**Year XXXIV n. 3 January 29, 2017**

**Proclaim how exalted his name is**

The prophet Isaiah announces to the Children of Israel that only God is their salvation. Neither might man ever be, nor other gods that do not exist, the salvation of man. Only He can give true life to whoever lost it: "*God indeed is my saviour; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my saviour. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation, and say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!*" (Is 12.1 to 6). These are words that must never be forgotten, but also words that have to be updated, indicating their perfect fulfilment.

God is my salvation. He is eternal truth. God saves through His Messiah who is also his Only Begotten Son, the Word made flesh and dwelt among us to reveal us the Father in his purest truth. Now and forever the true salvation is Jesus Christ. He is the only name established by God in which our truth is. He is the person to be invoked if you want to get into the even more wondrous creation that the Lord has decided for us in his Incarnate Eternal Son. Salvation is Jesus Christ and it is in Him. In Christ, with Him, for Him one becomes one life as He and the Father are one life. Becoming in Christ one life with Christ and abiding in Him, one becomes a single life with the Father. This is the true salvation. If one does not become a single life in God, for Christ, in Christ, with Christ, no salvation will be given to man. He is out of the Author and the only Mediator of true life.

Jesus must not be regarded as a well or a container of all grace of God. For anything you need - peace, consolation, hope, mercy, justice, love, understanding, compassion, health, healing - you approach the well, or the container, you take what you need and you go back home, rich with the benefits that Christ offers through his mediation. This view is false. Christ is neither a well and nor a container. He is peace, consolation, hope, mercy, justice, love, understanding, compassion, health and wisdom. This is his divine essence that lives all in his human essence. Who wants these gifts, must want Him, choose Him, become a single thing, one body and one life with him. He must become life of his life, truth of his truth, word of his Word and obedience of his obedience. Otherwise he will never taste the eternal life that God is and that lives all in the Lord Jesus.

Jesus is the sublime thing made by the Lord. He is the One in his mystery of Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection. God made him for us, wisdom, righteousness, consolation, redemption, peace and eternal communion with Him. Therefore, all those thoughts that with subtle invisible lies and sophisticated heresies, tend to exclude Christ from the process of our salvation and eternal redemption, are false. The Christian is obligated, since in Christ he has become the work of salvation for the world, to shout to every man not only that true salvation is in Christ. He must add that the way to reach Christ is he, the Christian. Who is erased as a way to go to Christ, who erases Christ as the way to go to God, does nothing but profess himself a worshiper of an idol, that is, of a god that does not exist, because God exists only in Christ Jesus and Jesus exists only in Christian that confesses Christ, abiding in Him and becoming true way of redemption and salvation for the world, in Him. A Christian that erases Christ removes himself from the mystery of salvation. He is not saved. Without Christ there is no salvation. He condemns the world to eternal death.

The path of true salvation might never be modified. From God to Christ, from Christ to the Christian, from the Christian to Christ, from Christ to God. We know that God and Christ are always there. When on earth there is no salvation, it is the Christian the one who fails, who is eclipsed, who is exempted or is freed from the mystery established by God so that his grace, truth and light fill the earth. Salvation is not extrinsic to God, because it is in God. It is not extrinsic to Christ, because it is in Christ. It is not extrinsic to the Christian, because it is in the Christian and for the Christian.

When the Christian is presented to the world as the world, a man like all other men, not only he is a traitor of Christ and the true God, but he is also a traitor of his truth which is of salvation for every other man. Then if with his words he is excluded from the mystery of salvation, thereby excluding even Christ the Lord, then he is a true spiritual murderer. He condemns the world to eternal damnation, because he hides it the Author and Mediator of salvation that is Jesus Christ; he hides to the world the Author and the Mediator in Christ, with Christ, for Christ of the true salvation, which is the same Christian.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, do not to allow that Jesus is deleted in his mystery, it would be for the whole world the triumph of untruth, lies and death. Ensure that the Christian mends his ways, repents and resumes his mission from such ruin of ignorance and foolishness.

