

7 MARCH 2021

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Reading of the Gospel Jo 2, 13-25.

"When the time of the Jewish Passover was near Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting there. Making a whip out of cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, sheep and cattle as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the dove sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop using my Father's house as a market. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: I am eaten up with zeal for your house. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us that you should act like this? Jesus answered, 'Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple: are you going to raise it up again in three days?'



But he was speaking of the Temple that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he did, but Jesus knew all people and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about anyone; he could tell what someone had within."

Let us reflect on today's Reading:

The temple was the centre of Jewish life. Jesus is not against the temple, but against what it had become: a marketplace instead of a place of prayer.

For Jesus, the temple was a place to worship the Father, the Father who loves us and whose love cannot be bought.

Sometimes we can enter into negotiations with God. I can say 'if you do this for me, I will do that for you'. I can easily turn my relationship with God into some kind of transaction. When I spend time in prayer am I looking for God or for what he can give me? I spend a few minutes focusing on God without an agenda, just in His company.

As part of the ACI Family, I try to live in this world as in a great temple, so in this third week of Lent I will commit to:

- ✓ Identify myself with the mission and charism of the Handmaids through my closeness to the Sisters. Affection for the Charism. Desire to imprint the stamp of the charism on all activities.
- ✓ Commit myself to live an Eucharistic spirituality in its dimensions of celebration, adoration and life.

- ✓ Collaborate with and follow the proposals of the Institute. The conviction that the inclusion of lay people in the educational mission shared with the Sisters requires formation in the charism. Voluntary service.
- ✓ To live in the spirit of Mercy. Follow in life criteria and relationships that are reparation. To heal wounds, to mediate conflicts, to be persons of joy, hope, tenderness, serenity, gratuity and gratitude. To be understanding, not judging or condemning. To forgive ourselves and others. To be bridges of mercy. To live integrating relationships from a culture of encounter.



- ✓ Given the importance of the presence and accompaniment of the Sisters, to experience a greater thirst for integral formation in charism, spirituality and discernment. Not to remain theoretical.
- ✓ Deepen and revitalise our sense of belonging to the ACI Family.
- ✓ To become aware of our strong lay identity. See how adoration and prayer strengthen this identity.
- ✓ To have a "going forth attitude". Not to be indifferent to the cries of today's world. Being involved with the local Church through apostolic services.
- ✓ Caring for the Common House, *Laudato Si'*. Reflection, awareness and concrete commitments.

(General Congregation XX, Participation of the ACI Family)

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