

*I chose you so that you can go, bear fruit and your fruits can last*

Homily, 16th November, 2016

John 15,16

father G. Paparone o.p.

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I read the verse before today's Gospel, because I find it meaningful for what concerns **the meaning of our life**, especially the gift that Jesus wants to give to our life.

Think how beautiful this is: *I established you so that you can bear fruit*. The Lord wants to give life a full, beautiful and rich meaning. **To bear fruit**: what can it be more beautiful than this in our life?

In other words, **the Christian faith doesn't only mean growing in our personal love and in our communion with God, but it automatically means being good, giving to others the fruits of our encounter with the Lord, making all human beings' life better.**

It's like when we celebrate leading figures in history, science, sport, art, music; we thank them and recognize that through their commitment, their genius, their effort, they produced a fruit for all human beings; an example can be the doctors who discover pharmaceuticals that can cure diseases.

But there is a disease that is far more dangerous, far more difficult to cure, that is the disease of viciousness, of division, of contrast, of war...

We can see this in a very specific way today: through all these nationalistic revivals, these fears, these forms of populism, these new politicians who claim to defend the private possessions and the "garden", through this fear of confronting ourselves with other, of mixing, of widening our horizons, of elaborating a new idea of human being, no more isolated by ethnicity, race, religion, culture... Human beings that are able to think of themselves through a reciprocal exchange, **able to see others for who they really are: creatures of this world, all with the sane rights and the same duties.**

We are all given a chance to participate; we should all be like a huge symphony, we should live in a symphonic way. But this is not the case!

**We are dominated by our fears, we are dominated by our selfishness, we are dominated by the worry of losing our positions...**

*So, in this disoriented world the Christians should bear a special fruit: the fruit of believing and hoping that human beings are able to live a life truly worth this name.*

***I chose you so that you can go and bear fruit***: this is not only meant for priests and bishops, but for all Christians, because one day Jesus said to Christians: *you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world*, bear your fruit to this world (cf. Mt 5)

My dearest, let's bring our light, our faith, our hope, our strength to this disoriented world. Let's bring our fruit! Because only by bringing this fruit our life will be full, joyous, serene, free and peaceful.

May God help us reach this goal.

May the Lord be praised

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