love. Sometimes there is an illusion of loving, and today, the proof is the many failed marriages or friendships that break so easily, because love is not placed in God. I love God, who gives me the strength to love in the truth the other person. How many false loves because not placed in the truth of God, possessive, or mushy love, lacking fidelity or sacrifice, lacking the freedom that only God can give! Only putting him in first place, we can be more human and therefore capable of truly loving, and living charity fully and tirelessly.

*"“Large crowds were travelling with Jesus” (Lk 14:25). You are that crowd who follows the Master and who makes visible his concrete love for each person. […] Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and those who are cast aside, and to give oneself in their service"* (Homily). The crowd follows Jesus because it saw a man of charity in words that become gestures. After centuries saw again the hope of a God that had not abandoned them, that was close to them. For Jesus realized for them the most important thing, more than any miracle: He gave God back to their hearts. This is what every man of good will through charity must fulfill for every brother on earth, healing the wounds of the soul to restore hope. This is the task of the Church in the world: giving the daily Bread that is called Jesus, the sign of mercy and hope for all people of good will. Not doing it, means leaving the man perpetually in his not only material but also spiritual poverty. Who wants to be a true sign of charity must be the bearer of truth and Grace, just so it will be of help to his brother, or his service will always remain in the poverty and frustration of having never given fully a help. Of not having showing him a different, possible life, the good life of the Gospel.

*"Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded"* (Homily). Mother Teresa of Calcutta in her humility was made great by God to bring mercy and hope to the world. Her yes to the Word of God has given her the courage to say the truth fearlessly in defence of children that will never be born, and of all the people living in extreme poverty. Mother Teresa invites us to live fully the Gospel, the only one that can flavour our lives and give them sense. The salt cannot lose its flavour, unless you mix it with other substances that demean it. If we give in to compromises, if we let the word of the Gospel to be mixed with common sense, habits, our customs attributed to God, we lose the ability to add salt. Rather, with the help of the Virgin Mary Mother of the Redemption, let us try to be the light that illuminates darkness, living fully the truth of the Gospel, educated and guided by the Holy Spirit.

*Father Andrea Gasparro*

**RETURNED, GLORIFYING GOD IN A LOUD VOICE**

**(XXVIII Sunday O.T. Year C)**

**HE WENT DOWN AND PLUNGED INTO THE JORDAN SEVEN TIMES (2 Kings 5.14-17)**

The immediate goal of the miracle, the ephemeral one, is the healing of the body. The true end, which is the result of the immediate goal, is the soul and spirit guidance to the true God, that is, to the One in whose name the miracle of the body was accomplished. Naaman, moved by his servants, almost forced by them, goes down the Jordan River to bathe seven times in, as Elisha ordered him. He healed of his leprosy. This healing produces and generates in him that even bigger and more powerful one: the healing of his spirit. He is converted to the God of Elisha, the only living and true God. The miracle reaches its end when in the heart it generates the true faith, the true conversion and the true worship of God, which is obedience to His Word. The most striking miracles are vain works, if they do not also operate the healing of the soul. God does everything for the eternal salvation of a heart, in the true faith in Him and obedience to his word.

**EVEN TO THE POINT OF CHAINS, LIKE A CRIMINAL (2Tim 2.8 to 13)**

Paul knows that it was because of his annihilation, in obedience to the Father, that Jesus has redeemed the world, pouring into it the regenerating River of the Holy Spirit and of the blood of the grace. Knowing and imitating his Master, he bears all things, submits to any deprivation, so that many can come to faith and even start witness to Christ in a life of repentance and faith in the Gospel. Suffering is the price one must give to the Lord, if he wants to bring souls to Christ, so that they get converted to him, live of Him and for Him and He can present them to the Father. Knowing that all his suffering saves souls, Paul suffers and endures all things, making of suffering a sacrifice pleasing to God. He is also ready to hand over his life to the Lord, as a fragrant offering, to be true instrument of Christ for the conversion, faith in the Gospel and the salvation of many.

