

SPIRITUAL NOTES - JUSTICE

The series of notes dedicated to virtues continues

On this virtue there is even a promise of bliss: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice because they will be satisfied." Living this virtue makes us blessed!

One must be careful not to identify evangelical justice with human justice. Human justice most often coincides, for example, with the penalty to be given to a person who has committed a crime. In fact, we often hear people say: "I just want justice for...", meaning: "It is right that he pays for what he did".

Is this the evangelical justice that makes us blessed? No, absolutely not; if this were the case, would we all perhaps be blessed !! Justice, the virtue, is linked to the law, to the Law of God, but not to punishment, but to its observance. He is a righteous person, he lives justice the one who keeps all the laws of the Lord. I am giving an example: St. Joseph, Mary's spouse - Scripture says - is a just person because he kept all the Lord's commandments. His choices lead us to know another aspect of justice: desiring the greater good for the other !! When he knows that his bride is pregnant (he still doesn't know that she is through the work of the Holy Spirit), what does he decide, what does he want? He does not want human justice - that is, that Maria pays or suffers the penalty foreseen at that time for the woman found pregnant before she got married, that is, stoning - but he

wants to save her from all this and decides to dismiss her in secret, to protect the one who apparently had caused him a great harm!

Who then is the person evangelically right? He who does not do any harm to people, renounces any action that may cause some pain, both physical and moral to others. Whoever lives this justice is blessed, who does not live it is not blessed. Now, do we perhaps, understand why the blessed are not so many !!

This virtue makes us similar to Jesus, to God. In fact He says: "I did not come to judge and condemn the world but to save it". We could thus translate: "I did not think for you of the pain to be inflicted on you for the sins committed, but I thought for you the greatest good because my desire is to save you all!" However, we enter this salvation if we have the same desire for all our brother and sister.

Finally, the being "satisfied" promised to whoever is hungry and thirsty for justice, that is, to whoever feels that living every word of the Gospel is a primary good, does not concern just a reward in Heaven, but also a Providence here on this earth. In fact: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and its justice and all these things will be given to you in addition." God will never make food, drink, dress and everything else essential to life in this world be missing to who every day strives to live according to the commandments and all its laws. It is the word of God, our God is righteous, he is the first one to observe his own word.

I think that as a tattoo of the soul for this virtue we can draw four footprints: the two in front, the larger ones (those of Jesus, of God the Father) and the two small ones a little further back (ours, those of the children of God, of the disciples of Jesus) to indicate that we want to go their very way, to walk in their same way and in the same justice.

Father Antonio Severino



They took the Lord away from the tomb

Every Gospel pericope is made up of many details. A mystery is hidden in each of them. We must always ask the Holy Spirit to comfort us with his powerful light so that at least fragments of truth can be drawn from them. If the prayer is constant and without any interruption, the Spirit of the Lord will always give us his light and the truth might appear with more clarity and evidence. If the prayer is not raised or is interrupted, it becomes difficult to make the truth come out of the details and it is then that the Gospel is read, but not understood. It is read as if it were a fairy tale. Today, the Holy Spirit that is no longer a part either of the Catholic or religious world of many, the Gospel is seen as a true storybook. We read it, but only as historical news and an event of yesterday. Our life can do without it. All spiritual and moral decisions we take attest to this.

On the first day of the week, early in the morning, Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb. She knows that Jesus is in the tomb and goes towards it, because she wants to prepare the Master's body for burial. On the day of his death they were able to carry out a very simple ritual. Jesus was not honoured according to all the customs of the time. Now that the Sabbath has passed, they can dedicate themselves with greater care and diligence. No thoughts on resurrection. No faith in the words spoken by Jesus as he headed for Jerusalem. Yet the resurrection had been prophesied along with death. Both are a single mystery, not two. Those words had not entered the heart. Not

even when Mary saw the open tomb did she think of the resurrection. Instead, she imagined that someone had come and had stolen the body. This is the news that she brings to Peter and to John: "They took the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they placed him". Mary does not look for risen Jesus, she looks for dead Jesus. She is looking for a body to prepare for a burial with no turning back. This is the thought of her heart.

The two apostles of the Lord run. They see the order that reigns in the tomb. Jesus was not stolen. Nothing is revealed of Peter. Giovanni instead tells us that he has seen and believed. Now a second detail that deserves our attention. They leave the tomb, leave Mary and return home. Nothing is said to the woman about their experience or their intimate conviction. Not even a word about the resurrection. A faith is born and it is kept in the heart. It is not communicated. This attitude of incommunicability is not far from us. We know that people look for Christ, even if in a way that is not entirely consistent with the truth, yet we say nothing of the faith that is in our heart. We keep everything hidden inside. We leave people in great uncertainty and deprive them of all hope, because we communicate nothing of the richness that is in our heart. It is not true faith the one that is imprisoned and segregated in the heart. Mother of God, ensure that every Christian is the singer of his faith before the whole world.

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ALWAYS START FROM HEAVEN

Reflections starting from the homily of H.H. Francis on Ash Wednesday (6.3.2019)

The people of Israel was led by the Lord on its journey of forty years in the desert through Moses, in view of reaching the Promised Land. Similarly, Lent is a figure of the journey of man on earth, which needs to be guided from Heaven, for ecclesial mediation, in view of achieving eternal glory.

