

The love of Christ possesses us

Homily, 22nd July, 2016

2 Cor 5,14-17

father G. Paparone o.p.

Dearest,

today is the liturgical memorial of St. Mary Magdalene, a greatest figure of the Gospel that has been blessed to see the empty tomb first, and saw the risen Lord Jesus, like the Apostles.

Remembering this “lover” of Jesus, in the noblest sense of the term, the reading we have heard, taken from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, gives us a reflection on **what should be our relationship with God.**

St. Paul says: “the love of Christ possesses us”; in a different translation we can read: “the love of Christ pushes us”.

“It pushes” almost indicates an external cause, a force like that of the wind that pushes the sail from the outside, while the translation “possesses us” has even greater force because it emphasizes that this love has penetrated every fibre of our being and, therefore, determines our behaviour.

So, dear, it looks like a vertigo saying these things, and yet the Scripture invites us to think about our faith in this way: at least we should want it to be not a mere adherence to some rules, not a simple subjection to moral standards – however beautiful they can be – and not even blind obedience to the word of Jesus. That our faith be an understanding of His love.

As recalled by St. Paul: “He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves”.

Dear ones, **today we are invited to live no longer for ourselves but for Christ and thus put at the centre of our lives this love relationship with Jesus.**

Our faith should be a daily commitment, a desire, a longing to grow day by day in the love of Jesus, to live everything in the light of his love and with his love.

Let us ask the Lord to give us this strength, this ability: to live with the love that comes from Him, because we too can be possessed, pushed by this love in all our actions.

Praised be Jesus Christ