

Pastor's letter

Christmas 2009

Dear parishioners,
Merry Christmas to everybody.

Once again we celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and we remember the Savior that was born more than two thousand years ago. In reality, during our lives, every day and every moment we celebrate Christmas.

As I said last Sunday, every human being is inhabited by God. Our life is a period of pregnancy, and every moment is good to give birth to the Baby Jesus that is inside of us, our soul. God is born today and always. God has taken abode in our life and wants to go out and make Himself be known to others.

In these days as we approach Christmas I was reflecting on the why God wants to come among us and make Himself be known. Yes, it is true, as the theologians say, that with His birth the whole of humanity has been saved, and that all human beings have become "adoptive children" of God. I believe all this could have happened without having such knowledge being given to us from the theologians. Every human being, Christian or not, before and after the birth of Jesus, with more or less logical explanations, we would become new creatures. To be precise I was asking myself in practical terms the why of His birth. What changed in terms of relationships among human beings, after His birth? Was I asking myself the reason of the message of Jesus, the logic of His testimony of Love, His example of brotherly Love, why?

I have tried to answer myself by starting from this question, "Was the human being conscious of the love they had within them, before the arrival of Jesus?" Obviously the answer is yes! The human being has always been conscience of possessing the love within him. I am not able to prove it in a scientific way, but honestly I don't even find a rationale reason that can prove to me the contrary. Now, for which reason was this message from Jesus only and exclusively a message of love, if humanity already knew of the love? The only answer that I have is that Jesus meant for us to know that the only valid way to live our life is with love. Jesus has taught us that the only truth in the world is the love of God the Father that is inside of us.

At the beginning of this letter I mentioned the letter of Sunday past, where I said that every human being is inhabited by God, that in a certain sense all of us are pregnant, and that our life is more or less a longer period of pregnancy to give birth to the "Divine Child" Jesus, that lives inside of us. It is true! I am always more convinced that our life is a continuous

Christmas, a continuous spiritual sharing, if we want it. However, it is also true that our Divine part, our Baby Jesus, our soul, needs particular attention, as a mother has towards her child in her womb.

Jesus, the Divine Baby that is inside of us, wants to be born, but as a child in the womb of his mother, before he can grow, he must be fed and strengthened, before he is ready to be born.

Perhaps these words sound like a nice story for children, but in reality it is that which we need. If we don't take care of our soul, we lose it. For example, the health of our body, if we don't follow it and are not careful about what we eat and drink, we risk losing one of the most important aspects of our life, the body's health. There are people obsessed with maintaining a good health of their own body: special diets, jogging, body building almost every day, yoga, etc.

The health of our soul, of our Baby Jesus, has the same demands as the health of our body, in another dimension, but with the same necessities to be able to live and to sustain his health. Simply, there are some things that must be followed to make it grow strong and sure. The first thing is that our soul wants to know. It wants to know what is around us. As the love, our soul always wants to grow. To develop our own Baby Jesus means to never be satisfied, to be always in a continuous spiritual growth, with the goal to become true and pure, more and more. The soul wants "to know" because it always wants to love more. It does not want to be closed in a small world, instead it hungers to go forth and meet other people and get to know their Divine part.

Secondly, we must learn to defend our soul, not to leave it at the risk of being damaged. We must care for it. If we really love our soul, we must defend and be jealous of it. Our soul needs time and attention. If we leave it defenseless there is the risk that someone can cause it some damage.

Thirdly and finally, is the ability to set some rules for ourselves, to safeguard our soul. What does this mean? It means that every day we need to pray a little bit, grant a little time to ourselves and be in silence. Generally when people come to me for confession, I always suggest they take 15 or 20 minutes every day to be alone with God, and talk to Him. During these minutes of prayer, they, we, should forget every worry and every problem. Our soul needs our time and our full attention.

Dear parishioners don't allow this Christmas to pass by you as a simple feast. Try to make It holy, by giving birth to the Baby Jesus that is inside of us. Merry Christmas.

Peace, Father Luciano