

*He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
and the hearts of the children to their fathers.*

Homily, 23rd December, 2016

Mal 3,1-4.23-24

father G. Paparone o.p.

We want to thank the Lord for the *Word* of the prophet Malachi, who tells us that God wants our peace, our reconciliation, he wants to set men free from everything that separates and divides them, that provokes conflict between them, with this beautiful expression: *He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.*

God's redeeming work aims at reconciliation, communion, the overcoming of divisions, the elimination of all contrasts.

Thus, being the Lord's disciples means to be given the possibility of becoming peace operators.

We know that men live in conflict; with "fathers and children" we also mean "different generations" and these generations are engaged in a fight with each other: the old want to keep their power, the young often want to have everything without hard work and without considering what has been handed down to them.

We want to ask our Lord, through this *Word*, to help us cherish and grow in our hearts a feeling of gratitude and thankfulness towards all those who have preceded us.

We have what we have because we received it from those who came before us and we can, in turn, leave it as it is, or make it better or worse, for those who will come after us.

Certainly, we do hope that all of us can leave something better than what we received to those who will follow, because also this will give completeness and meaning to our life, that is, working also for those who will come after us, giving a personal contribution to this mysterious reality which is our life, where we live and from which we receive so much.

We can convincingly and effectively do all of this, only if we live in communion with our Lord.

Praised be Jesus Christ.