

BE CREDIBLE AND LUMINOUS SIGNS OF THE GOSPEL

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Abstract

Quest for a good society has a long pedigree in sociological thought and critical reflections. The present essay discusses this quest by focusing on a comparative discussion of the virtues of our venerated mother with saints of those times and our today's life. Her life offers many helpful insights as pathways as we are all challenged to take these further both theoretically and practically which facilitates blossoming of beauty, dignity and dialogue in self and society rather than annihilate it. In short it is a prototype of our vocation to ponder God's word and to belong completely to Christ so as to become a permanent confession of faith and an equivocal proclamation of truth by embracing a chaste life style and making choices of humility, poverty, amiability and divine providence one's own.

Introduction

Quest for a good society has a long pedigree in sociological thought and critical reflections. Framing a good society lies in the moulding of one's own values. In today's world of overcivilization and industrialization the search for human values is under quest. To overcome this thirst the presentation focuses on the virtues of our Venerated mother and our way of life in today's context. Her great Christian virtues shows that she had been a true devotee of our Lord Jesus Christ and thus proclaimed the paschal mystery in her actions and deeds. It is indeed a great task laid before me to present before you some of the noble qualities of our mother that impressed me and made me reflect about it and I hope that it catalysis us to imitate it in our actions, because the bible says .,

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”

Micheas 6:8

Discussion

Her principle virtues are:

(1) Deep humility

Our mother had such a low opinion of herself that she never pretended to be anything. When she could foresee that her presence was not needed for finalizing certain things through humility she sustained from appearing on the scene. When a sister hardly wise, allowed herself to say that our mother had nothing valuable in her, our mother's reply was "*It is true that I have nothing lovable, I rejoice at it, because the affection one has for me will be all for the good God*". This shows that she lived according to,

Ephesians 4:2

"Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love"

Even when she was raised to the honour of superior she respected her inferiors. This attitude in her could be compared to St. Francis Xavier who was touched by the words according to,

Mark 8:36

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

Thereby he made himself humble and gave away his worldly life and started proclaiming the word of God.

Reflection:

Are we humble or proud in our ways? When others asks us to do something do we immediately do?

Because the bible says

"Lord mocks proud mockers but give grace to the humble"

Proverbs 3:34

(2) Trust In Divine Providence We can say that our mother practiced this virtue to a supreme degree. Her maxim and her rule of conduct was: To do the will of God in everything. It was her unique preoccupation. She was never worried over her temporal needs. She was happy when she lacked everything because she could count exclusively on Divine Providence. She portrayed our MOTHER MARY who surrendered herself to the will of God which the bible says,

Luke 1:38

"Behold the hand-maid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word." In the same way our mother leaves everything unto thy God's will. She used to say "*I leave to God the responsibility of all my actions contenting myself in obeying him,. In all that happens to me I see Him thus I am at rest always.,*

She believed that according to,

Genesis 45:5, 50:20, Deuteronomy 8:18, Proverbs 21:1

"Everything we do and everything we choose is in full accordance to God's will".

Reflection

In Acts 16:6-10 we see God accomplishing His will indirectly. But on the contrary many times we might think that our actions lie on the decision in which we make but,

Proverbs 16:9 speaks that

“The heart of a man plans his ways but the Lord establishes his steps”.

(3) Mutual Love

What a virtuous love reigned in the heart of our good mother for her daughters? Her good heart suffered when she saw the little faults which were committed against charity. She repeated these lines frequently *“We must work because first of all God wants it of us and then enable us to give alms”*. She loved her daughters to such an extent that she wept before the crucifix for the faults committed by them. This reminds us of the saying from the bible

Luke 23:34

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”.

Reflections

Mother had the helping hand, patience and forgiveness all this summed under the virtue, mutual love. But are we extending our alms for the needy? Do we forgive our enemies? Are we patient in our attitude towards others. *Jesus sees a heart of love and forgiveness*

Conclusion

Thus these virtues and reflection demand of us a new life. It places before us the Gospel message as ‘The pearl of great values’ for which we must give everything

“In the Gospel Jesus warned us that there are two ways: one is the narrow way that leads to life, the other is wide way that leads to destruction”

Mathew7:13-14

We should be on fire with His incandescent love, our littleness is offered to him as a sacrifice of sweet fragrance, become permanent confession of faith, an equivocal proclamation of truth and keep the flame of love burning in our heart continually fed by the richness of faith, not only when this brings with it interior joy but also when it is joined to difficulty, aridity and suffering. In this way and only in this way one can follow Christ crucified and poor without reserve, immersing oneself in his mystery and making his choices of humility, trust in divine providence, mutual love one’s own.

In conclusion according to **Romans 12:2**

We are called to be credible and luminous signs of the Gospel and its paradoxes in the world without conforming to the mentality of this world, but to continually transform and renew one’s own duty to be able to discern God’s will, what is good, acceptable and perfect to him.

Thanks be to God