

From the Fathers

From a Homily by Pope S. Paul VI

We proclaim Christ to the whole world

Not to preach the Gospel would be my undoing, for Christ himself sent me as his apostle and witness. The more remote, the more difficult the assignment, the more my love of God spurs me on. I am bound to proclaim that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God. Because of him we come to know the God we cannot see. He is the firstborn of all creation; in him all things find their being. Man's teacher and redeemer, he was born for us, died for us, and for us he rose from the dead. All things, all history converges in Christ. A man of sorrow and hope, he knows us and loves us. As our friend he stays by us throughout our lives; at the end of time he will come to be our judge; but we also know that he will be the complete fulfilment of our lives and our great happiness for all eternity. I can never cease to speak of Christ for he is our truth and our light; he is the way, the truth and the life. He is our bread, our source of living water who allays our hunger and satisfies our thirst. He is our shepherd, our leader, our ideal, our comforter and our brother. He is like us but more perfectly human, simple, poor, humble, and yet, while burdened with work, he is more patient. He spoke on our behalf; he worked miracles; and he founded a new kingdom: in it the poor are happy; peace is the foundation of a life in common; where the pure of heart and those who mourn are uplifted and comforted; the hungry find justice; sinners are forgiven; and all discover that they are brothers. Remember: it is Jesus Christ I preach day in and day out. His name I would see echo and re-echo for all time even to the ends of the earth.

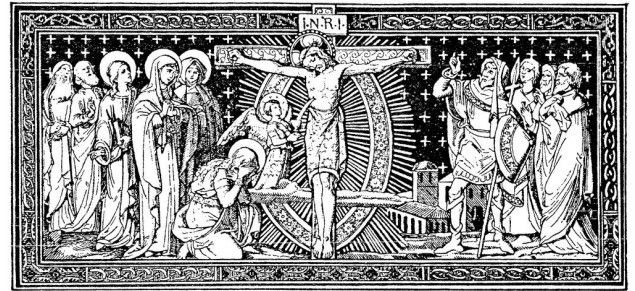
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O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be the children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

2nd July 2023

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



True and authentic discipleship is costly. The Lord Jesus says as much time and again. Discipleship demands something of us, it demands sacrifice, it requires a laying down as well as a taking up. Following Christ always means leaving something behind which hitherto we have followed. So when in today's Gospel the Lord says, 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers sons or daughter is not worthy of me', he is not denying the importance or the goodness of the family. No. Family is a gift from God, but it is not God. No thing in all creation should be treated with primacy and ultimacy, but God alone. No thing and no one is to be followed (in the fullest most total sense of that word) but Christ alone. Therefore, the Lord is saying to us, let nothing demand your ultimate loyalty but me – no matter how precious it might be, no matter how good. Do not forsake your family, but do not treat it as ultimate (families are at their worst and most destructive when they become ultimate). Instead, see your family in its properly vocational context: at its best, the family is a place where each member – through the love of the family – finds his and her vocation and takes his and her place in the mission of Christ. The family is a precious means whereby we live more deeply our discipleship of Christ; it is not a substitute for discipleship. At its best the love of the family strengthens and schools us to take up Christ's cross and follow in his steps.

Today's Gospel: St. Matthew 10:37-42