

NOTES - "CHRISTUS VIVIT":

THE COURAGE TO LIGHT UP STARS IN THE NIGHT - 2

When asked what he sees when he thinks of a young man, the Pope gave this answer: "I see a boy or a girl looking for the personal path, who wants to fly with his feet, who looks out on the world and looks at the horizon with eyes full of hope, full of future and also illusions. The young man goes with two feet like the adults, but unlike the adults, who keep them parallel, he always has one in front of the other, ready to go and to spring. Always launched forward. Talking about young people means talking about promises and it means talking about joy. The young are so strong, they are capable of looking with hope. A young person is a promise of life that has a certain innate degree of tenacity; he has enough madness to be able to deceive himself and the sufficient capacity to be able to recover from the disappointment that can derive from it" [139].

Therefore, a young man has always one foot in front of the other: he is ready for a spring of novelty. He knows how to risk, even though perhaps this may cost him a cross of disappointment. But what is the intimate secret of this springing, the one that makes it an occasion of salvation for himself and for others? The light of the risen Christ that makes new and every day each work. This is the "missionary" star that we

should all light up:

«The Lord calls us to light stars in the night of other young people; he invites us to look at the true stars, those so diversified signs that He gives us so that we do not remain still, but imitate the sower who observed the stars to be able to plough the field. God lights up stars for us so that we can continue to walk: "The stars shone in their guard posts and rejoiced; he called them and they answered" (Bar 3: 34-35). But Christ himself is for us the great light of hope and guidance in our night, because He is "the radiant morning star" (Rev 22,16) [33].

This passage outlines a celestial stratigraphy: there is the missionary vocation so that the lives of many young people is enlightened; the invitation to a profound understanding of historical and natural reality to grasp the presence of God and move towards others (the peasant who observes before ploughing); before each of our movements, there is the loving action of God who lights up the stars in the sky for us and, in risen Christ, becomes our morning star. If Almighty God does this for us, why do we sometimes obscure others, and especially young people, forgetting the riches that the Lord has placed in them? I like to think that the shining of each star in the night corresponds to the name of a boy who is always called by the Lord to a personal project and the latter does not debase it, does not make it lose anything, because in God's eyes its existence is precious.

May the Mother of the Redemption be able to give birth to Christ in our hearts, at every moment. Thus we will make every reality in which we operate young and make room for the riches of grace present in every person.

Anna Guzzi

O God, have mercy on me a sinner

Humility is confessing without any interruption or pause, of not even a microsecond, that both by creation and also by redemption and justification, we are from the love of the Father, for the grace of Christ Jesus, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, through the sacramental and ministerial mediation of the Church. When only one of these truths, from which both our natural and spiritual life are, is forgotten, it is then that man becomes proud. He thinks he is from himself, from his skill, ability, science, intelligence and strength. He does not know that every cell of his body, of his spirit and of his soul is a gift of the Father, for Christ, in the Holy Spirit. It is as if the tree was thought of by itself and forgot that before it was a seed produced by a tree and that if today it is majestic, it was not self-made. It needed the earth, the sun, the water, the wind, the air and even the farmer's good care. Every man is from God by creation. He is in the friendship of God by grace. He is in holiness for the Holy Spirit. He walks in faith and in charity because he is always supported by the mediation of the Church.

The Pharisee forgets the truth of his origin and also of his religion. He sees himself from himself. This vision of sin gives him the right to judge, condemn and despise his brothers who are not Pharisees like him, that is, proud and blinded by the moral evil that consumes and corrodes their spirit and their soul. Why is he good? Because he is able to do some things. He does not realize that all he can do is human and not divine things. What is this man's justice about? In not being

like others: thieves and unjust adulterers. He fasts twice a week and pays tithes of everything he owns. However, he forgets about saying that he pays tithes with money extorted deceitfully, devouring the homes of widows and poor. He also omits to say that he is the greatest unjust and thief on earth. He steals from God what is his and deprives him of every right over man. He also neglects to say that his heart is not only as dry as a desert, unable to produce any fruit of mercy, compassion and piety towards his brothers, in addition he judges them and condemns them with great severity. He is a thief of the glory of God and is also a thief of mercy and piety towards this man oppressed by his sin that comes to the temple to ask for mercy, compassion and piety from his God rich in love and benevolence.

The publican acknowledges his guilt. He sinned. He wants to return to the light of his Lord. For this, deeply repented, he asks forgiveness from his God. Can the Lord not listen to this heart? He immediately grants him all forgiveness. He frees him from his faults. Instead, the Pharisee might not be forgiven because he came to the temple to celebrate himself and to condemn others. The Pharisee has no God. He is God of himself. But who is God of himself, is a sad, poor and petty God. He is a damned God, because he might never be wrapped in the mercy of the true God. Mother of God, give us your humility, so that we too are eternally servants of the Lord, for the fulfilment of his Word.

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THE BEATITUDES, LIFE OF CHRIST AND OF THE CHRISTIAN

*Reflections starting from the Homily
of H.H. Francis in Port Louis (9.9.2019)*

«**The** Beatitudes are like the identity card of the Christian. So, if any of us asks the question: "How do you go about being a good Christian?" The answer is simple: it is necessary to do, each in his own way, what Jesus says in the discourse of the Beatitudes. In them the face of the Master is outlined, which we are called to reveal in the daily life of our existence (Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exultate*, 63)».

