

26th Sunday in OT

Today's Readings remind us that God will give His Spirit to whomever He chooses and how and when He chooses. God works in and through anyone He chooses.

Eldad and Medad are two people in the First reading who receive the spirit of God even though they were not in the tent with the others.

Our job is not to limit God, but to respond and cooperate with God wherever God's action is found. The names Eldad and Medad are rather interesting. Eldad means the one whom God has loved and Medad means love or waters of love.

It is also a reminder that God's love and God's action flow freely and generously to everyone, without boundary or limitation. The waters of God's Love and His Spirit flow wherever they will.

Last evening at the Festival of Families, Pope Francis gave a reflection straight from his heart without notes.

He told a story: "Once, a child asked me . Father, what did God do before creating the world?"

I assure you, I found real difficulty in answering the question. So I said what I'm now going to say to you:

Before creating the world, God loved. Because God is love.

And so much love, Father Son and Holy Spirit, it was so overflowing...It was so big this love, that God could not be egoistic . it had to be poured out of him.

So to share that love with those out of Himself. Then God created the world.

God made this marvelous world in which we live and because sometimes we are a bit confused, we are destroying it. But the most beautiful thing that God did, says the bible, was the family.

He created man, and he created woman and he gave them everything. He gave them the world that they might grow, multiply, and cultivate the land. All that love that he made in creation, he gave it and shared it and bestowed it upon a family.

All the love God has in himself, all the beauty and truth he has in himself, he gives it to the family. Family is really family when it's able to open its arms and receive all that love. Of course, it's not quite earthly paradise. There are still problems.

Men and women through the astuteness of the devil have learned, unfortunately, how to divide themselves. And all that love God gave, almost was lost.

In a little period of time, the first crime... But God did not abandon them.

So great was his love. That he began to walk with humanity, with his people, until the right moment came and he made the highest expression of love: His own son.

And where did he send his son? To a palace? A city? No he sent him to a family. God sent him amid a family, in a family!

And he could do this because it was a family that had a truly open heart. The doors of their heart were open.

Think of Mary . she couldn't believe it! How can this happen. But when they explained it to her she agreed. Think of Joseph . he finds himself in a surprising situation he doesn't understand, and he accepts, he obeys... There is a family into which Jesus is born.

You know what God loves most? To knock on the door of families and to find the families who love each other . families who bring up their children to grow and to move forward. Who create, who develop a society of truth, goodness and beauty.

Families have a citizenship which is divine. The identity card they have is given to them by God. So that within the heart of the family, truth, goodness and beauty can truly grow."

The Family is like a Factory of Hope, a Factory of Resurrection!

In the Family there are difficulties, but those difficulties are overcome with Love. Hatred is not capable of overcoming any difficulty. Division of hearts cannot overcome any difficulty.

Only Love is able to overcome. Love is about celebration, love is joy, Love is moving forward.

Never let the day end without making Peace."

My Dear Friends, We are all in need of Pope Francis' message, and his hope. He is here to inspire us, and to bring us together, as communities, as a country, and as Christians. He is trying to teach us that the Gospel can be lived.

People want to see a church that that builds up.

A quote from the World Meeting of Families said, "If married couples simply lived out the Sacrament of Marriage, we would have a Christian society in 40 years."

We as Catholics can be and have the duty to be the example, and when we do that, people will see. People will learn. People will be inspired.

And if they are not against us, they are for us.

This is what we must do. And it starts in our homes. With our spouses, our children, our brothers and sisters, our communities, our Families.

Pope Francis said in another homily: "Jesus always embraced life as he found it. It made no difference whether it was dirty, unkempt, broken.

Jesus said... Go out; and in my name, embrace life as it is and not as you think it should be.... Go out to proclaim the merciful embrace of the Father.

This is why the Pope has come to America. To inspire a country with so much promise, to again be the people that God intended us to be.

And to inspire the world to do the same. To be for the family, because that is where everything begins, and if you are not against the family, you are for the family.

My brothers and sisters, Francis OUR Pope is here. Let us have the courage to live the Christian lives that he calls forth from us. Let us be a Church that is alive in our city!

Family - Where Life Begins and Love Never Ends!

Praise Be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!