***Father Costantino Di Bruno***

**The Virgin Mary protects and frees us spiritual from spiritual orphanhood**

*Reflections starting from the Homily of H.H. Francis in the 50th World Day of Peace (01/01/2017)*

By ancient tradition, January 1, is dedicated to the Mother of God, who is also our Mother: *"Jesus Christ, in the moment of the greatest gift of his life on the cross, did not want to keep anything for himself and giving his life he also gave us his mother. He said to Mary, this is your son, these are your children. And we want to welcome her in our homes, in our families, in our communities, in our countries. We want to meet her mother's gaze. That look that frees us from orphanage; that look that reminds us that we are brothers" (Homily).*

The Virgin Mary is the marvellous gift Jesus has done to the Church and all humanity from high on the cross. He knew that the path that leads to the eternal homeland, Paradise, is long and difficult. The pitfalls of the old serpent are endless and the trials that day by day, follow one another are numerous. Without exception, we all risk to begin the trip without ever bringing it to fruition, since the human nature gets tired, the heart lets itself be conquered by false idols, the soul groans under the weight of the cross and the mind is stunned by the noise of world that makes it enter into confusion.

Without the Virgin Mary at our side, we are like inexperienced children left to themselves, that have no chance to survive in a world where the soldiers of the evil Herod carry out the massacre of innocent with unprecedented cruelty.

Pope Francis, aware of this, at the beginning of a new year asks all of us to welcome into our hearts the Blessed Virgin Mary as our true Mother, who knows how to keep us from all evil and takes us by the hand so that we do not get lost: *"Celebrating the motherhood of Mary as the mother of God and our mother at the beginning of a new year means remembering a certainty that will accompany our days: we are a people with a mother, we are not orphans" (Homily).*

In His mercy, Jesus has not left us alone. He donated us a diligent mother that takes care of us and knows what we need because she knows our hearts. She is not a careless and irresponsible mother. At the foot of the cross she greeted us one by one in her womb, as in Nazareth she welcomed the Son of the Most Mighty, and every day she helps us to "grow in wisdom, age and grace" with the same love and the same *tenderness*.

In Her eyes we are not anonymous and unknown people. Her love is personal and she worries constantly of our particular salvation. Holy Mary is a wise and wary Sentinel that day and night oversees on our lives, so that the wine of truth and grace does not finish on our tables and faith does not waver when the earth trembles beneath our feet. With motherly love she enlightens minds, warms hearts, comforts crushed souls and dries the tears of her children who take refuge in Her. Truly great is her mission and she performs it with absolute perfection leaving no stone unturned.

Nevertheless, what the Blessed Virgin Mary does for us is not enough if we do not open her the doors of our hearts, our homes, our families, our schools, our parishes and our countries. Faith in Her - which must be of any and all - is required. In fact, it is faith the way to enjoy the immense benefits that the zealous love of our heavenly Mother knows how to produce for us. The new year will flow in vain if we forget to invoke her every day with the Holy Rosary; if we do not decide to entrust her our history kneaded with weaknesses and insecurities, anxieties and worries, joys and sorrows, health and sickness, victories and defeats, serenity and disturbances, light and darkness; if in the times when we realize we made mistakes we do not knock at the doors of her heart of mother so that she intercedes for us with her Son and grants us mercy and forgiveness.

