

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you

Homily ,15th June, 2016

Mt 6,1-6.16-18

Father G. Papparone o.p.

We began with these verses to listen to the second part of the “Sermon on the Mount”, where our Lord invites us and teaches us to **purify our way of practicing religion**, and the three actions that are peculiar to every religious person, i.e.:

1. prayer,
2. fasting,
3. charity.

All of them are introduced by a clear exhortation: **do not do all this just to be admired by people, otherwise you will have no reward from your heavenly Father.**

Therefore, any religious practice must be carried out with a goal in mind: **enter in communion with God, and be liked by God.**

Indeed, a great risk is threatening our psychological weakness and makes us fragile: polluting your religious with your mundane life.

Polluting those actions carried out for the love of God with the desire, more or less explicit, to look for praise by people.

Evidently, if God warns us against this temptation or against this weakness is because it happens more frequently than we can imagine. Maybe it is within us, although we may not be fully aware of it.

Our Lord urges us: do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, what you do you must keep secret, do not expose it to the wind of boastfulness and vanity, to the wind of desire of being praised by the people.

Because, if you are looking for this, you do it to please people, and therefore it has nothing to do with God. And, therefore, your doings become useless.

If, on the contrary, what we do, we carry out because we wish to be in communion with God, we do not need anybody to know anything about it.

There is no need for anybody to know the qualities and kind of our spiritual life.

What is important is that God knows it, for he sees in secret, and constantly watches our actions and way of thinking, our desires and thoughts.

Once we are aware of this, we no longer feel it all like a nightmare; yet, it is rather an opportunity, a gift, a certainty to be able to enter into communion with Him.

Let us therefore try to live to be liked by God and not by people.

If we do it, we will come to know how good, sweet and soft if the Word of God.

Praised be Jesus Christ.