

Homily, 16th Sunday

July 18-19, 2020

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Today's first reading is taking from the book of Wisdom. This book of the king Solomon is quite significant in the whole of the Old Testament because it provides perhaps the most thorough treatment of such matters as the origin of sin and death, the final judgment, and the resurrection from the dead. Yet while considering the books of the king Solomon such as Ecclesiastes and Wisdom, we can clearly see a significant difference between these two books. While the book of Ecclesiastes expresses the despondency or loss of courage over prospect of death, in Wisdom the king Solomon has written that death isn't the final answer, and righteousness finds its reward in the life to come. Similarly, in the whole of the Scripture, the apparent differences can be understood in the complementarity of the texts, as a unique letter written personally to each one of us by God. Considering the book of Ecclesiastes, we rightly can feel that lack of hope for described by Solomon is vanity. Yet if we consider the book of Ecclesiastes not a separated book but as a one of the books of Solomon, as one of the books of the Scripture, everything starts to make perfect sense. Because everything doesn't end up here on earth. The book of Wisdom is a beautiful piece of the huge puzzle called the history of our salvation. It gives us inner insight on the understanding of the other books. It gives us an insight on understanding of our own lives and what is awaiting us afterwards.

It is a grace of God that through the sufferings and anxieties people in our day live, they start getting closer to Him; especially all those who never think of God while living in this world. Says the Scripture: *"For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved"*. When the people think of Him less than ever and the power of His might is disbelieved, God shows to this world his face again, calling them to conversion. He shows to us one more time how fragile is this world. Soren Kierkegaard wrote in his diary: *"How awful it is when men forget Him for 20-30 years living without him. He instead is getting farther and farther from men hiding his face from this world as a punishment. And in this does*

consist God's punishment: when a man created by him is getting similar to an animal whom God does not call...". Yet, now is the favorable time, now is the time of salvation because today God gives his "children good ground for hope that He would permit repentance for their sins." We have to be always on our guard to not let the enemy of our souls to steal from our hands the gift of our salvation.

The whole history of humanity and the history of each one of us can be compared to a puzzle. And in order to see the beauty of the whole puzzle, we have to place all the pieces of the puzzle together. Because if we consider each pieces of the puzzle separately, or even a part of the entire puzzle, it can look weird. Yet, as soon as we place all the pieces together, we can see how beautiful the image is. Maybe now it is difficult to understand the present situation and all that's happening in the world. Yet today's reading gives a firm belief that God has given us a "*good ground for hope*"; for our Lord judges "*with clemency, and with much lenience He governs us; for power, whenever He will, attends you.*"

I believe you've seen many times, before the rain starts, how the deep dark clouds cover the whole heaven, and it's getting very dark. Yet, sometimes in the midst of the dark clouds can be seen a small part of heaven that no darkness can touch. Through this rupture in the clouds, the beams of the sun continue to illuminate the whole green valley, even though the whole of heaven is covered with the dark heavy clouds. I think in this way can be understood the life of each Christian in this world. Even when the darkness of unbelief is covering this world, the Christians are still keeping firm in their faith and keep imploring pardon for those who live in sin. It is their faith that sheds light on the whole world. Even their number is small – *the small flock* - they are able to illuminate the whole of the world with rays of their faith. Remember this: the saints are the payment that this world is giving to God as an explanation to His justice... if this world is still standing it is because still there are those who love God with the love that reaches '*to the end*'. Still there are those who are willing to help Simon the Cyrene to carry the Cross.

Let us ask in this Holy Mass for the grace to grant a strong love for our God, knowing that it is precisely our love for God brings expiation for the sins of this world, brings mercy and forgiveness to those who are far from Him.