

SPIRITUAL NOTES - PRUDENCE

After the general introduction, in which he compared virtues to a tattoo of the soul, Don Antonio Severino now presents the second note of the series (Virtù, 2), dedicated to prudence

As before a tattoo artist who shows us the various designs he can recreate on our skin and we choose one of them, so from time to time I will show you a virtue that the Holy Spirit can engrave in our lives. We will choose the one we like best to then be able to receive the others too.

Let us choose the first distinctive sign of a Christian among the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. What is prudence? Prudence is the light of the Lord that helps you to give the right solution at the right time. How do you always give the right solution to a problem? With prayer, with a time of reflection, evaluating the consequences of a choice. What am I getting to? What will this way produce for me and around me? Does it produce any harm?

Prudence is like a "radar" that makes you see a missile, an asteroid, an evil before it hits you so that you can dodge it and save yourself.

Today, prudence is not very much in vogue because impulsiveness, instinct and desires that must be absolutely satisfied, the "all experiences must be done", are all things contrary to it, they are not virtues.

Jesus tells us: "Be as prudent as snakes". He says it when he sends us like sheep among wolves. Our Master wants us not to be naive. In the world there are wolves and many times they are camouflaged as lambs. How to recognize them before they rip us off? It is not possible except with the virtue of prudence!! Is giving information, placing photos, saying you are in a place, revealing your heart, your thoughts on social media, prudent? Are social media only used by "sheep" or even by "wolves"?

Prudence also helps in the family. When there are heated discussions, misunderstandings, quarrels and discords, prudence helps you so that feelings do not take the upper hand, feelings like wrath, anger and violence. Prudence suggests that you do not need to add wood to the fire, otherwise it becomes a fire with great damage. Prudence makes you say the right word at the right time because the right word is not enough, even the right time is needed.

Prudence makes you understand what to say, what to do and what to think in order to be safe in every situation; it makes you avoid evil that like a missile wants to hit and destroy you. Do we like this tattoo, do we want to have this "radar" be engraved on us? Is it one of our features?

Father Antonio Severino

Let no man divide what God has joined

The world in which Jesus is sent to fulfil his mission of salvation is strongly religious but not believing. With the lips it is with God. With the heart it is very far, because it is very distant from the obedience to the command received. Born from the Word of the living God, finds itself no longer with Word. Man's thought has replaced the thought of God. However, with cunning, it made the thought of men pass as the most pure divine will. In this world Jesus is alone. He does not even have the comfort of his disciples. They too are imbued with thoughts according to the world. Jesus announces this truth to Simon firmly, inviting to take the place of the disciple. To Jesus he acted as Satan and as a tempter, because of his thoughts not according to God, but according to men. Thus Simon becomes the figure of all those disciples of Jesus, who say they follow the Master, while in reality they only pursue their thoughts.

Jesus is the eternal Word of the Father. He is alone against everyone. Everyone comes and puts him to the test. He asks him questions on which, if all the fullness of the Holy Spirit is not in the heart and mind, it is easy to fall. Jesus does not fall into temptation because at night, alone, in the greatest silence and in prayer, he had the comfort and support of the Father. Every day the world asked him to be world. Every night the Father asked him to be from him, through him and with him. The Father won because the love for his Father was divinely and infinitely stronger than love for the world, in Jesus. He denied the world and

confessed the Father. St. Paul tells us that He annihilated himself, made himself a servant of the Father, and was obedient to Him unto death on the cross. Every Christian must learn from Jesus that it is impossible to remain faithful to the truth of the Father, of Christ Jesus, of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary according to the Gospel, if love for heaven does not become powerfully and divinely strong.

Today, the Pharisees ask him if it is lawful for a husband to reject his wife. If Jesus had started from the heart of man and his hardness, he would certainly have replied that it is lawful. Instead He starts from the heart of his Father, from his will, just as it has been revealed from the beginning. Not only does he say what God's will was from the beginning. He also says that today God has not modified that will, nor can he modify it, because man has been created with that will and that will has become man's nature. According to the Father, man according to God is this and not another. If the Father so wishes, so it must be. No one might modify, change, alter and transform the Father's will. If he did so, he would create a new humanity on earth, but it would no longer be the one desired by the Father. But if man creates himself his humanity, it is a humanity for death and not for life, for darkness and not for light. Mother of God, Blessed Virgin, Woman created most pure and immaculate by God, help the disciples of Jesus to always work for the creation of the humanity desired by the Father and not for the other whose author is the ancient serpent.

