

The parable of the ten virgins

Homily, 9th August, 2016

Mat 25,1-13

father G. Papparone o.p.

Dearest,

Today the Church celebrates the memory of **Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**, which was awarded the honour of being one of the patron saints of Europe.

A remarkable figure of woman, philosopher, believer; a martyr, someone who, we can say, has devoted his life to seeking the truth.

And she found it both as a philosopher and as a theologian, and as a disciple of Christ, because she understood that **martyrdom**, as told in her writings, **is the royal road that leads to heaven, that the cross is actually the stairway that leads us to communion with God.**

The cross is the way in which we abandon the material world to live only in the spiritual one, we get rid of the ties of the flesh, the passions, the limits, and, somehow, we transcend ourselves.

To commemorate this figure the Church chooses the parable of the ten virgins.

As we read, five were wise and five were foolish.

The **wise** ones are those who provide the oil in time, the **foolish** ones are those who have only the lamp.

While reading the Gospel, I thought about the **Baptism**: it is the light that God gives us, the life of grace that comes into us and that we can develop, grow, food with the oil of our work, of our lives. Or, we can make it meaningless, we can fall asleep spiritually, and slay this flame, if we do not feed it with **love lived**.

The oil mentioned in the parable is obviously an allusion to life, concrete existence.

So, let us live every day trying to get this holy oil that, in the day we die, will be able to keep alive the flame of life in the otherworldliness.

Let us be wise too and not foolish!

Let us be wise, trying to understand that **the divine life we received needs to be constantly nourished by the communion with God.**

And the communion with God is not only a prayer exercise, it does not end with the daily prayer, but grows only in a life of charity, in the mortification of the body and the flesh, in the transformation of our earthly life in a spiritual life.

May God enlighten your hearts so that you may understand the deep mystery of this teaching, which today was given to us through the parable of the virgins.

Praised be Jesus Christ.