

*In the middle of the city's square there is a tree  
that produces fruits twelve times a year*

Homily, 26th November 2016

Rev 22,1-7

father G. Paparone o.p.

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This is, my dearest, the beauty of our **hope**: knowing that we are headed towards a marvelous goal, we are walking on a street where at the end we will find this marvelous city, with this marvelous square that has an extraordinary tree at its centre, this tree produces fruits 12 times a year!

That is to say, a tree that can keep satiating our hunger, our deficiencies, our desire, our needs, with everything we need.

The leaves heal our illnesses, the fruits sustain the body and the soul.

Everything we desire, good, beautiful and true, everything we feel like a burden, a strain, a deficiency, all of this one day will end and we will be able to experience a feeling of total, definitive peace, we will be able to live in a calm and serene way, fully enjoying the life that we have been given.

**This is the goal of our faith.**

**This is the goal of our hope.**

**This is the result of our daily efforts.**

This is a time of fighting, of commitment, of effort, of struggling, of frustration, of falling, of disorientation.... **But God's words guarantee that there will be an end.**

**A safe end when we will finally live in a full and perfect joy.**

Let's think of Saint Paul's words: he compares spiritual life to women's labor: contractions, pain, contortions, sighs... but when the baby cries its first wail, the heart of the mother, the father, the other relatives, all those who are around, start feeling the joy, start feeling full of jubilation and all that pain and sighs disappear.

This is the meaning of our commitment in our faith.

In this moment let's welcome the daily effort of growing, let's welcome the daily effort of walking, and soon, very soon, we will get to the end line, we will reach our goal and we will be able to satiate our hunger at the tree of life.

May the Lord be praised