**Year XXXIV n. 16 July 30, 2017**

**Remember this and be firm**

What the Lord says to his people, he tells it to every man. Argumentation is simple. You, man, are a man, you say you are a man, you proclaim you are wise, intelligent and a scientist. If you are a man, act as a man. If you are intelligent, use your intelligence. If you are a scientist, use your science well. Examine your history. Is there one thing on earth that you are able to govern? Are you the lord of only a tiny dust granule? Can you know what will happen to you tomorrow? Can you foresee your future? Can you govern your life? If you are honest you must confess to yourself that nothing is in your power, not even your breath. Your life is not under your government. You enter the world without your will and come out of the world without your will. In a moment you are in time and in a moment you are in eternity. You are not the lord of your breath.

Examine history further. You will know from a careful examination that all my Words have been fulfilled. What I said, I have also done. I say to one thing to exist and it exists, to be modified and it modifies, to change shape and it changes it. All creation is in my hands. The idols you worship have no power, either in good or in bad. They are a nullity. Nor do men have power over my Word. They can change it to their liking, they can believe or not believe, but it is fulfilled not because you, man, believe in it. It is accomplished because I have said it. I said that if you go out of my Word, you die and death will be forever. There is no life except in the Word. There is no future of goodness except in that proclaimed by me in my Word.

If you look history with serene eyes, with a non-polluted heart, you must confess that whatever you decide against my Word has never produced a single fruit of good. It has always caused death on earth, along with poverty, misery and great suffering. You, man, against my Word, make yourself the lord of history and this escapes you from your hands. You wish you could turn it to the right and it goes to the left. You foresee something and the opposite happens. You think in a way and history is done without you. You do not rule history. It is not in your power. While you have experienced that a single Word of mine governs the future not only in the distant, but even eternal time. One of my Word unsettles the ways of men, changes the shape of the earth, disrupts the hinges of the universe. All I say was done, is done and will be done. You cannot rule anything with all your science and wisdom. Only if you live in my Word it will create life for you. Come out of the Word, you are a death operator. If you are a man, if you live as a man, if you say you are a man, you must confess that my Word is most pure truth and that yours is only a lie and deceit. You have to shout that true hope can be built on my Word, while none of your words is a bearer and creator of true hope. Your word is nullity, because without my Word and out of it, everything is vanity, nullity, idolatry and death.

*“To whom would you liken me as an equal, compare me, as though we were alike? There are those who pour out gold from a purse and weigh out silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith to make it into a god before which they bow down in worship. They lift it to their shoulders to carry; when they set it down, it stays, and does not move from the place. They cry out to it, but it cannot answer; it delivers no one from distress. Remember this and be firm, take it to heart, you rebels; remember the former things, those long ago: I am God, there is no other; I am God, there is none like me. At the beginning I declare the outcome; from of old, things not yet done. I say that my plan shall stand, I accomplish my every desire”* (Cfr. Is 46,1-13).

Whoever is a man must confess that what God says, Christ Jesus announces and the Holy Spirit teaches is most pure truth. Man's life, hope and prosperity are only in the Word of his Lord. The truth of the Word is attested and witnessed by the personal history of each man. Everyone can put to the test the Word of the Lord. Everyone can experience, realize that there is life in the commandments and death in their transgression. Everyone can verify that in the indissoluble marriage there is the Lord's blessing, while in every other marriage one is without his blessing and everything is an apparatus of unspeakable suffering. Divorce is not a way of progress, but of regression and death. Theft does not increase happiness, but removes it and so it can also be said for every other commandment. Non-observance of the third does not increase rest, but accelerates in the body a true process of infinite tiredness and death. Even the earth rebels against the transgression of the Lord's time and does not help man. Nature is against man when man is against its Lord. Either one gives nature whatever belongs to it, or nature explodes even with death.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, teach every man to be a man, to think as a man, to act as a man and to relate to history as a man. Unfortunately, sin deprives the man of the eyes to see, of the mind to think and of the heart to love. Holy Mother, come to our rescue. Give us a strong faith in Christ Jesus, so that we let ourselves be purify by Him and washed in His blood, to return to be men in Him, with Him and for Him.

***Father Costantino Di Bruno***

**Christian mediation, Christ's saving mission**

Reflections from the Homily of H.H. Francis in the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul (29.6.2017).

Mediation is the foundation of the life of faith. The Father in eternity asks the Son to be his mediator with man. The only way to reach the Father is Christ the Lord: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will also know the Father" (Jn 14: 6-7). Anyone who wants to see the Father must see Jesus: "*Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?* *Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.* *Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves*" (Jn 14: 9-11).

