

God loves a cheerful giver

Homily, 10th August, 2016

2 Cor 9,6-10

father G. Papparone o.p.

I read some verses of the letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, in the day dedicated to the memory of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr; Paul immediately refers these verses to a fundraising that he promoted to help some churches in difficulty.

The Liturgy, however, used this letter to talk about Lawrence, deacon, who has spent his life serving others (*deacon* means *servant*).

We can listen to these words as an invitation to have an attitude of generosity, because God is generous, He offers His life and, in imitation of Him, we have to be generous to all the people we meet and to reality broadly.

But I would like to emphasize a different aspect: **if we think that God is love, we really should fully trust Him and entrust Him all our concerns.**

Give generously, says St. Paul, *give joyfully, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

In other words we could say: **God loves those who give themselves to Him with joy.**

Who seeks Him with joy and not with sorrow, who does not feel the life of the believer as a task, a duty, and a burden, something that can be perceived as deprivation of his freedom...

When we give ourselves to God with joy and with all our being, we will receive the whole great love from God.

God loves a cheerful giver: if we give ourselves to Him with joy, He will be even more diligent in giving himself to us and helping us to live our lives in joy, as men and believers.

Praised be Jesus Christ.