**Year XXXIII n. 23 November 6, 2016**

**Who understands what is pleasing in your eyes**

Between God and man there is the gulf that exists between what is eternal, uncreated, divine, pure spirit, pure act and what on the contrary is created, mortal, earthly, human and flesh in the making. Even though he was made in the image and likeness of his Lord and therefore capable of knowing according to knowledge and wisdom infused in him by the Creator, from the first moment, as soon as he was place in life, the Lord has manifested to man the contents of his mission on earth. He also revealed him directly, not by inspiration, but for voice, what is the source of life for him and what instead is the source of death. Good and evil, doing and not doing, before the fall and not only after, comes from an explicit command, order, revelation and word of God. The life of man is all, always, from God. Nothing is from man, concerning the good and bad. The power to determine what is good and what is bad was not given him. (See. Gen from 1.28 to 29; 2,16-17).

Even after sin, the Lord has never abandoned man. He always intervened to tell him what to do and what not to do: *"If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master""* (Gen 4,6-7). The supreme rule in which the Lord separates good from evil, the good to be done and the evil to be avoided, are the Ten Commandments. It is the Basic Law. Who is in it, he is in life. Who is out of it, he is in death. But can man know good and evil even in the smallest details? Can he also catch sight of every invisible virus of evil and every great seed of good? How can the Lord manage to write the Law in details? He would need a huge library for each person. This is humanly impossible.

Yet a way exists and it is very simple. God sees the good and the evil, even if very small as an invisible atom in the summit of perfection, with the light of his divine and eternal Wisdom. And what if God gave me also his wisdom? Would not I myself see what pleases Him even in the most insignificant reality and also what is not pleasing to him even in the tiniest things? This was the thought that the Lord has placed in the heart of Solomon, also inspiring him the prayer with which to ask for Wisdom. So the king might always know what is pleasing to God, because Wisdom knows what pleases Him.

*"God of my fathers, Lord of mercy, give me Wisdom, who understands what is pleasing in your eyes and what is conformable with your commands. Send her forth from your holy heavens and from your glorious throne dispatch her That she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is your pleasure. For she knows and understands all things, and will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory; Thus my deeds will be acceptable” (See. Wis from 9.1 to 18).*

Wisdom is not asked only once in life. As the Lord always works everything with his wisdom, so also man, if he wants to know what is pleasing to him, first he has to get into the Commandments and then ask for Wisdom. Never might wisdom be given out of the Commandments, because the Commandments are the foundation and the beginning of Wisdom. We live in the Commandments and ask the Lord for Wisdom. We know what is pleasing in his sight in all our thoughts, reflections, actions and works.

If a Christian wants the gift of wisdom, which for him is the Holy Spirit, it is necessary that he lives in the Sermon on the Mount, which is the foundation, the beginning of his new being. If he places himself out of this Word of Jesus, which is the basic and primary wisdom, the Holy Spirit might not be donated, except as a spirit of conversion and adherence to the Word of Jesus. From the Word of the Gospel he asks for the Spirit, in the sacraments he is vivified and renovated, in the uninterrupted prayer he is invoked and the Lord sends him from his throne of glory so that He comes and leads our life from good to good, rather from excellent to excellent. In the Holy Spirit, man is always able to discern what is good, perfect and pleasing to the Lord.

It is clear that the Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount must be the life of a disciple of Jesus if he wants to walk in the Holy Spirit. On the contrary, almost all think the mere prayer is enough and the Spirit of the Lord comes from heaven. If it were so, we could be likened to the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. They prayed to their god for a whole day, but their god was deaf to their cry. They prayed to him as idolaters. Elijah prayed to his God as a faithful observer of the Law and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven. Christians often invoke the Holy Spirit as the prophets of the god Baal, from the transgression of the Gospel.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, take us by the hand and introduce us into the holy Word of God and Jesus. You will pray for us the Spirit and He will come down like fire on us and teach us about what is pleasing to God. Holy Mother, help us understand that grace is to be in the Commandments, never to stay out of them and that the Spirit always illuminates from the Gospel, never from the outside. From the outside we can just push so that we can enter into it.

 ***Father Costantino Di Bruno***

**The Lord can comfort those who live or go back into the Word**

*Reflections starting from the Homily of H.H. Francis in Tbilisi (10.01.2016)*

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (*Is* 66:13). From this expression of Isaiah the Holy Father takes his cue to urge the Christian community of Georgia to a certain faith in the saving presence of God. The Lord is the one who promises the consolation to his people*: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"* (*Mt* 5,4).