From the Holy Father Francis this liturgical time, which precedes the celebration of the Easter of the Lord, is compared to "an alarm clock for the soul". The sound of this alarm clock is characterized by the "message that the Lord transmits by the mouth of the prophet, a brief and heartfelt message:" Return to me "(Gl 2.12). Returning. If we have to return, it means that we have gone elsewhere. Lent is the time to rediscover the route of life. For in the path of life, as in every journey, what really matters is not losing sight of the goal" (Homily).

What is the goal that needs to be refocused? "The Lord is the destination of our journey in the world. The route must be set on Him".

To whom should we orient our gaze to be led to the goal? "Towards the Crucifix. Jesus on the cross is the compass of life, which directs us to Heaven".

Christ the Lord is identified with the course to be followed and with the goal to be reached by the Holy Father; orientation or compass and end of our earthly pilgrimage. To direct the journey of man towards the Crucified Christ, it is necessary to focus him again before his own eyes. The gaze of man can be prevented from seeing Christ as an orientation and goal, for two reasons: either he is obscured in his eyes by others or his eyes are obscured to him. Ch-

rist is obscured to man when the integrity of his Word and showing it with the exemplarity of life is omitted to be frankly announced. It is incapable of recognizing him where he manifests himself because of sin and the vice that lurks in the heart of man.

It should be emphasized that we must have Christ before us not only as a goal towards which to strive, but also as a source from which to draw light and strength. "Here is where Lent invites us to look at: towards the Heaven, with the prayer, ... towards the other, with charity, ... to look inside us, with fasting". Each relationship with the other and with oneself generates salvation if the relationship with transcendence is recovered. It is from Heaven that the light of truth and the power of grace descend - through the mediation of Christ and his Ecclesial Body - on whose track the charity to be used towards men is expressed and on whose foundation we are converted daily. If the relationship with Heaven is interrupted, one sinks into an ethical and truthful darkness and confusion and division reign.

The path that leads to salvation needs to always start from Heaven, to recover the vertical mediation, Christ-Church, which is the only mystery reality, the descending and ascending "ladder". It is through it that the light of truth and the power of grace descend, just as through it one draws what has descended, so that regenerated to new life he can walk to reach the joy of Heaven.

Most Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us to divert mind and heart from the earth and to direct them towards Heaven. Through its way we want to walk and reach it.

Father Giuseppe Carrabetta

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

THEY DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURE
(RESURRECTION SUNDAY - Year C)

THIS MAN GOD RAISED (ON) THE THIRD (Acts 10.34a.37-43)

The announcement of the resurrection is a primary, essential event of faith in Christ Jesus. It is the seal of God on the full truth of his person and on every other Word uttered and announced by him. It is the attestation from the Father that really, substantially and truly Jesus is his Son and he is his Son because in Him all the Words of the prophecy on the Lord's Messiah are fulfilled. It attests and reveals that finally death has been defeated forever. But who is death defeated for? For those who become one body in Christ and live with him and for him. Whoever refuses to believe in Christ and does not become the body of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus, will forever belong to the kingdom of death. For him the doors of life will be closed forever. The resurrection of Jesus must always be the heart of the announcement of the Lord's disciples. It is the only true hope of humanity.

IF YOU WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST (Col 3,1-4)

With baptism a double mystery takes place in the Christian: one dies to sin, to the flesh, to disobedience, to every enmity and rebellion with the Lord and he is born as new creature, becoming one with Christ Jesus. If Jesus is in heaven seated at the right hand of the Father, even the Christian is in heaven, in Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father. They are one body and one life. Christ in heaven desires the things of the Father. Even the Christian must desire the things of the Father. What are these things desired by Lord Jesus? Forming for

his Father a kingdom of new men, zealous in every good work, ready to do his justice, clothed with the breastplate of obedience, with the belt of charity and with the shoes of hope. Jesus wants a kingdom of God in which sin no longer dominates, but grace, no longer falsehood and lie, but light, no longer egoism, but mutual love and towards all.

HE HAD TO RISE FROM THE DEAD (Jn 20,1-9)

Seeing the tomb and the great order there is in it, the Apostle John comes to the faith that Jesus is risen. However, the sepulchre is not the proof of the resurrection, it is only a sign that it actually took place. Instead, the Word of Jesus is a proof of the resurrection. Indeed, his death on the cross, his passion, his pain and his humiliation are proof of it. Scripture has always prophesied the mystery of the Messiah in his great humiliation and in his highest exaltation and also in the abundance of the fruits that would have ripened from it. Since the Word is one, not two, when one part is fulfilled, the other one is also infallibly fulfilled. Thus, the resurrection becomes the attestation of the full truth of Jesus. He is the Christ of God, his Beloved Son, the King of the eternal Kingdom, the Lord, the powerful Redeemer, the Prince of peace, the Saviour of man, the Only and universal mediator between God and humanity. Without faith in the mystery of Lord Jesus, there will be no true salvation for any man. Everything is from faith in Christ Jesus. He is the source of life.

by the theologian,
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