

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

XXIII Sunday of O.T.
Year B



He has done all things well

Simple men contemplate the works of Jesus and cry out one only truth: "He has done all things well". In Him, there is no imperfection. Every Word coming out his mouth is most pure truth and light. Every miracle fulfilled by Him is creation of new life. There are no miracle half done and there are no signs that do not speak in a clear and evident way about the mystery surrounding his person. Everything in Him is light, truth, justice, holiness, mercy, forgiveness, charity compassion, meekness, perfect exemplarity in all thing. If one wanted to find one only defect in Him, he could not. Only by inventing, slandering, lying, can one charge Jesus with sin. It is truth proclaimed by Jesus himself: "Can any of you charge me with sin? If I am telling the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not listen, because you do not belong to God." (Jn 8, 46-47)

Before the sublime truth of Christ Jesus, today we have to confess that not only did man become vain, foolish, bland: he does not recognize Christ as his Redeemer, Saviour, grace, eternal life, light, truth. He has also become wicked:

he has decided to destroy both his Creator and his Redeemer. There are no greater vanity and wickedness than these ones. And what does the Christian do? He plays with the world according to the laws and the rules of the world, that are laws and rules of sin and death. When the Christian awakes from his slumbers, from his insensitivity, from his sleep of spiritual death, it will be too late. Christ Jesus will be written off many hearts. In many others, he will not enter. There will no longer

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be someone who preaches him with purity of truth and doctrine. Actually, today, the Christian is the one who has to give his life to Christ the Lord, so that He continues to do all things well. But if the Christian does not believe with most pure faith in Him, this will be impossible and Christ Jesus might not fulfil his good things in favour of men. Today the Christian is the "sacrament" of Jesus so that He may live the mystery of the redemption and of salvation. If the "sacrament" fails, Jesus might neither redeem nor save and the world will precipitate in his darkness of death. Mother of God, make us true "sacrament" of Christ today and forever.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET

Only love conquers hatred

Evil, that is disobedience to the law of the Lord, can be conquered only by the Christian. How does the Christian conquer it? Always remaining, living, dwelling in the Gospel, in the Word of Christ Jesus. When the Christian escapes from the Gospel, evil has already conquered him. He was defeated by evil. By evil, he was also turned into an operator of wickedness and injustice. Thus, the Apostle Paul speaks to the Romans: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good." (cf Rm 12, 17-21) Here is the true wisdom and the holy intelligence of the disciple of Jesus: conquering evil by always remaining in good. One remains in good, dwelling with full obedience and with conscience formed by the Holy Spirit in the Word of Christ Jesus, in his Holy Gospel. One escapes from the Word and one is already defeated.

The teaching of Jesus is explicit and clear. It is the translation in words of the mystery of his passion whose culmination is his condemnation to death by crucifixion: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. (Mt 5, 38-42) Not only did Jesus give his life, handing his body over his crucifiers, laying his hands and feet to be nailed on the cross. Wonderful example of full and total victory on evil. He suffered all evil of this world, but he has never known evil.

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To the supreme evil, he answered with the supreme forgiveness. Not only. He answered by offering the Father the sacrifice of his passion and of his cross as ransom of the sin of the world. So great is the love of Christ Jesus for the humanity slave of sin and of death.

Evil is together fruit and father of hatred. The more one is evil and wicked, the more one hates truth and light. The more one hates truth and light, the more one becomes evil and wicked. This is the mystery of wickedness, thus revealed by Jesus: "The light came into the world, but people preferred

darkness to light, because their works were evil." (Jn 3, 19) Jesus was hated with violent hatred, insatiable hatred. This hatred is the fruit of evil ruling hearts. This hatred is also father of an evil that does not even stop before the death on the cross of Christ the Lord. It is a hatred willing to eradicate from earth everything reminding the Lord and his Gospel in some way, his mystery and his mission. Today the hatred of the world against Christ Jesus and against his Father is so violent, insatiable, that came to want to cancel from his nature even the signs of the presence of God that is our creation to his image and likeness. How might a disciple of Jesus conquer this evil, wicked, insatiable hatred? Only remaining in the Word. Hatred can be conquered only by the love of the disciple of Jesus who lets himself be even crucified not to fall into desire of vengeance and justice and, consequently, in doing, he too, evil. Love is forgiveness and mercy. But love is also offer of our life to Christ Jesus for the redemption of those who are slaves of their hatred and wickedness of heart that always regenerate it and give it a new vigour.



IF YOU LISTEN...

