

And, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the temple, every living creature, in every place whither the rivers come, shall live

Homily, 9th November 2019

Ez 47, 1-2.8-9.12

father G. Paparone o.p.

Today the Church celebrates the *Dedication of the Lateran basilica* in Rome, and the text, chosen by those who prepared the liturgy of the Word, is taken from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, and describes this magnificent image of the water that comes out of the temple.

It is a beautiful piece that you can meditate in full; I dwell only on this verse, which speaks to us of an aspect that we hardly have present in our life of faith: that is, **the path of healing that God's grace wants to work in our lives.**

It is easy, and I believe also common, on the basis of my priestly experience, to ask God for help both for the things of this world and for spiritual, moral things... we ask God for help also to overcome a vice, a weakness...

However, we hardly think of faith as a process of inner healing.

Asking for help, you understand, means not having a strength, while asking for healing means **recognizing oneself as sick.**

We are all sick! We are, because **original sin has induced a disease in our being**; St. Thomas speaks of **wounds** inflicted on our being, and wounds must be treated.

The grace then serves to heal us!

Some might say: but I don't feel sick...

But:

- if you live according to this world, you are sick and you don't know it.
- If you live trying to keep yourself as far away as possible from the *Kingdom of God*, you are sick and you don't know it.
- If you live despising and keeping others away from you, loving only those who do you good, being generous and sympathetic only with those who are benevolent towards you, you are sick and you do not know it.
- If you are not generous with your brothers, if you are always ready to criticize, judge, condemn, you are sick and you don't know it...

God wants to heal us from all our illnesses, the grace only serves to heal us from them and it works if we submit them to God.

Waters enter the sea and heal it. We could ask ourselves: what is the sea to be healed from? The sea is the sea...

The prophetic image speaks to us of something further: the sea must be restored by the saltiness it possesses and which prevents it from growing plants, for example ...

Let then ask the Lord to come into our lives with his grace and heal it from the depths.

Let the Lord Jesus Christ be praised.