Father Costantino Di Bruno

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ADHESION TO THE WORD OF THE GOSPEL AND THE ACTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reflections starting from the homily of H.H. Francis
in the IX World Meeting of Families (Dublin 26.8.2018)

In the homily given by the Holy Father on the occasion of the IX World Meeting of Families (Dublin 26 August 2018) we are asked the recognition of the source of good things that each family receives from God. In particular Pope Francis, looks at the historical way through which the Lord God comes to meet us with his gifts: adhesion to the word of the Gospel, a word united inextricably to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Commenting on the Gospel of the day, the pope recalls that this same word, for some, appears to be a "hard word", whereas for the Lord this is "spirit and life" (Jn 6:63). In fact, it is a word contrary to the wisdom of this world, that wisdom that does not have in itself the power to save man either from his sin or to change the inner direction of his life. In fact, the word of the world has the power to touch man only on the surface; instead, in his Word inhabited by the Spirit, the Lord works in us a transformation, a reconstruction of the image he has impressed on every human being since the creation of the world. The Gospel of John can help us to understand this dynamism. In fact Jesus proclaims this singular action of the Spirit: "When he comes, he will convince the world as regards sin, justice and judgment. As for sin, because they do not believe in me; as for justice, because I go to the Father and you will not see me again; as for judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged. I still have many things to say to you; but they are not within your reach for now; but when he has come, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you in all truth, because he will not speak of his own, but will say all that he has heard and he will announce you things

to come. He will glorify me because he will take mine and announce it to you. All the things that the Father has are mine; this is why I said that he will take mine and he will announce it to you" (Jn 16: 5-15).

The light inherent in the word of God, in the faith of the hearts that believe, becomes lived experience through the Holy Spirit. Thus Pope Francis reminds us that "the Spirit of God constantly breathes new life on the world, in hearts, in families, in homes and in parishes. Every new day in the life of our families and every new generation, brings with it the promise of a new Pentecost, a domestic Pentecost, a new outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, which Jesus sends us as our Advocate, our Comforter and the One who really gives us courage" (Homily).

Therefore, love in families has its inner source in the lived faith of mother, father, children and sometimes, grandparents, if they are alive, only to the extent that those 'hard words' are lived. Pope Francis says: "However, this teaching, although magnificent, can appear to someone as a "hard word". Because living in love, as Christ loved us, involves the imitation of his own self-sacrifice, involves dying to ourselves to be reborn to a greater and more lasting love. That love that alone can save the world from the slavery of sin, from selfishness, from greed and indifference towards the needs of the less fortunate. This is the love we have known in Jesus Christ" (Homily).

May the Mother of the Lord grant everyone the strength to live the word of her Son Jesus.

Father Domenico Concolino

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

IS IT LAWFUL FOR A HUSBAND
TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE?
(XXVII SUNDAY O.T. YEAR B)

IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE MAN TO BE ALONE (Gn 2,18-24)

The Lord God creates man, places him in a garden of delights, gives him a command to observe. He can eat from all the trees in the garden, but not from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Its fruits are for death and not for life. The Lord observes and sees that man is alone. He decides to make him a help that corresponds to him. He creates all species and every kind of animal, introduces them to man, but the man did not find in them anyone that was his corresponding help. He is of a different nature. The ontological leap is great. There is an abyss between animals and man. Then he sends him a torpor. The man falls asleep. The Lord takes a rib from him and forms the woman with it. The man sees her and recognizes her as flesh from his flesh and bone from his bones. The truth of man and woman and of their indissoluble unity that is created at the moment of marriage is all in the truth of these images. Eternal truth.

ALL HAVE ONE ORIGIN (Heb 2: 9-11)

Jesus can be our saviour and redeemer because He too, is our true brother and true son of Adam, according to the flesh. In Jesus there is the double birth. The eternal and divine one, from the Father by generation in the today of eternity. He is God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, generated, not created, of the same substance as the Father. The Word became flesh. He has become true man. As a true man he was born of the Virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit. Being true flesh, he is true son of Adam, even if born without original sin, because his

Mother had been preserved for His merits given to her in anticipation from this sin, even Jesus was born without original sin. He is most pure flesh from pure flesh, most holy flesh from the most holy flesh. Being a true man, he can save every man, because has become a brother of every man. This truth is of every one of his disciples: because he is a man and because he is the Body of Christ.

WHOEVER DIVORCES HIS WIFE (Mk 10,2-16)

Jesus is not from the thought of the world, from the traditions of the ancients nor from the revelation given by the Father to Moses and to the prophets who came after him. Jesus came to be today by the full will of the Father and to fulfil all the will of the Father, both to that revealed through the prophets as well as to that which had not yet been revealed. Jesus is the perfect and full accomplishment. After He has spoken, there are no other accomplishments. There is also not even a possibility that one can think or act differently from his Word. The Pharisees wished they could make divorce the divine law. Jesus answers them that this is not the will of his Father. He did not create a man and a woman with only physical union. He created man and woman to become a unity of nature, one body, one flesh, one life, one breath, one gasp. Marriage according to God is not a human contract. It is a true creation. Creation is in nature. Having created nature, never might it become another nature. It would not be the nature created by God.

*by the theologian,
Father Costantino Di Bruno*