The Holy Spirit will come upon you

The Holy Spirit has left no revelation incomplete. It is perfect in every part of the mystery. However, He did not want one only hagiographer to contain all the mystery. Every hagiographer needs the other hagiographer and every book of the Holy Scripture needs every other book of it. Through the evangelist Luke, we know how the virginal conceiving in Mary happened: through the work of the Holy Spirit. Who is the one who is born from the Virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit? The Only Begotten Son of the Father, the eternal Word. This truth was made to reach us by the Holy Spirit through the Evangelist John. Mystery and divine and eternal. The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle John, not only reveals who Christ Jesus is before time and over time, he also reveals who Christ Jesus is after time, after his glorious resurrection: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom

and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth." (cf. Rev 5, 1-14) Christ Jesus is the only true God and true man. He alone is the Only Begotten Son of the Father.

Before such power of light illuminating the mystery of Christ Jesus, it is a very serious sin of betrayal and of denial against the divine revelation to equate Jesus the Lord to every other man, to every other founder of religion, of every other anthropologist, philosopher, ideologist arising from the earth and that are all created by the means of the Eternal Word and redeemed by the means of the Incarnated, Crucified Word, Ascended on heaven, constituted by the Father and the only Lord of heaven and earth, the only Judge of living and dead, the only one who has the sealed book of history and eternity in his hands, the only Shepherd to lead the souls to the water springs of life. Denying the truth of Christ through the many hellish modalities the Christian is inventing today, is not only annihilation of the truth of Christ, but also annihilation of

the truth of the Church and of the Christian himself. Today the Christian is saying to the world that one can live without Christ Jesus. But if Christ Jesus is of no use to the others, why should He be of use to the Christian? Here is the tragedy that is unfolding before our foolish and unwise eyes: the death of the Christian and, consequently, an irreversible ageing of the Church itself. When we open our eyes, it will be too late. By now, the fire has consumed the great forest of the Church. May the Mother of God intervene immediately so that no Christian destroys Christ the Lord.

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FROM JACOB'S WELL

Jesus conquers the sin of the world, that manifests itself against Him with violent hatred, strong envy and unsayable jealousy, with the strength of his faith and his meekness. Faith is vision of the mystery surrounding our life by the will of the Father and never by ours. If the father decided that one passes through a way of physical crucifixion and also of the soul, then our obedience to Him will have to be perfect. With meekness, we clothe ourselves of all the fortitude of the Holy Spirit and we know how to remain as true disciples of Jesus upon every cross. Meekness and humility, being two virtues, are given to us in the same way as a grain of mustard seed. It is up to every disciple of Jesus, then, to use every spiritual energy so that they, cultivated in the Holy Spirit, become two majestic trees in us.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

Is prayer the only weapon of the Christian against the forces of hell always attacking his life or does one have to add the grace to it?

It is truth. The Christian has the weapon of prayer so that he may result winning against the insatiable hatred of the world that befalls against him with satanic will of elimination from the earth. The prayer is a request of liberation from every evil. It is will of God that the liberation from evil is required. Man is too fragile, too weak, too little grown in grace and in wisdom to think he can always conquer evil remaining in good. Jesus, too, He God and Son of God, as true man, asked the Father for the liberation from the cross, but putting himself in full obedience to his eternal and divine will. The disciple of Jesus can never challenge evil. It would be a great arrogance. He would succumb. We may always ask the Lord that He frees us from evil. It is his will. It is his teaching. It is his Gospel. But if, for a mystery of his will, the Lord cannot free us from the physical evil, as we have to necessarily pass through it, as Jesus passed through his passion and death by crucifixion, we must always ask with heartfelt prayer that He does not abandon us to temptation, that He gives us every strength so that we can conquer it.

The Christian conquers if he always dwells with heart, soul, will, feelings, with all his body in the divine Word. The just is victorious remaining in the faith, rather, walking from faith into faith. Here is what the Lord

reveals to Habakuk: "Write down the vision Clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. The rash man has no integrity; but the just man, because of his faith, shall live." (Hb 2, 1-2, 4). Only by grace of God, however, one can always remain in the Word of the Lord with full and perfect obedience at the time of sufferance and of the cross. For this reason, the Christian must daily grow in grace in the same way as Jesus grew in grace. Growing in grace, growing in prayer, remaining in the true faith, one remains in life even if the body has to pass through death so that a mystery unknown to us will have to be fulfilled. This truth reveals that the most powerful weapon of the prayer will have to be accompanied by the other weapon, most powerful it too, that is the grace of the Lord. Prayer and grace must be one only thing. If one omits the growth in grace, one will always have little faith to pray and it is then that evil conquers us.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Get behind me, Satan!

Faith in the prayer

Nothing will be impossible for God.

Prayer has some laws. What are the most essential, necessary that must be observed so that each of our prayer might be granted?

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