Christ institutes the same dimension of mediation by sending his apostles to the world to lead every man to Him. Conscious of this responsibility, every disciple of Christ, every Christian, must show in his life the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. By living the mystery of mediation in purity, every man can come to the Father through Christ who is given to all in fullness of Truth by the Church and witnessed by every single Christian that lives of the Word of God.

Therefore, mediation is an inevitable condition for anyone who has in his heart the desire to go to Christ. Every Christian must acquire this awareness and this great responsibility that he has concerning history. Loving Christ, having faith and evangelizing, mean making Christ's life our own life. "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14: 12-15).

A faith lived without a testimony of Word incarnated in the flesh of the Christian is a sterile and dead faith. "For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead" (Jm 2:26). The works of faith, testimony and mediation are the fruit of the gift that Christ makes to all his disciples: the Holy Spirit. Only in the light of the Holy Spirit the Christian is able to give true, grounded and rooted witness in the Gospel, which shows Christ in his splendour of salvation and leads to Him.

Thinking that a Christian can exist without the Word of Christ, without the Holy Spirit and without the will of the Father is pure madness. Just as it is unthinkable that a Christian delegates or eludes his role of mediation. Christ Jesus made us real and effective instruments of his salvation. Having He himself called us, only in Him, in his Word, in his Grace and in his Truth, we are able to be true witnesses.

Christian identity does not arise from feeling, taste and personal thought. It is a perennial gift that flows from the heart of Christ that always, through Grace, moves, moulds and gives credibility to the Christian of good will that is entirely delivered into the hands of his Lord to fulfil the Father's desire for salvation.

*"Let us ask ourselves if we are parlour Christians, who love to chat about how things are going in the Church and the world, or apostles on the go, who confess Jesus with their lives because they hold him in their hearts.  Those who confess Jesus know that they are not simply to offer opinions but to offer their very lives.  They know that they are not to believe half-heartedly but to “be on fire” with love.  They know that they cannot just “tread water” or take the easy way out, but have to risk putting out into the deep, daily renewing their self-offering.  Those who confess their faith in Jesus do as Peter and Paul did: they follow him to the end – not just part of the way, but to the very end.  They also follow the Lord along his way, not our own ways.  His way is that of new life, of joy and resurrection; it is also the way that passes through the cross and persecution"* (Homily)

Living the personal role as a mediator means being witness to the presence of Christ in the own life. All this is an integral and fundamental part of Christian life. Every Christian, in unison with St. Paul, must come to say: "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). Whoever lives of faith knows this is not a super-realistic and impracticable speech. Having faith means believing that every word of Christ is fulfilled. And everyone must cherish in his heart that every man, looking at the Christian life, can see Christ living in history.

When today's Christian will understand that man's salvation passes through his full adhesion to Christ, by making of His Word the personal word and of His heart his own heart, each man will have the opportunity to gain real and true experience of Jesus.

Everyone has the right to meet Christ, to receive salvation, to be able to embrace and live the Gospel. Every Christian has an obligation to ensure that this meeting of salvation happens. And this encounter can be made real by the Holy Spirit. Philip makes possible the encounter between Christ the Lord and the eunuch simply by remaining in perfect obedience with the Spirit that lead him to the carriage of the eunuch (cf. Acts 8: 26-40). Philip lives his mediation ministry giving light and grace to the eunuch who was hungry and thirsty for that Christ whom he still did not know.

A simple proposition, invitation and exhortation are very often sufficient, to cause a heart to move to Jesus the Lord. By giving Christ in grace and truth through the personal testimony, in the heart of man can arise the desire for holiness. To ensure that all this happens the man of faith, must feed on grace and live of truth, every day renewing his adhesion to Christ and letting his life be led by the Holy Spirit.

This is the greatest charity that the Christian can do to the man of today who lives without grace and without truth: being a true mediator who, with a Christified life, is able to tear him away from the disobedience of sin and lead him back into the law of Love which is the Word of Christ.

May the Angels, Saints and all of Heaven, help us to make our mediation always true and full of Grace.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, grant every Christian to make the insatiable desire of Christ your Son be born in his heart, in order to be always true and current mediators of his salvation.

*Father Diego Menniti*

**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE**

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

**TO JUDGE YOUR PEOPLE (1Kings 3.5.7-12)**

From Solomon every man must learn to ask the Lord wisdom concerning the execution according to justice and truth of his specific and personal ministry received. Solomon is a king. He asks for wisdom to be a king according to truth. A pope, a bishop, a priest, a deacon, a confirmed, a baptized, a married man must ask for wisdom to be what he has been made by God, in Christ Jesus, in the gift of the Holy Ghost. This rule also applies to every theologian, evangelist, doctor, teacher and professor. It suffices a single theologian without truth, justice and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to send the world to ruin, delivering it into the arms of Satan. Even in the political, scientific, economic and financial fields, everyone has to ask for the wisdom, justice and truth of his science and his profession. Either is God with His wisdom and righteousness that governs us, or it is Satan with his falsehood.

**FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD (Rm 8,28-30)**

Suffering and cross are for the disciples of Jesus the way to attaining the greatest glory in the blessed heavens and also to participate in the redemption of Christ in a useful way, producing many fruits of conversion and salvation. Every disciple must always ask: how can I live in God's most pure and holy will what the Lord allows to happen for my greatest eternal good and the spiritual good of every other brother of mine? If the disciple diverts his sight from the Crucified Christ, he will lack in that holy light with which he must enlighten all his suffering. Today, lacking Christ Crucified, because he was expelled from our world, the real light to look at the suffering is lacking and one lets himself be conditioned by the darkness that gives only death, also called with the gentle name of euthanasia or dignified death. It is suicide for those who practice it and homicide for those who help. Severe sins against God and man.

**LIKE A TREASURE BURIED IN A FIELD (Mt 13,44-52)**

The kingdom of God has been entirely hidden by the Father in Christ Jesus, rather Christ Jesus in his flesh is the kingdom of God. Everyone is asked to discover this treasure of inestimable value, to sell everything that he possesses, that is, every philosophy, religion, anthropology, science and wealth of the earth to acquire the treasure and make it become his own life. But even those who have found the treasure must make every effort to indicate Christ Jesus as the true treasure given by God to humanity and his body, his cross, his Church, the same Christian as the field in which it is hidden. If a person attends the field of the Church, her ministers, theologians, teachers, professors, doctors and does not find the treasure in them, because they are not the true field of God, the other remains without the treasure, but the field that is not full of Christ Jesus is responsible. Every son in the Church, every minister, must be this field in which the treasure is hidden. Before it was hidden in the flesh of Christ, now it is hidden in the flesh of every disciple. Great is the responsibility of the Christian.

**HIS CLOTHES BECAME WHITE AS LIGHT**

**(Lord's Transfiguration Year A)**

**ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN (Dn 7,9-10,13,14)**

Every word, prophecy, oracle and promise uttered by God in the Old Testament is in all like a frame of a full length film. Each frame receives truth and consistency from the others. One alone contains a fragment of truth, but not the whole truth. What Daniel reveals is just a fragment of truth. He sees one similar to a son of man who is brought to the presence of God and receives from him his very divine powers. From this fragment of truth, without the other fragments, one could think of a man elevated to divine dignity. While the other fragments tell us that this person similar to a son of man is the eternal Son of the Father. They reveal us that as a true man, the Son of God, was made a holocaust of redemption, atonement and salvation. It is on the cross that he acquires the right to possess all divine power. With the resurrection these powers are his. The mystery of Jesus Christ is great.

**EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY (2Pt 1,16-19)**

Only three people have received the gift of seeing Christ Jesus in the splendour of his divinity, in his eternal light: Peter, James and John. Peter believes in Christ God because he has been an eyewitness of his glory. On the mountain he also heard the voice of the Father attesting that Jesus is his Son, his beloved, in whom he is pleased, that is, his Messiah. God in the flesh is the Saviour of Man and his Redeemer. Peter does not base the truth of Christ on works, he bases it on its very essence. Works could also be made by one who is not God; however, to whom God has granted his eternal powers. Peter goes beyond the works, the signs and the fulfilment of every ancient Word. He proclaims to Christians what the foundation of his faith is: the personal vision of Christ God, the contemplation of the glory of Jesus God. On his vision they can base their faith. It is most pure truth.

**HIS FACE SHONE LIKE THE SUN (Mt 17: 1-9)**

Jesus is God in his person. He shows the disciple this truth on the mountain. For a moment the flesh is eclipsed by the deity and this is shown in all its splendour. If He is God, why should he go through death by crucifixion? Why do Moses and Elijah, the Law, and the Prophets confirm his words and speak of his next departure to Jerusalem? The Father of Heaven also intervenes and asks the disciples to listen to his Son, the beloved. In the mystery of God's death all the power of sin is revealed. It is manifested how dense and intense darkness is, but all the depth of God's love for his people is also revealed: for the salvation of the world he lets his Son be sacrificed. God is crucified for the redemption of every one of his scattered sons. Do the apostles understand? Little or nothing today. However, this vision is impressed in their hearts, in their minds, becomes the form of their own soul and spirit. It is on this vision that tomorrow Peter will found the faith of the community in the divinity of Jesus the Lord.

