

Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching

Homily, 10th November, 2015

John 14,23

father G. Papparone o.p.

Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.
My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Dearest all,

We are often tempted to think that the Word of the Lord and his law are obligations to be fulfilled, an actual necessity if we want to insure we receive God's help.

Today, on the contrary, the Word of the Lord tells us that complying with the Law is the precondition for experiencing God, if we are to live as his friends, enjoy his love, his presence.

Of course we all need to be helped in our lives, to overcome our limitations, our hardships and attain what is amiable, essential; often, however, we forget that this "something" which we yearn for cannot be something we add to our nature but something that is integrated within us and enables us to improve who we are.

To improve in all ways, not only in terms of morality but practically and intellectually too.

This means to expand our nature as nature itself requires: to acknowledge truth, to be able to love, to come together harmoniously with the people who are close to us, with friends, with the world, with society.

Well, all this is possible if we are integrated, enlivened I would say, by the Word of God, which is God himself.

He is the only one who can integrate our limited nature enabling us to participate in His unlimited nature.

Just think of the beauty: our weakness can be integrated by His almighty power; the beauty of not merely receiving things but participating in His power through communion with Christ.

Finally, this means not just complying with the Word, but loving the Word. If we love Jesus, he will come to us, we will be one with Him and ultimately able to live a real life.

Praised be Jesus Christ.