

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations*

Homily, 20th July, 2016

Jer 1,1.4-10

father G. Paparone o.p.

Dearest,

I have only read the first few verses of this passage from the prophet Jeremiah, in which is told the extraordinary experience of the prophet, his vocation, his call to be light and strength for Israel, the Lord's voice for the correction of the people.

Right now I'm interested to emphasize this statement for you: *before you were born, I knew you, I consecrated you Prophet even before you came to the world.*

Scripture tells us that **God has a providential plan for all people**, for all humanity and for each individual.

We could consider as a limit, or even like a nightmare that someone has already decided for us; it may seem like a handicap, a nuisance; we do not feel free...

Or, conversely, we can consider this truth, this revelation, this fact, in a positive way: as an aid, opportunity, support,...

Therefore, God has planned for each of us a road to the good, a way to happiness; He assigned us a task, He has arranged for us all that is necessary.

To be able to see everything positively, definitely **we must have a great humility to recognize us for what we really are: limited creatures.**

If we leave our megalomania, our desire for absolute autonomy, our presumption, our ignorance to think that with our freedom we can do whatever we want – but, in reality, it is not so – if we truly consider what we are, then we realize how limited we are in this world.

Often we do not know what choice to do, how to deal with situations, often we think we know what to do and how to act for our own good, and a few years later we realize that we were deluding or deceiving ourselves.

If we really become aware of not being self-sufficient, not having the evidence of our own good, of what we are – so, of what is our own good – then the fact that God knows everything becomes a huge help, a pacification of the heart, a serene and joyful experience of trust in God.

Let us say together: “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You know everything about me; you know even what I do not know, indeed you know all that I do not know. Help me Lord to accept your plan of life for me.”

Because, dearest friends, **God has a plan of life, of happiness and joy for all people.**

Praised be Jesus Christ