**Apostolic Movement: Final Report on the Service in the**

**Catanzaro-Squillace Archdiocese -** Year XXXVIII-2016/17 (Part 3 of 4)

On 9 May 2017, at the Palagiovino in Catanzaro, the 9th International Convention of the Apostolic Movement took place; it was attended by more than 1,800 people coming from various Italian and foreign dioceses; the topic was: *The Church listens and accompanies young people in the change of era. "A better world is also built thanks to you"* (Pope Francis). Speakers of the event were: H. Eminence Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, who offered a reflection on "Young people, faith and vocational discernment"; the archbishop of Catanzaro-Squillace and President of C.E.C. H. E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone, who introduced the theme; Dr. Nicola Gratteri, State Procurator of Catanzaro, who related on: "Young people and society: interpreting uneasiness and motivating hopes". The works, moderated by Fr. Francesco Brancaccio, have been initiated by the choir led by Fr. Franco Bruno and by the greetings of the President of the A. M., Mr. Cesare Rotundo, who recalled that the Convention was "thought and prepared to seize and live with responsibility the actuality of the life of the Church, in synchrony with the urgencies and perspectives that the Holy Father has indicated us." Doc. Antonio Afeltra expressed to the speakers the expectations and hopes of young people. At the end of the day Cardinal Baldisseri, a well-known musician and composer, offered all a piano performance with a "Recital" of famous songs.

During the course of the year, some "Youth Encounters" were organized in preparation for the third meeting scheduled for August 5 in Sila in Mancuso Village.

The Apostolic Movement participated in all liturgical and pastoral events organized by the Diocese. Please note in particular:

* Eucharistic celebration, in the Cathedral of Catanzaro, in view of the Eucharistic Congress held in Genoa from 15 to 18 September;
* The Biblical Course held in Squillace on 19-20-21 September;
* The "Missionary Week" held in the parish of S. Anna in Catanzaro Lido;
* Eucharistic celebration for the opening of the pastoral year presided by H.E. Monsignor Vincenzo Bertolone on 5 October, preceded by the presentation of the book by Fr. Francesco Brancaccio and his speech on "Dialogue between faith and science: new periphery for the testimony of the Gospel";
* Convention on St. Francis of Paola, Cathedral, October 9;
* Presentation of the book "Mercy in Padre Pio, with the presence of Fr. Marciano Morra, former Secretary General of the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio, on October 12;
* Diocesan March of Peace on the theme "Nonviolence: a style of peace policy", led by Monsignor Archbishop at Simeri Crichi on 21 January 2017;
* Convention "With Blessed Lentini, let us rediscover the style of Christian poverty", on February 24, 2017, in the parish of Blessed Domenico Lentini; on this occasion the book "A poor church for the poor" of proff. Gaetano Di Palma and Pasquale Giustiniani, was presented. To the works coordinated by Fr. Francesco Brancaccio and concluded by the Archbishop Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone, took part Fr. Giuseppe Comi and Fr. Nicola Rotundo, together with the Authors;
* "Tent of Mercy" initiative with a turn of adoration on 6 April;
* Diocesan pilgrimage with all the Laity Aggregations at the Shrine of Porto: April 25, where the Apostolic Movement cared for one of the three meditations: "Announcing the Joy of Love in the Family"; in the Solemnity of the Ascension at the Shrine of Torre di Ruggiero;
* Pentecost Vigil;
* Processions through the streets of the city of Catanzaro of "Naca", "Corpus Domini" and "S. Vitaliano".

**PRAYER OF PRAISE...**

Blessed are you, Lord,

that call your creatures to justice,

for eternal salvation

and lead them by the hand to conversion

for the purification of their soul.

Blessed are you, Lord,

that make the truth sprout on earth

to drive darkness away from us,

dispersing it with the radiant light

of your Word of love and goodness.

Lord,

you do not want big things,

but a pure and meek heart.

Blessed are you, O Lord,

that gave us your Only Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord,

to redeem us and free us from sin.

Conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit,

he was born of the ever-Virgin Mary.

Blessed are you, O Lord,

that make mutes open their mouth,

the deaf listen, the blind see.

Blessed are you, O Lord,

that confuse the wise and the intelligent

and reveal little ones your wonders.

Ensure that the liar and ambiguous

moves his heart and converts to you.

Blessed are you, O Lord,

that constituted us missionaries

of the one faith in your only Church,

to bring your Word of salvation to the world,

calling every man of good will

to enter your kingdom,

to work in your vineyard and give fruit of eternal life.

Blessed are you, O Lord,

who at the foot of the cross entrusted us to your Mother

and made us her children forever.

Ensure that our love for her is pure, chaste, faithful, holy.

Help us imitate her virtues,

living with faith, hope and charity,

comforted and supported by your Holy Spirit.

Lord,

your blessing covers the universe.

Arrange that every creature

praises and exalts you forever and ever. Amen.

***Maria Marino***