To understand analogically how the Lord comforts his people, Isaiah uses the eloquent image of a mother comforting her child. She welcomes him in her arms, with words, gestures, her affection, comforting him and reassuring him. The whole being of the mother - body, soul and spirit - is involved in consoling her child. But first of all proximity is needed. No consolation could be given, if the child pulled away from the mother, or others parted him from her. The Lord behaves similarly. He must be able to have the opportunity to express all his benevolence to his creature and therefore he needs some "gaps".

The Holy Father indicates some gates through which the Lord can enter into the life of a man to console him: the Gospel, prayer, the sacraments of Confession and of the Eucharist. *"If we want to experience his consolation, we must give way to the Lord in our lives. And in order for the Lord to abide continually in us, we must open the doors of our hearts to him and not keep him outside. There are doors of consolation which must always be open, because Jesus especially loves to enter through them: the Gospel we read every day and carry around with us, our silent prayer in adoration, confession, the Eucharist. It is through these doors that the Lord enters and gives new flavour to reality" (Homily).*

Through these "gates" the Lord is introduced into a man's life. If the man chooses to cross the threshold of the Gospel truth and the source of grace, he will meet the Lord who is waiting for him to cover him with all peace and consolation. However, it is necessary that these access roads are not walled by the man. This could happen, if by his will he opposed resistance to the conditions laid down by God and therefore he made grace ineffective, even if he were to approach it. In fact, grace can manifest its consolidation, purification sanctification and consolation effects in man, only if this is introduced into the truth of the word of the Lord.

The action of grace is made operative through the door of faith. As the end of the water needed to irrigate is that of germinating the seed placed in the ground, in the same way the grace sprayed over man will be effective if the seed of the Word by paying faith to it is welcomed. If the man closes to the word of salvation, the gift of grace loses its purpose.

The Lord is obliged to express his being and his properties - life, blessing, consolation, peace and salvation – to those who put themselves in obedience to His Word. In fact, at the origin of creation, since man preferred to the Lord's command the entrustment to the word of the ancient serpent, for this foolish choice he closed to himself the garden gate and he fell into death. When such closure is repeated, the Holy Father affirms, it is inevitable that the man experiences in his person unease conditions: *"When the door of our heart is closed, however, his light [of the Lord] cannot enter in and everything remains dark. We then get accustomed to pessimism, to things which aren’t right, to realities that never change. We end up absorbed in our own sadness, in the depths of anguish, isolated" (Homily).*

Not only must not the man close the "gates" of his heart if he wants the Lord to be his consolation, but the help of the Church's mediation so that they remain open is also always necessary. The Holy Father states: *"“You shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (66:13). In Jerusalem, that is, in the city of God, in the community: it is when we are united, in communion, that God’s consolation works in us. In the Church we find consolation, it is the house of consolation: here God wishes to console us» (Homily).*

The heavenly Father has decided to console humanity through his Only Son. The incarnate and risen Word continues his work through his ecclesial body. The Church is like the basin in which the Lord pours his consolation, the tent where He dwells. For this to happen it is necessary that every member of the ecclesial community lives *in*, *with* and *through* Christ, that is, is subjected to the truth and grace of Christ our Lord.

The conditions that are required of the Church to be inhabited and filled by the Lord, apply for whoever turns to her. The Holy Father, to mark this condition, sends us back to the initial analogy, that of the child in the arms of his mother, *"There is, however, an underlying condition to receiving God’s consolation, and his word today reminds us of this: to become little like children (cf. Mt 18:3-4), to be “like a child quieted at its mother’s breast” (Ps 130:2). To receive God’s love we need this littleness of heart: only little ones can be held in their mothers arms» (Homily).*

As the child depends on the action of the adult, the same way, every man, if he wants to enjoy the consolation of the Lord, must not be from himself, from his thoughts, desires and from his will. Man becomes and remains *little* only and solely when his life is from God and every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Without obedience to the word of God, you cannot be filled of divine consolation.

Promising that one might enjoy it regardless of the observance of these conditions is deceiving man, because he is guaranteed what the Lord has not promised. It is false prophecy that prevents man to be able to receive divine consolation. Each will receive treatment from the one at whose word he has chosen to submit. Who chooses submission to the word of Christ will receive life and blessing from Him. This is the reward for those who want to belong to this kingdom. While for those who turn towards perversion and disobedience, the result might not be but that of death and despair. The difference in the care received is not an act of discrimination by the Lord, but respect of the choices made by the creature. He is rewarded by whoever he has chosen to serve.

The Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, showing the need to remind the Word of her Son Jesus, reveals us the condition required so that God can again become today consolation, salvation, refuge, peace and redemption for the man. Help us Holy Mother not to propose in the name of your Son paths of consolation that He has not revealed and has not committed himself on. Angels and Saints, obtain for us the humility to believe and stick to the authentic way of consolation and redemption, so as it was made manifest to us.

