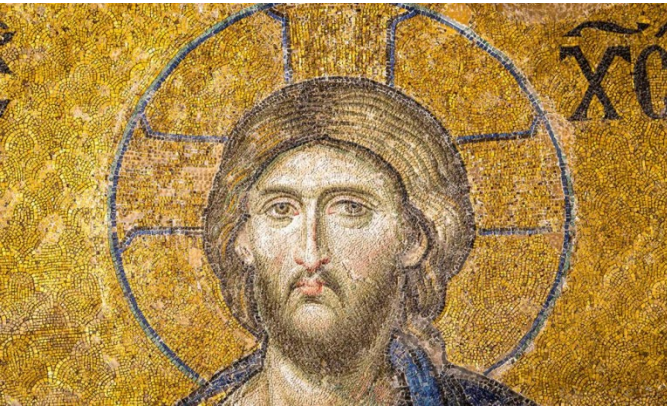


'I CAME TO BRING FIRE'
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 10th

“Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, AI am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know



him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father

is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:1-12)

I. “YOU’VE FAITH IN GOD, HAVE FAITH ALSO IN ME”:

Petition: Jesus you are the Way, the Truth and the Life, please dear Friend and Savior, become always my Way, my Truth and my Life. I beg You to increase my faith in You, the Son of God, so through You I may always walk closer to Your Father and my Father.

In this Gospel, Jesus invites us to not to let our hearts to be troubled, worried or agitated by revealing to us that what causes **this disturbance or preoccupation is lack of faith in Him**. He describes what will be our last moment on this earth as **passing to the Father’s house**, and that our death is having a personal encounter with Him that will last for eternity. “*In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be*” (Jn 14:1-3)

What is amazing is how He wants and desires to be with us, not only a presence

within our souls through faith, trust and love, but physically, face to face, in a union of love with Him. **Truly He thirsts for us**. Do we thirst for Him?

Jesus invites us to have faith in Him because He is God. Christian faith is only about that, a personal relationship with God; faith is not about ideas or things but about the Infinite and Absolute, the Creator Almighty, through whom we move, exist and live. (cf. Acts 17:28) Believing is turning to Him, “*you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God*” (1 Thess 1:9) We believe **in God**, we believe **God** and we believe **in a union with God (charity)**. We believe because of what God has revealed to us. We **believe in Him**. He is the cause of our faith, a faith that is always founded in Him, because He is truthful and infinite Wisdom, He is the only one that is worthy of our faith and only love is worthy of faith.

We believe in Him. Whatever we believe is about God whether it is tangible or intangible, we believe that He is the origin of all.

We believe so that we may be with Him. The goal of faith is the union with God through love. Because the content of faith is the Love of God, then faith is believing in life, not death. The revelation of God for us is a life of charity, which is our personal response to the love and gifts from God.

Our faith, Christian faith, has as its **first requirement: the risen Lord**, Jesus has been resurrected from the dead. We believe first in this historical fact, it is the foundation of all we believe about Jesus; the corner stone of our faith, that the One who suffered, was scourged, crucified and buried in a tomb has risen from the dead. The same body which was put in the sepulcher rose from death glorified. “*Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures*” (1 Cor 15:1-4). What Saint Paul is saying, is that if we don’t believe in His resurrection and ours, **then we will not be saved; our beliefs are in vain**; “*our faith is futile and we are still in your sins.. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*” (1 Cor 15:17,19) To live our faith, it is very important to understand, means believing in God and that what He has revealed is not a vague ambiguous opinion, or a kind of





doubt or insecurity, but our true reality. **“Faith is certain. It is more certain than all human knowledge** because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie.” (Catechism 157) To believe is the opposite of doubting.

We don’t believe words or articles of faith, **we believe in the realities that are expressed by the words.** The words of

our faith are **about the mystery of God and our relationships with Him**, faith allows us to touch God and to be open to His love and power. **“I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” (Rm 1:16-17)**

II. “SHOW US THE FATHER”:

Petition: Jesus you came to reveal to us who the Father is, to show us the Fatherhood of God so that we can open to Him in faith, trust and humility; show us the Father, we beg you, so that we may live as You do, from Him and in Him, as true children of God.

How do we get to know the Father? This is the way Saint John Evangelist finishes the Prologue (Jn 1:1-18) of his Gospel: **“No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.”** (Jn 1:18) And these are the last words of Jesus during the Last Supper right before he left the Cenacle to begin his Passion and subsequent death on the cross. **“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”** (Jn 17:25-26)

John is talking about the only God that has ever existed: **“God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, ...He needed nothing, since He himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things... He made all nations that they inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “in Him we live and move and have our being.”** (Acts 17:24-28) **“There is one Spirit, one Lord, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”** (Eph 4:4-6). He is the One who have destined us to be his children in Christ, and this is **“the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will.”** (Eph 1:11)

Jesus, the Son of God, revealed the Father to us so that we could share His life and His childhood; so that we could live like Him, that we could live as

children of God.

This is the plan of God: **“He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”** (Eph 1:5)

He sent us His Spirit so that we could be His children, **“God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**” (Ga 4:4-6) **“To all who receive him, who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God, who are born, not of blood or of the will of man, but of God.”** (Jn 1:12-13)



III. FATHER! (Catechism 2779):

Many times, because different causes we have a very wrong and distorted idea of God the Father, usually because our humans relationships. **Parents occupy the place of God in the heart of their children.** The idea a human has of God is directly connected with its parents. That is the reason is so important to purify our hearts and minds of our deformed ideas of God the Father. On ly Jesus do that, and that is the reason we need faith. When we think in God out of the revelation of Jesus, out of faith, we are projecting in God our wrong ideas of Him. **“Who sees e, sees the Father”** (Jn 14:9) **“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?”** (v.10)

“Before we make our own this first exclamation of the Lord’s Prayer, we must humbly cleanse our hearts of certain false images drawn “from this world.” Humility makes us recognize that “no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him,” that is, “to little children.” (Mt 11:25-27) The purification of our hearts has to do with paternal or maternal images, stemming from our personal and cultural history, and influencing our relationship with God. God our Father transcends the categories of the created world. To impose our own ideas in this area “upon him” would be to fabricate idols to adore or pull down. To pray to the Father is to enter into his mystery as he is and as the Son has revealed him to us.

The expression God the Father had never been revealed to anyone. When Moses himself asked God who he was, he heard another name. The Father’s name has been revealed to us in the Son, for the name ‘Son’ implies the new name ‘Father’.” (Catechism 2779)

Fr. Armando Marsal, DCJM.