

February 25th, 2019

WORSHIP

Today our worship will lead us to reflect on the concept of welcoming.

We will begin with the reflection of one of the first Handmaids who, after leaving Córdoba together with other sisters, went to Madrid staying briefly at the old Hospital of the Princess before arriving at the house of Paseo del Obelisco.

Then, deepening the sense of welcome, we will see how Jesus was received differently by the publicans, the Pharisees, Martha and Mary.

In the third moment we will have the gesture of putting some paper hands and a bell in front of the altar to symbolize the call to welcome the others.

Then we will pray Psalm 23, and finish with a prayer of Saint Raphaela Mary.

Entrance song

Moment of silence and exposition of Jesus Eucharist

First moment: disposition for prayer

Introduction: From the writings of María de los Santos Mártires: "How good the Lord has been to us! As we had no other protection than Him, and because of Him we had put ourselves into this situation, He was in charge of helping us and providing us with everything we needed; He did not have such a good reception in Bethlehem. And with the delicacy with which He did it, he did not want to provide us with lodging in the abode of some great man on the earth, where luxury reigns in an atmosphere of vanity, but in a charitable establishment, shelter of the poor, assisted and surrounded by religious, in an atmosphere of charity and virtue ... "

Guide: When the Gospel has shown us everything involved in welcoming the other, hospitality will reveal its true face. In the Gospel Jesus appears as a guest. More than once, publicans and sinners invite Him to their home and welcome Him with affection and thoughtfulness. His presence among them is a powerful sign of God's love for them, an invitation to conversion. Eating together is a sign of communion. To eat with Christ in truth, we have to convert.

Different is the reception that Jesus receives from the Pharisees; His presence in their house will be rather the cause of judgement. Even when those who invite Him are lifelong friends, Jesus does not act like an ordinary guest; He requires attention to what is most essential in His message and His person. To welcome Christ as a guest means, above all, to "listen" to Him, to be receptive, to welcome, to give something.

Silence

Second moment: Listen to Christ, Word of life

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked,

- "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

- "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Personal reflection

Guide: Hospitality does not have to be something formal, with needless fussing, pointless chores and possible distraction, but a moment of intense communication. The passage suggests the primacy of interiority, of listening. The active and busy modern man, seldom understands this priority. Interiority is not evasion or lack of commitment, but rather is the condition of a more serious commitment and human quality; those who have had this experience know well that listening is not inertia, it is not something comfortable; it is something that pushes us to continually review our own lives.

Third moment: Worship Christ, Bread of life

Guide: When the Word enters our heart, it brings forth praise, adoration, the request for forgiveness and welcome. We are invited to express those feelings with a gesture acted in silence.

Welcome gesture

We are going to give each one a small paper hand where you can write a thought that is related to meditation, and a bell. Those little hands and the bell are going to be placed in a basket in front of the altar and will be offered together in prayer.

During the gesture the assembly sings: "Nada te turbe"

Guide: Near the door of the chapel of Campello, not far from Assisi, you have to throw a rope and you can hear the sound of a bell. After a brief silence as from afar you hear the dull sound of another bell: a call to recollection, an invitation to stop whatever is being done. A few moments afterwards, the door opens: the sisters are all there, ready to welcome you. When the guest arrives, no one can absent herself. No occupation can be more important than the attention that must be offered to a guest.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life, and

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer of the poor: each one can express in aloud a verse of the psalm, a phrase of the Gospel or a personal prayer.

Conclusion:

From the writings of Saint Raphaela Mary:

God loves me very much.

He has done wonders for me and always welcomes me with His mercy.

His love and His grace reach all persons: We are all his children.

He always gives with his hands full. It is we who do not know how to welcome the moment of His grace.

And we cut the thread of His mercy with our lack of gratitude and generosity.

The humble and the simple steal God's heart.

He uses the little ones to teach the great ones.

Because in His works he wants to use those who are nothing and rejects whoever believes himself important

So that everything is attributed to Him alone.

To Him the glory forever, without end, without end.

Final song: Fiat