*Father Giuseppe Carrabetta*

**HE IS NOT GOD OF THE DEAD, BUT OF THE LIVING**

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

**FOR YOU THERE WILL BE NO RESURRECTION TO LIFE (2Mac 7,1-2.9-14)**

The persecution against the sons of Israel is very hard. Everyone is forced to abdicate to the faith in their God, burn the holy book of the Law, violate every prescription, surrender to pagan, idolatrous and immoral worship. Those who do not bend to the will of the king, are caught and tortured. Is faith worth a martyrdom? The children of Israel testify that faith is worth more than everything, because faith itself is a gift of eternal life. Without faith not only is this life worthless, future life will be of eternal perdition. Here is the law of faith: "To whoever gives life to the Lord to be faithful to his Commandments, the Lord will give the blessed life on earth and blessed, risen and glorious in eternity". The seven Maccabee brothers strong of this faith, together with the mother who encourages them, are delivered to death to receive life as a gift. However, they warn the torturers that there will be no resurrection of life, but of eternal damnation for them.

**NOT ALL HAVE FAITH (2Thess 2.18 to 3.5)**

Faith is man's response to the Word that God gives him both through an immediate and a mediated way. St. Paul says that not all have faith for two reasons of different responsibilities. Because not all accept the Word of faith. They oppose a clear, explicit rejection to it. Because the Word either is not given at all, or it is given in a partial, erroneous and heretical way. There is always no faith when more a word of men than that of God is given. Only the Word of God and of Christ is the bearer of the Spirit of conversion and adherence to it. The word of a man does not convert to Christ because it is not his Word. There is a responsibility of the missionaries of the Gospel that makes them guilty forever for every unredeemed, unsaved heart, not brought into the right faith because of the true Gospel not given. Either the missionaries of the Word deign to give the true Word and faith will be born in many hearts, or they will continue to play with hell, by giving words of men.

**WHO DENY THAT THERE IS A RESURRECTION (Luke 20.27-38)**

The Sadducees say there is no resurrection. That is their thinking. They want to convince every other man that they are in the truth and that is why they come to Jesus to ridicule all his teaching. It was enough to say to Jesus Christ that between the present on earth and later in heaven there is a passage from the flesh to the spirit and from marriage to non marriage for the claims of the Sadducees to collapse in an instant. There, we will be in the world of the spirit, of the body of the spirit. The body of spirit does not marry, does not generate and does not give birth, neither does it look for a wife or a husband. The spirit body is infinitely more than what one with his little mind made of earth can imagine. The reality of the earth must not make us interpret Heaven, the truths of Heaven and Eternity are always what must help us understand life on earth, its value and the purpose for which it was given us. The Sadducees are in great error. They know nothing of God, of his omnipotence and truth. They are men of earth, who think Heaven according to the earth and that is why they deny it.

**BY YOUR PERSEVERANCE YOU WILL SECURE YOUR LIVES**

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

**THE DAY THAT IS COMING WILL SET THEM ON FIRE (Ml 3,19-20a)**

With Malachi the Lord raises his voice loudly and shouts against the children of Israel that attest that good and evil are indifferent to Him. He intervenes firmly and reiterates his truth. Let nobody be deluded. Those who are lovers of his name, walk in his word, obey His Covenant, will enter with him into the tent of light and eternal peace. On the contrary, those who live in disobedience, the result of non faith, idolatry, rebellion against his will, will be consumed in body and spirit by a flame that blazes, burns but does not consume its victims. Today this truth has disappeared from preaching. The very missionaries of the Word are the ones that erased it, however, taking the responsibility of every man that is lost for this act of treason. They are not sent to preach their thoughts and not even their faith, true or false that it may be, but only the Word of eternal life.

**SOME ARE CONDUCTING THEMSELVES AMONG YOU IN A DISORDERLY WAY (2Thes 3,7-12)**

In Thessalonica a falsehood in the Word of Jesus had been introduced. Some had begun to say, using falsely also the authority of Paul, that by now the days were numbered and that the end of the world was imminent. This false faith led them to live a false life. It made them stop working. What use is it working, being committed, building houses, marrying, conceiving and giving birth to children, if then everything will be destroyed by the coming of the end of the world? St. Paul takes the pen and immediately puts the truth back in the heart. No one knows when the day of the end will take place. Let everyone return to his life and give it a true perfection according to the faith. There is an obligation for the man. He has to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. This precept is the first to be observed. Even if the end of the world were to come tonight, to feed at noon one must work, otherwise he is out of the law of the Lord and there is no salvation.