**GO SHOW YOURSELVES TO THE PRIESTS (Lk 17.11 to 19)**

Ten lepers ask Jesus to be cleansed. He sends them to the priests so that they prove the occurred healing. They believe and obey, although they are still lepers. Along the way they are purified. Nine remain in the obedience received. One comes back to thank his benefactor. This man lives an intelligent, knowing faith, full of resources and life. It is proper of the wise faith to know when the command can be delayed because there are things even more necessary than the very faith. Not obedience is the true life of faith, but the wisdom and intelligence with which one obeys. The man that returns lives of true faith, he knows immediately what the greater good is and what the secondary ones are instead. The greater good is that of praising and blessing God through the voice and heart of the man who had worked his recovery. He returns because it is right that Jesus blesses the Father and he blesses him with Jesus, too. This faith we must always ask to the Holy Spirit, because only with it, it is possible to transform the world.

**WILL SEE TO IT THAT JUSTICE IS DONE FOR THEM SPEEDILY**

**(XXIX Sunday O.T. Year C)**

**AS LONG AS MOSES KEPT HIS HANDS RAISED UP (Ex 17.8 to 13)**

Life, strength, light, wisdom, truth, intelligence, are given and always to be given gifts. One instant without request, the gifts are lost, the force vanishes, the light goes out, wisdom dies, the truth is obscured, intelligence becomes foolishness. Joshua is the strong man of the Lord. He must know that all is from his God. Nothing is from his heart, from his mind and from his spirit. Moses asks grace upon grace for him, he is victorious. Moses gets tired of asking, he loses all strength. The enemy triumphs. Moses is held with his hands up throughout the day and Amalek is defeated. Moses prays, Joshua prevails. Moses does not pray, Joshua succumbs. Moses prays without interruption, Joshua gets a big win. That is how the Lord educates the man to prayer. You are in need, you must ask Him. You ask, He gives. You stop asking, he stops giving. You pray, everything about you is filled with good things of God. You do not pray, you're left to yourself.

**I CHARGE YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF CHRIST JESUS ​​(2 Tim 3.14 to 4.2)**

The Church lives for as much Gospel she sows in the hearts. If she sows much, it grows and is vivified a lot, she also attracts many to Christ. She stops preaching and she immediately begins to turn yellow until drying evangelically. Timothy is invited by Paul to not be afraid to always sow the Gospel. There are no good and less good moments, opportune and inopportune, sowing times and no sowing times. The Gospel must be sown at any time, in the heart of every man, in all favourable and unfavourable circumstances. When you cannot sow it all, you sow a part. When we cannot say it with words, we say it with life. But never for a moment it must remain without sowing the Word of God in the hearts. You must never tire, never surrender, never be afraid of men, never backing down to threats or otherwise. Everyone must consecrate life, blood, breath, intelligence and wisdom to the Gospel.

**TO PRAY ALWAYS WITHOUT BECOMING WEARY (Lk 18,1-8)**

Even though we stand before God, the Father, Jesus wants man to always imitate the widow and to always ask insistently, without ever being less in demand. Sometimes the Lord may even test us in the faith. But we know that Jesus certifies and attests for us, in our favour: *"The Father will promptly grant us."* It is on this Word of Jesus that prayer must be raised. He vouched for us and never might His Word be lacking. The faith must always be added to the insistence not in the sure satisfaction, but in the Word of Jesus who promised the fulfilment. Never will the Father leave unfinished a single Word of his Son. There are not two words: one of the Father and the other of the Son, but a single Word, which is of the Father and of the Son. It is faith in the Word that gives assurance to our fulfilment and not the repeated prayer. We can also repeat the prayer for a thousand years uninterruptedly, but without faith in the Word of Jesus, no fulfilment. One always asks for faith in the Word, but always from the Word. He asks in Christ, through Christ, with Christ, from his heart.

The Jubilee pilgrimage of the Apostolic Movement to Paola (10/09/2016)

**Looking in God and in his gifts to figure out where to go**

There was a great participation of faithful in the pilgrimage organized by the Apostolic Movement, on the occasion of a day of prayer and reflection at the shrine of Saint Francis of Paola. Over a thousand people, mostly young people, took part in the Mass officiated by Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone, Metropolitan Archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace, President of the Episcopal Conference of Calabria. The bishop, as it is his custom, gave his best in rousing young people towards a more sober and holy life, following the teaching of St. Francis of Paola. He urged them not to surrender to the illusions of the material and consumerist world and motivated them to be true apostles, to also be able to historicize the charisma of the Apostolic Movement of remembrance and proclamation of the Word, first of all living it every day in their lives.