Welcoming Most Holy Mary is the choice to be made every moment, so that none of us lives his time in destructive sadness of that ''spiritual orphan hood" that Pope Francis has called "corrosive disease and silent cancer" which devastates human existence in all its dimensions, *"To begin the year by recalling God’s goodness in the maternal face of Mary, in the maternal face of the Church, in the faces of our own mothers, protects us from the corrosive disease of being “spiritual orphans”. It is the sense of being orphaned that the soul experiences when it feels motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim. [...] This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debases the soul. We become all the more debased, inasmuch as nobody belongs to us and we belong to no one. I debase the earth because it does not belong to me; I debase others because they do not belong to me; I debase God because I do not belong to Him ... And in the end we debase our very selves, since we forget who we are and the divine “family name” we bear" (Homily).*

Faith in Our Lady - which is then faith in the words of the crucified Jesus - must weave our prayer, orient our choices, give strength to our breath and accompany our days. Living as children, who in Heaven have a wise Mother, will we not waver eternally and we will not close ourselves in the solitude of the heart that impoverishes us and the Church.

If we all have one Mother, we cannot be divided. Hatred, resentment, jealousy, envy, rivalry, slander, gossip, vain words, narcissism, self-seeking personal gain and chasing vainglory cannot belong to us. They are fruits of the flesh that we must extirpate at the root from our hearts. Loving the Virgin Mary as our true Mother and wanting to start under her powerful blessing the new year, means being committed every day so that the Church is well ordered in the unity of her members and is able to fight the evil forces that want to tear her apart, to make her weak and unable to generate salvation in the world. It also means to exploit the received gifts and help others to do the same so that the glory is of God alone, the only Lord of history and time.

May the 2017 be for us a year of sincere communion, in which we all support and learn to esteem each other in the perspective of faith, that knows how to see in the other a wonderful gift of God and not an adversary to be eliminated at all costs.

Mother of the Redemption, bless us your children and give us your wisdom.

*Father Lucio Bellantoni*

**GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN**

**(Fourth Sunday O.T. Year A)**

**A PEOPLE HUMBLE AND LOWLY (Zep 2,3; 3,12-13)**

Poverty and humility are highly theological categories. Humble and poor place all their life in the Word. Whoever delivers himself to the Word becomes also poor in substances because he makes of his wealth a service to love, charity, alms, knowing that on him the blessing of the Lord that brings all fullness of life, will be poured. Why will the Lord leave in his land a humble and poor people, a people faithful and obedient to Him? Because the earth does not tolerate being trampled by idolaters, unjust, arrogant, greedy, dishonest, immoral people and rejects them. For those who entrust themselves to God and trust in Him, the earth becomes the mother that welcomes and nurtures with love, letting them enjoy all joy. The earth does not love sinners and winces when they shall trample on it. Poor and humble are always welcomed, fed by the earth, they do not lack in anything. Faith in God, true food of the soul and spirit, becomes also true nourishment for the body.

**THANKS TO HIM YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS ​​(1Cor 1,26-31)**

The Church of God that is at Corinth is formed by simple, humble and poor people. With them Christ, who is righteousness, sanctification, redemption and wisdom, wants to show all his power of salvation. They must give the heart, body, soul and mind to Him, then He will be the one to do everything. He will be the one to show through them, the light and grace of His Holy Spirit for the conversion of many hearts. Either the Corinthians leave all the space to Christ, so that he lives and works in them and for them, or they return to the nullity of before. They can boast about, but only in Jesus Christ. But boasting about Christ means boasting Christ, giving Him all the glory. It is Christ who gave them all boasting and that is why they must bless him forever. Everything is for Christ, with Christ and in Christ. But if everything is the work of Christ, no one can boast. On the contrary, everyone must allow that Christ uses him according to his eternal wisdom and divine intelligence.

**BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT (Mt 5,1.12a)**

Jesus begins his speech, saying: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* His father instead had started with the words: *"I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me"* (Ex 20,2) . *The Father says: "I am the God who made you. I am the God that will always make you. Let yourself always be made by me. No one else might make you. If I do not make you, you will not be. You will be a slave to yourself."* Jesus says: *"Blessed is he who is made by God every day. Blessed is he who every day puts himself in the hands of his God and obeys his every wish."* The Son's Word is the true mode of being of man: Man, if you want to be in the joy of your being, you have to put yourself entirely in God. There is no joy if your being does not rest entirely in the will of the Lord your God. He is your full, perfect and holy life. It is in Him that your being sings its truth. Deliver yourself to God and you will find yourself because He is the source, the root and the spring of yourself. It is He who makes you. Let yourself be made by him. You're blessed if He is your eternal Creator.

**YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**(Fifth Sunday O.T. Year A)**

**THEN LIGHT SHALL RISE FOR YOU IN THE DARKNESS (Is 58.7 to 10)**

The way so that every child of Abraham transforms the invisible eternal light of God into visible light in his flesh is not only the scrupulous observance of the commandments, with nothing added and nothing removed. Obedience to the law is the beginning, the start, but it is not all. All the code of holiness must be added to the obedience to the Ten Commandments. Abraham's son must be holy as his God is holy, that is merciful, pitying, benevolent and compassionate to all. The light is not fasting lived selfishly, in an immanent way, out of the Law and of piety. True fasting required by the Lord is renunciation to all evil adding to it the perfect love in thought, word, heart, feeling, will and work. When all the good will be experienced, only then one will become true light that will illuminate the world with the eternal light drawn in God and transformed into light in the flesh. It is the true miracle that will convert the world to God.

**JESUS ​​CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED (1Cor 2.1-5)**

In the Crucified Christ the eternal light of God was transformed into perfect light. All the love of the Father in Christ becomes love, truth, gift, redemption, justice, wisdom, and holiness. The disciple must have only one desire and only one aspiration: reaching the perfection of the love of Christ, so as to become he too perfect embodiment of the eternal light of the Father. God's holiness is the Crucified Christ. The holiness of Christ Crucified must be each of his disciples. If the disciple does not become Christ's holiness in the midst of men, no one will believe in him and therefore no one will believe in Christ. As Christ is the way through faith in the Father, so the Christian is the way through the faith in Christ. For the Christian to Christ, for Christ to the Father. But when is a Christian way so that the world comes to Christ? He is way to the extent that he makes his all the crucified charity of Jesus Lord and transforms

**YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH (Mt 5,13-16)**

The Commandments are the code of perfect justice. You give the other what is the other’s. The Beatitudes instead are the perfect of love code, which is the gift of your entire self to others. The true good is not a loaf of bread, a dress, a material aid. This is an ephemeral good. The other has the right to receive the eternal good, the eternal light, the eternal peace, the eternal love, the eternal God, the only true and living God. How do you give this eternal good? Becoming us, in Christ, light of the world and salt of the earth. Who lives to perfection the code of holiness of Jesus, gets for the other conversion, justification and salvation. The conversion of a heart is not the fruit of our work, it is a gift that God gives to him who becomes perfect light and salt of Christ, in Christ and for Christ. It is a gift conditional on our light. If we do not become light and salt in Christ, the Father for us will not make any gift of souls to Christ and the world remains in its sin. If instead we become salt and light in Christ, for our light and our salt, the Father will give many more souls to Christ and will aggregate them to his body which is the Church.

## Apostolic Movement - 2017

## Catecheses and spirituality meetings in some dioceses of the South and Islands

## CATANZARO Mary Mother of the Church Parish (Fiume Neto rd.)

## Monday, 4.30 pm: meeting of prayer and spirituality; Mass; catechesis

## Lamezia Terme (CZ): "St. Domenico" Parish (Feroleto Square)

## Tuesday, 5.30 pm: meeting of prayer and spirituality; Mass

## Lamezia Terme (CZ): John Paul II Hall (Numistrano Ave.)

## 2nd and 3rd Wednesday, 6.30 pm: catechesis

Rossano (CS): Parrocchia Sacro Cuore (Viale S. Angelo – Rossano Scalo)

