

New Brighton, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Last Sunday, we heard the healing of the deaf-mute in the Gospel, to strengthen and place deep in our heart the absolute necessity of the virtue of Faith for our salvation. This supernatural virtue is to be received in Humility.

Today, the Holy Gospel gives us some practicalities about our Life in Christ, since we ought to live according to the sweet Law of our Divine Master. This Life, received from God is to be lived in Charity, because

“Faith, which guides the just man, is enough to make him estimate the life of the senses for what it really is, – miserable and grovelling. With the aid of ordinary grace, he easily lives in that intimate retirement of the soul, wherein he knows that the holy Trinity resides, – he knows it, because he has it from the teaching of the Scripture. His heart is a kind of heaven, where his life is hidden in God, together with that Jesus upon whom are fixed all his thoughts: a there he gives to his beloved Lord the only proof of love which is to be trusted, the only one that this Lord asks at our hands, the keeping of the commandments.”<sup>1</sup>

We will give the full acknowledgment of everything we received through Faith if only we practice Charity. And Jesus Himself gave us the perfect example to follow in this practice of Charity. As usual, He applied to Himself his own doctrine, to lead us on the way of perfection. He is the first good Samaritan, who came to fallen mankind and saved it from its iniquity.

When Jesus was asked what we should do to gain eternal life, he answered with the commandments. But as the answer didn't seem to be enough for the questioner, he continued with this well-known parable of the Samaritan, and continued with the example of his Life given for us. The full accomplishment of this parable is obvious within the Sacrifice of the Cross.

Jesus took upon him our iniquity, in like manner the Samaritan laid the poor man upon his own beast. Jesus offered His sacrifice to His Father, paying the price for our sins with His Divine Life, like the Samaritan paid the innkeeper for the trouble. Moreover, in the parable, he said: “whatever more you spend, I, on my way back, will repay you”.

In this sentence is given to us the direction of our life. We are already saved, as the sacrifice has been offered once for all. But we must still participate to its offering, without any exception. This small word of the Samaritan is the commandment Jesus is giving us this morning: to spend our life on earth in participation to his divine Passion, through a constant offering, dying to ourselves in spirit, waiting until the natural death will bring us to the sovereign judge.

Death, which is a wrenching moment, “the moment of the tearing apart of human substance”, can nonetheless, in the perspective of advancing time, be illuminated, “appearing as the supreme point of maturation of a destiny,

---

<sup>1</sup> Dom Guéranger, The Liturgical Year, 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

accompanied by the feeling that we have reached maturity, that our destiny is truly accomplished, that it is a completed destiny of which we make an offering to God to enter, if it pleases him, into his eternity.

There are premature deaths, but I don't mean the death of young people, because after all, however brief an existence may be, it can be enough to mature a destiny. But this death will be truly premature, for it will not find us ready to appear before God, and will surprise us in the midst of becoming, uncertain of our true face, and not at the end we should have reached.”<sup>2</sup>

Blessed a thousand times over is the Christian who, at death, could without temerity repeat softly in his heart Jesus' words to the Father: “As for me, I have glorified you on earth, having consummated the work you gave me to do.”<sup>34</sup>

Illuminated with Faith, our Charity is assured to be practiced in a good way, because it truly followed our unique Master. During the supreme consumption of his Divine love, as he was offering his Sacrifice, he never lost the beatific vision, and has the constant sight of the Father and the Holy Ghost.

When we are under trial, when Charity seems difficult to practice, let's remember our Lord on the cross, and ask of Him the divine help, the Light of the Faith which will bring us to life everlasting.

At the heart of the cross of Jesus shines an extraordinary light which shines throughout His last words. This marvelous light is the Word itself, image of the invisible God, reflection of his glory and imprint of his substance, sustaining all things by the decree of his power.<sup>5</sup>

Faith needs the support of Charity to bring us to heaven. Charity, on this earth, needs the divine food of Faith to be practiced and gain us the eternal reward.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

---

<sup>2</sup> Olivier Lacombe, Existence de l'homme.

<sup>3</sup> Jn, XVII, 4.

<sup>4</sup> Cardinal Journet, les 7 parole du Christ en Croix, 6<sup>e</sup> parole. Translated with [www.deepl.com](http://www.deepl.com).

<sup>5</sup> Cardinal Journet, les 7 parole du Christ en Croix, 7<sup>e</sup> parole.