Young people have animated the Mass with songs and high-impact music, performing before the Eucharistic celebration in a series of songs, accompanied by a group formed by young musicians from their reference parishes. The welcome speech was addressed to them by the President of the Apostolic Movement, Cesare Rotundo, the bearer of the greetings of Mgr. Costantino Di Bruno, Central Assistant of the Apostolic Movement; of Cettina Marraffa, creator of several musicals on the Word and of the one loaded with love of Maria Marino, called by the Virgin to remind and proclaim the Word of the Lord, by now forgotten.

It was remembered how the inspirer is very much linked to the saint of Paola, to whom she addressed her first prayers, to protect the mission and the journey in the Church of the Apostolic Movement, founded through her. Father Gesualdo De Luca, regional responsible of the ecclesial group, focused on the sense that a day of prayer and rediscovery of a Shrine so loved by the people, assumes; spiritual heart and par excellence centre of the devotion to St. Francis of Paola.

Its vitality for over five centuries has always attracted the man in search of the absolute. All this has been possible thanks to the hospitality of the monks, led by the Provincial Father Gregory Colatorti, who accompanied the pilgrims of the Apostolic Movement in the holy places of the sanctuary, focusing on the symbols of the deeds and miracles of the founder of the ‘minimums’.

The approach that Father Mimmo Concolino had and not only with many young people was interesting (...). Father Mimmo, in a structured and highly regarded speech, focused on the value of charismas. Gifts of God to every man to participate in the full freedom of the heart, to the building of a better world, in which man can and must be saved. Here, among others, some of its salient points on the central theme of the Church and of God's people.

"The charismas are effective instruments of God's action in the world (...). The entire history of the Church proves it; in the end, if every charisma is in fact a perfectly free and unpredictable gift of the Spirit, it is true that a unique form of carrying out of the Christian faith is communicated to us with it, making a *novelty* appear that is not from man or his ingenuity, but above all from God. That is why the same Church is renewed and rejuvenated to the extent that discerns, accepts and promotes the gift of God (charisma) in the personal life and through her in the life of the world. So, the charisma of "remembrance and proclamation of the word of Jesus that the world has forgotten" that characterizes the mission and life of the Apostolic Movement, has right this inner strength; that is, the characteristic of being able to be experienced through the power of every personal charisma. It is also understood how the life of every movement, group or association, the founding charisma lives and is spread by *attraction*, right in virtue of the personal charismas lived according to the Gospel. "

*Egidio Chiarella (From Zenith.org, 09.16.2016)*

IF YOU SPEAK...

Oh my God,  
who will believe in your word?  
So much confusion,  
so much ignorance,  
too many human words!  
Oh my God,  
who will believe that you alone are eternal life?  
So many roads to take you into the hearts, but the heart is hardened.  
"Repent and believe in the Gospel."  
Go away!  
Who are you?  
What do you want?  
Go away... I cannot receive you.  
The Word of the Lord?  
No, it cannot be accepted.  
It is a double-edged sword.  
Send her away... away...  
Fraternal correction?  
You cannot correct.  
Go away... you lack in charity!  
Man,  
fraternal correction is love and salvation.  
If you do not do it, the sin of your brother falls on you.  
Man,  
do not be ambiguous.

To understand the Spirit of the Lord, to welcome it,  
you have to become poor in spirit,  
you have to get converted forgetting who you are.  
Man,  
do not rely on the number.  
Gideon had thirty thousand soldiers.  
Yet the Lord reduced them to three hundred.  
The Lord needs only three sheep,  
faithful and persevering,  
to complete his work.  
Lord,  
if you speak with love, they call you persuasive and plagiarist.  
If you speak firmly, you are to them stubborn and obstinate.  
If you say:  
"Repent, whitewashed sepulchre", they condemn you because you judge.  
Lord, they do not know that you come  
"For the fall and the salvation of many in Israel,  
as a sign of contradiction,  
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

***Maria Marino***