

Your sadness will turn into joy

Homily, 25th May 2017

John 16,16-20

father G. Paparone o.p.

These words nurture one of the three fundamental virtues of our faith, i.e. the theological virtues, which are the pillars of our life of faith.

In particular, in our times, in the time granted to our life, the virtue of **hope** is the engine that keeps us going down the course we must follow.

Faith sets us on our path, love is the destination, hope allows us to reach the finish line.

So, these words of the Lord are predisposed exactly in order to purify our hope, so that it will not abate along the way, it will not get disoriented, it will be able to understand that God's joy, trust, presence can exist also in the midst of sadness, and that sadness too is essential to our life.

A woman suffers before childbirth, St Paul says; it is an absolutely necessary sufferance, but once the baby is born, only joy dwells in her heart.

Now, it's the same thing for us: suffering is a structural dimension of Christian life, because this consists in modifying our way of thinking, of being, of living, of fighting back.

We must leave back our old selves, we must renegade whatever negativity is in our hearts, and then in those moments there will be crying, sadness, pain; but all this will be transformed into joy.

And so, my dearest, let's walk with the Lord, let's walk behind the Lord, let's trust His words, let's consign ourselves to His words - and we will promptly experience this miracle of sadness that turns itself into joy.

Sadness is a consequence of the heaviness of life; joy is the manifestation of this life given to Jesus, entrusted to Him.

Let us pray the Lord Jesus; but above all let us pray the Holy Spirit, that He may confer on us the gift of fortitude, precisely so we can fill our hearts of the joy of Jesus resurrected.

Thanks be to God.