**THEY WILL SEIZE AND PERSECUTE YOU (Lk 21.5 to 19).**

Jesus is the only true and honest Master of the earth. The only one who proclaims to all who want to go after him, that the following is not a path on his triumphal, glory, honour and jubilation chariot. His chariot is of persecution, insults, prisons, court houses, accusations, calvary, cross and tomb. Do you want to come after me? You have to want to be crucified with me and for me. Who are you going to be persecuted, betrayed, delivered and crucified by? Even by your father, your sister, your brother, your mother, every one of your friends and acquaintances. Only after having witnessed your faith in me, I will give you eternal glory. But you'll have to give me the glory of the earth, exposing your body to the death for me, to confess that you have taken my Word as the one and only truth for your life. Jesus is the Crucified that invites you to follow him up to the cross. Then He will give his eternal glory. Today, this is the great betrayal operated towards Christ: the destruction and erasure of his cross. Deleting the cross, one erases the truth, the Gospel, the Church and eternal life. Everything comes to life from the Cross. Having abolished the cross, everything loses its value and significance.

**Trapani - Life of the Apostolic Movement**

**(From the report on the Pastoral year 2015-16)**

The pastoral year began in joy Friday, October 9 at the "Our Lady of Fatima" parish with a celebration presided over by dear Bishop H.E. Pietro Maria Fragnelli, who guided us starting from the reflection on *The Church servant of the mercy of Christ Jesus according to the Gospel.*

With an adhering listening and a conscious obedience in the faith, we related with the parish priests, with our diocesan assistant Father Anthony Gerbino and Father Alessandro Carioti, who came from the Catanzaro central seat to support us in our spirituality.

The catechesis and spirituality meetings, which are implemented in different parishes, and those held on the last Tuesday of each month at "Our Lady of Fatima" parish and conducted by Father Gerbino, have deepened some social and family issues in the light of the New humanism in Christ Jesus. in front of a scenario of the absence of God, in this historic moment, we cannot remain indifferent and powerless: we are called personally to live our mission to go, save and convert, announcing and manifesting all the wonderful project that God has for each person. We cannot delegate our responsibility to others: the work of each is essential.

With this deep conviction, we donated our continued cooperation to all parish activities and we participated in the following diocesan initiatives:

- Pilgrimage to the cloistered monastery "St. Michael the Archangel", January 9, 2016. On this occasion, Father Joseph Alcamo has read and commented on some passages of the Gospel that have touched the hearts of everyone present;

- Animation of the novena to St. Joseph and St. Francis of Paola;

- Family Mission at the parish "Our Lady of Fatima", in collaboration with other groups, movements and associations;

- *Peregrinatio Mariae*, in families, favoring especially those where there were sick people;

- During Advent and in May, in the parish of "St. Theresa of the Child Jesus", the youth have animated weekly, the Holy Rosary with songs and the *Meditating* of our Inspirer, Mrs. Maria Marino;

- For Pentecost, in the inter-parish St. Therese, Sacred Heart of Jesus and M.H. Mary, Help of Christians, we delved into one of the five *ways* of the Congress of Florence: "Announcing";

- Procession of the "Corpus Domini" (Body of the Lord);

We turned a continuous and moved remembrance to Pina Marino and Enzo Malato, called before the Father. Recalling how Pina knew how to shake us up in difficult times and how she gave us the charge for our daily work in the Lord's vineyard, we resumed with greater determination our mission and journey of fidelity to the Word of God.

To the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, we entrust our spiritual journey, aware that with her maternal help we will be able to follow it faithfully and consistently.
*The Trapani Apostolic Movement*

**THE MOTHER OF JESUS​​...**

Mary,
Our mother;
consoling Mother,
Mother of love,
Mother of forgiveness,
Mother of redemption,
Mother of mercy,
intercede with the Father,
for the man,
who does not believe in the Word of your Son Jesus.
Mother,
do not you see?
The man does not want to go to the light.
He does not believe that you are the Mother of Jesus,
the Spouse of the Holy Spirit,
the ever Immaculate.
Mother,
ensure that no one mentions you in vain any more
together with your Son Jesus.
Mother,
make haste to rescue the man,
before it's too late,
before he goes to the presence
of your Son Jesus,
before he is thrown out,
in darkness, in the gnashing of teeth.
Mother of all means,
all knowledge;
Mother,
that at the Cana wedding
solicited your Son Jesus,
intercede for us,
so that everything happens for the good of the world.
The man has no longer fear of God,
he fear himself,
speaks of himself,
does not believe in the Word

in the Logos,
the Eternal Word of God made man.
Come early,
O Mother,
and lead us to the truth, to love,
to the worship of God.
You who crushed the head of our enemy,
help us to overcome the temptation.

***Maria Marino***