

Jesus Christ took up our infirmities and bore our diseases

Homily, 25th June, 2016

Mat 8,16-17

father G. Papparone o.p.

We find one of the most important and beautiful truths of the Gospel in this synthetic consideration of Jesus activities:

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Mat 8,16-17)

Here is the heart and the load-bearing structure of our Christian faith, as I have always said and as I continuously reaffirm: it is not the believing in some truths or doctrines, **but being sure that there is Someone who is able to heal our sickness and infirmities, especially those inside us, such as ignorance, passions, slaveries to this world and the flesh.**

This can be well understood by considering the liberation of possessed people.

In fact, the Devil is not only the one who wants to possess our bodies, but also instigates us to evil, and he wants to prevent us from living in communion with God and so he does not allow us to live a joyful, peaceful experience of freedom.

Now, God is stronger than the Devil, he is stronger than our enemy, he is stronger than our rival!

The faith means believing in Who is stronger than evil, and therefore believing in Who is the Good, who is God!

And he can give us this good and let us take part of his victory!

So, we want to raise a song of thanks, of praise and we want to revive our faith and our hope in God who wants to free us from evil.

Let us trust in Jesus and raise our prayer, our thanksgiving; when we are facing difficulties we should remind this St. Matthew's statement: *what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."*

So, our Lord, we want to entrust our personal infirmities and diseases to you, especially the ones inside, psychological, mental and intellectual.

The diseases that hound us and prevent us from living in the fullness of joy and love with You and the neighbour.

We would like to present you all sicknesses and infirmities of the people we know and love, and that are suffering at the moment.

We also present you all people that seek help from us. Oh Lord, make us small canals to share your love, your freedom and your peace.

Praise be Jesus Christ.