

*Rejoice and leap for joy,
because great is your reward in heaven*

Homily, 7th September, 2016

Luke 6,23

father G. Paparone o.p.

This is the Alleluia verse that I want to share with you today, because I think it is very important to remember every now and then that **life of believers is structured, is developed through the exercise of the three Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity.**

The main engine is Hope, because it is what animates the daily existence; Hope is what gives us guidance, strength, determination, serenity and joy.

Faith makes us adhere to a truth, namely that God died for us, He has given us His Spirit and He wants to give us His Kingdom.

Hope makes us gather momentum so that this truth will become concrete.

In light of all that we can, and we must understand this utterance of the Lord: *Rejoice and be glad, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.*

The Christian, then, is the one who, having accepted the truth we have mentioned before, begins to exult and rejoice because its existence is oriented toward the Blessed end of the kingdom of heaven given us by Jesus.

Therefore he tries to face the often contradictory events, sometimes very tiring, sometimes sad and painful, with a joy, a jubilation, a strength that originate from knowing that things of the world are transitory, fleeting, and that the blessed eternity of heaven waits for us to live a meaningful life.

Let us learn from these words to fill our daily life with this joy and exultation, which can originate only from reflection and meditation on the truths of faith, and not only from the fact that things go well.

Of course, every human life carries in itself something that makes us happy or sad, joyful and serene, or worried; but this is the human dynamism, that of the flesh, that is intrinsic to our being and our lives.

But, **in this, emotional, existential dynamic, we must acquire with the Faith another dynamic: that exultation, joy, gratitude, serenity that come from knowing that our reward is great in heaven.**

So, we ask the Lord to be able to remember this truth.

After all, the Church's liturgy is a memorial that allows us to remember what Jesus has done for us.

Our prayer and daily meditation should also be a memorial of the truths of faith that include this reward of *the kingdom of heaven.*

Let us pray to be able to live in the light and strength that come from this truth.

Praised be Jesus Christ.