With these words the Holy Father Francis intended to recall the attention of the pastors and the people of God on the decisive importance of the Beatitudes with regard to building up the kingdom of God as well as the salvation of every soul.

The Beatitudes are the new law, the Gospel of salvation. The Beatitudes are the perfect, holy rule for a man to come out of the egoism of his sin and enter into divine love, in Christ Jesus, who makes him an instrument of his love for all mankind.

If the Beatitudes are the very life of Christ, if only they manifest God on this earth, who wants to evangelize the world, who wants to make God present on our earth - and the Christian is called to be a manifestation of God in the world, a real, true and authentic manifestation, without imperfections, without limits of any kind - he must clothe himself with the Beatitudes - which is equivalent to putting on Christ - he must fully embody the spirit of the Beatitudes. A Christian who lives the Beatitudes manifests the beauty of Christ, his extraordinary capacity to love, the splendour of his grace, the light that is life and a gift of life. The Beatitudes are the only way of true evangelization of hearts and their sanctification.

The Beatitudes are composed of two

works: one is of man, the other is of God. If man puts his work into being, God will put his work; if man fails to do his work, God might not accomplish what his work is.

What is said for Beatitudes also applies to the blessing: man gives God obedience to the Commandments, God gives life to man, all abundance of life; man takes away his obedience, God cannot give man life.

Bliss is the joy of a heart full of God, it is the life of God given in abundance to the heart. When can God give himself to the heart? When the heart gives itself to God. How can we give our hearts to God? Giving us to his Word and to listening to his voice.

The way of salvation is the accepted Beatitudes, made our flesh and our blood, transformed into our lives. This was the strength and the way of Christ Jesus; this was the way and the form of the Saints; this is the way and the form to which each of us is called.

The words of Pope Francis are echoed, that expresses himself in these terms: "At the foot of this mountain, which today I wish it were the mountain of the Beatitudes, we too must recover this invitation to be happy. Only joyful Christians arouse the desire to follow that path; the word "happy" or "blessed" becomes synonymous with "saint", because it expresses that the person faithful to God and who lives his Word reaches true bliss in the gift of himself".

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, obtain for us the desire and the strength to enter into the spirit of the Beatitudes, making us capable of being effective evangelizers concerning the salvation of souls and thus granting us the grace to give a new soul to the world.

Father Giuseppe Comi

**The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE**

**THE LATTER WENT HOME JUSTIFIED
(XXX SUNDAY O.T. - Year C)**

THE PRAYER OF THE LOWLY PIERCES
THE CLOUDS (Sir 35.12-14.16-18)

What prayer is heard by the Lord? That of a person rich in humility, mercy, piety and compassion. He is humble who always lives, thinks, works in the fear of the Lord and depends in everything on the divine will, contained in the Word, made alive and actual by the wisdom that lives in his heart, always as a present gift from God. Who obeys God, who lives to do God's will is always heard by the Lord. He always asks from the will of God to do the will of God. Instead, he is rich of mercy, piety and compassion who knows how to listen to the cry of the poor, the derelict, the disinherited, the wretched, the needy and the one who has only the alms of the brothers to live. Whoever listens to the poor will always be heard by God. Whoever is rich in mercy will be eternally blessed by his Lord.

I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH
(2Tm 4: 6-8.16-18)

Faith is the gift from which every other gift of grace, truth, light and eternal life descends into our hearts. If faith is preserved intact and pure, growing from faith to faith and walking from truth to truth, the doors of the eternal kingdom of God will open for us. Instead, if it is lost, because little attention has been paid and we have let ourselves be overcome by temptation, there will be no true salvation for us, either today or ever. How is faith preserved? Through a double obedience: to the Word and to the Holy Spirit. The Word is universal, equal for all, without any distinction. We must all live the Sermon on the

Mount and we must all observe every other Word of Jesus. Instead, obedience to the Holy Spirit is personal. The Spirit of God is obeyed by obeying his every gift of grace, truth, ministry, vocation and mission. Everyone must know what he is called by the Spirit to and pay obedience.

TWO PEOPLE WENT UP TO THE
TEMPLE AREA TO PRAY (Lk 18,9-14)

The Lord established that every man, in Christ Jesus and in the Holy Spirit, is saviour and redeemer of every other brother. Is a path of light and truth, of justice, love, peace, forgiveness, mercy and eternal life. The great sin of the Pharisee is not only that of not being what by divine will he should have been for publicans and for every transgressor of the Law of the Lord, that is, the way to salvation. He is also transformed into a ferocious accuser of his brothers before God. If God did not know that the tax collector is a sinner, the Pharisee reminds him of it so that he pays great attention not to grant his forgiveness. He doesn't deserve it. Not only does sin produce blindness in the heart, it also puts evil and malice into it. When a man has no compassion for his brothers, let him know that even if he knocks at the heart of God, never will the doors of his mercy open. Whoever judges the brothers he will be judged and condemned. Whoever is without mercy, he will remain without mercy. Our God, the true and living God, is the one revealed in Scripture whose truth is given by the Holy Spirit.

*by the theologian,
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