2° Giovedì, ore 18.00: Messa; catechesi

## CROTONE "St. Rita" Parish (I Maggio rd.)

## Wednesday, 5 pm.: spirituality meeting; 5.30 pm: catechesis

## CROTONE "Mary Mother of the Church" Parish (the UN rd.)

## First Sunday, 4.30 pm: spirituality meeting

## VIBO VALENTIA "Holy Ghost" Parish (S. Maria La Nova Church)

## Tuesday, 5 pm: spirituality meeting and catechesis

## COSENZA: St. John the Baptist Parish (De Rada rd.)

## Wednesday, 6.30 pm: spirituality meeting and catechesis

## ROSSANO (CS): Sacred Heart Parish (S. Angelo dr. - Rossano Scalo)

## 2nd Thursday, 6 pm: Mass; catechesis

## Oriolo (CS): S. Giorgio M. Parish

## Friday, 5.30 pm: catechesis; Sunday, 5.30 pm: spirituality meeting

## REGGIO CALABRIA: St. Mary of Divine Succour Parish (Relief sq.)

## Tuesday, 6.30 pm: catechesis

## BOVALINO (RC): St. Nicholas of Bari Parish

## Saturday, 6.30 pm: catechesis; 1st and 3rd Sunday, 4.30 pm: spirituality meeting

## MESSINA: Mary Immaculate Parish (Contesse pl.)

## 2nd Thursday, 6 pm: catechesis

## MESSINA: St. Helen Parish (St. Elena pl.)

## Wednesday, 6.30 pm: catechesis

## OLIVERI (ME): St. Joseph Parish (Dante Square)

## 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 6 pm: spirituality meeting

## SYRACUSE: O. Lady Mary of Grievance at Grottasanta Parish (Servants of Mary rd., 4)

## 3rd Tuesday, 6.30 pm: spirituality meeting

## ENNA S. Cataldo Parish (S. Mary of the People Church)

## 3rd Wednesday, 4 pm: spirituality meeting

## ERICE, CASA SANTA: Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Madonna of Fatima rd.)

## Tuesday, 6 pm: spirituality meeting and catechesis

## ORISTANO: St. Sebastian Martyr Parish (Rome Square, 59)

## Saturday, 6.30 pm: spirituality meeting

## DIOCESE OF Acerra (NA): 1st Monday, 6.30 pm: spirituality meeting

## by turns in the parishes Maria Ss. Annunziata (Acerra), S. Felice M. (S. Felice a Cancello), St. Nicholas (Casalnuovo NA)

## CERVINARA (AV): St. Audiutore Parish (St. Audiutore Square)

## 3rd Monday, 7 pm: catechesis

## SALERNO: St. Mary of the Martyrs Parish (Pastorino rd., 2)

## 3rd Sunday, 6.45 pm: spirituality meeting

**O MY MOTHER...**

O my Mother,

you know my weakness,

my fatigue,

my nothingness.

Every moment I am tempted,

so that I do not do the will of my Lord,

so that I say no to your heavenly service.

Satan knocks at the door of my heart.

O my Mother,

to your Son Jesus, who probes into me and knows me,

tell him that I love him,

tell him that I want to do your will.

I know it:

my only support in temptation

is your Holy Rosary.

For it my spirit rises to God.

O my Mother,

suffering overtakes me,

anguish assails me,

my heart moans,

the cross is heavy,

the climb is hard.

I ask you for help, you who are my hope.

Give me your hand and I will persevere to the end.

O my Mother,

always come with me,

guide my steps,

sustain me when I falter,

enlighten me when I doubt,

strengthen me when I am weak.

Always give me the celestial force,

through it convert the world,

give it hope and comfort.

Obtain for us the mercy of our Father.

O my Mother,

do not abandon me,

I always want to obey the Lord my God,

I want to hear him

and carry out the mission entrusted me.

But be always within me,

give me so much love,

so much faith

and a lot of strength to walk till death.

O my Mother, take me with you under the cross...

***Maria Marino***