

My dearest,

Once again, from one of Saint Paul's letters, we have listened about the great mystery of our faith: Christ's resurrection from the dead.

We believe that **Jesus has died and has resurrected.**

Immediately after, the Apostle adds: in the same way **we will also be gathered by Christ after our death.**

This is it, Jesus's death and resurrection belong to the worshipper, to the believer; they are part of his life, they determine and define his life. Because the believer is the one who takes part in this death and in this resurrection of Jesus.

The Grace and the sacraments - which are God's gift to us through the celebration of the mysteries of our faith - are the rituals, the prayers, and the supernatural means through which we are asked to die and resurrect with Him.

To die in this world – the death of the old life, the negative life, a life characterized by the evil, the sin, the limit – and to resurrect to the new life, the life taught to us by Jesus, the life given to us as a gift through Grace.

And then, after dying, to take part in the glorious life in heaven, because we have lived in communion with the Lord.

**All the efforts of our life have to be focused on living in communion with Jesus!**

It's not about having moral or ideal schemes, it's not about having rationally planned objectives, or goals that only involve one side of our being...

The only real objective that we need to have is that of living together with Jesus, because a believer's life is a life in Jesus, with Jesus, through Jesus.

As it is praised in the Eucharist: "Through Him, with Him and in Him".

Our life is a process of radical transformation, that starts the day of our Baptism and will finish at the end of times, with the resurrection of our body.

In this prospective, the earthly death doesn't need to worry us at all!

As a matter of fact, Saint Paul, when writing to the Thessalonians, states exactly this concept: **we don't want you to worry yourselves for those who have died, because they live and will live in Jesus, if they had faith.**

Only those who don't believe in resurrection, only those who are attached to this world, only those who don't believe that life goes on, only those people are the ones who worry themselves.

Of course, we miss our beloved ones, we naturally wish we could stay with the ones we love and it is right to remember them and to miss their presence, but we don't have to worry ourselves! Because **they are alive**, they simply left before us, and **are waiting for us.**

*We will also be gathered by Christ after our death*

Homily, 4th September 2017

**1Thess 4,13-18**

**father G. Paparone o.p.**

---

And one day we will meet them again.

Let's then try and find them in Christ 's love, so that we will all meet again together with Him.

May the Lord be praised.