

The love of God for us

Homily, 29th July, 2016

1 John 4,7-16

father G. Paparone o.p.

We read two verses of the first letter of St. John the Apostle on the day of the liturgical feast of St. Martha, the one who together with Mary welcomed Jesus to their home; Martha and Mary are the two sisters of Lazarus who was raised from the dead by Jesus.

The first reading of today's liturgy invites us to consider **the profound truth of our faith, its essence, the pillar which should support our whole life of believers:**

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world.*

Jesus is the concrete, tangible, undeniable manifestation of the love of God for us.

Authentic faith, the one that can save our lives and change them, is the understanding of this truth: the visceral love of the Father for each of us, which is made visible through the life lived by Jesus of Nazareth.

A “crazy”, infinite, total, unselfish, unconditional love.

Only meditation of this love can possibly awaken in us the desire to return it, to make our lives a gift of love.

Our existence will assume, then, a completely different quality.

The truth of life, the beauty, the depth of existence can only be experienced in love.

We know how much effort we make to live in love, to accept the love of others and to give love to others.

Here, Jesus came to teach us.

So, let us base our faith on this love, on the acceptance of God's love, on the desire to reciprocate it. And then, we will experience every day that it is worth fighting, suffering and working to achieve this love and to spread it.

Praised be Jesus Christ.