

Homily for Sunday 27 August 2017

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Word of God invites us to reflect on the authority that God bestows on his children, for the guidance, administration, accompaniment, help, sanctification, healing and Reprehension of his people.

For this reflection we have two very similar texts, on one hand is Isaiah 22.19-23, who prophesies about the spiritual leader who will govern the people. Of course you are accompanied by certain signs to know that you have been chosen by God.

In the Gospel of Matthew 16, 13-20. It is the same Jesus who with a question points to the servant who will govern the new people of Israel.

When appointing a leader: First, God chooses him and calls him by name. God always takes the initiative to call us by name, there is the importance of baptism since we will all be called by our own name (I hope we do not put strange names to animals or children because they are going to be confused when God calls them). From baptism we are grafted into the people of God, where God will call the person who guides and sanctify the people of God by name.

Second, God bestow his own dignity on the priest to exercise ministry. So even if he is wearing a very luxurious and expensive suit that will not surpass the image of a good shepherd, reconciler and even of judge before God.

Third, God grants Him authority on earth and in heaven, not to change what is established by Him since creation, not to accommodate personal interests or manipulate consciences, but to teach through the word and testimony, the knowledge of God. This part makes me very special remembering San Cipriano, who says: No one can have God for Father, unless he has the church for mother. (from Catholic. Ecc. Unitate, 6). or, the encyclical of Pope John XXIII, the church is: Mater et Magistra, 1961. And we can also read the Catechism of the church, part Three, life in Christ.

Of course, in all this, the Holy Spirit is the one who instructs guides and sanctifies His church and his ministers. No one works separately and no one does his will, it is only the Holy Spirit, as the second reading of St. Paul says to the Romans 11, 33-36.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything
that he may be repaid?
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

Therefore, we must hear the voice of the Lord and understand his will through the Romans quotation 8.30. To those who predestined, I also call them; and those who called also made them righteous and those who made righteous He glorified them. God is present and in the midst of us, he does it with love, humility and simplicity, do not reject his word, his help, his guide, he knows well that we can go wrong, so he leaves us to the responsibility of his ministers, so that through them we also reach peace and salvation, because in them Christ manifests himself, *alter Christus* or *in persona Christi*.

Let us pray to the Lord for the Pope, the bishops, the priests and deacons, to be worthy of this Ministry for Love, dedication and service. Let us pray for the ideal young vocations, with virtues and great morals, to respond to the call of the Lord. Let us pray for the consecrated, who plays a very important role in the life of the church, that in the silence, prayer and obedience may they sustain the still authenticity of the church and collaborate in the announcement of the Kingdom of God.

Dear brothers and Sisters We are blessed by the Lord, do not waste the means that can help us in the sanctification and knowledge of God on the contrary may we collaborate with our prayer and support for the sanctification of our priests.