
THE HOLINESS OF GOD



As the feast of St. Ann the grandmother of Jesus and mother of Mary draws near, let us continue with Part 3 of my Pastoral Letter on Human Dignity and the Holiness of God, which was published on the occasion of the feast of Pentecost 1994.

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If human life has such dignity, and if family life is so important, it is because we have been created in God's image and resemblance. And if God was able to marvel at the work He had accomplished, if He cried out that it was all very beautiful and very good, we can in turn marvel at God Himself. We can praise Him, bless Him, thank Him, congratulate Him for all that He is and all that He does. It is good and fitting to do so every time and every place, to borrow an expression of our liturgical celebrations. "He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the highest mountains as well. He made the sea; it belongs to him, the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. Come, then, let us bow down and worship, bending the knee before the Lord, our maker, for he is our God and we are his people, the flock he shepherds. Come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us. Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving and sing joyful songs to the Lord" [Ps. 95].

We can sometimes ask ourselves whether we are honest with God, whether we truly give Him the attention and thanksgiving that are His due, whether God makes any difference in our lives. True, many things and activities have lost their spiritual centres, but could it be that during the course of days, weeks and years we have become unjust towards God Himself? It is true that He does not need our praise; still, He is the one who inspires us to give Him thanks. Our songs and prayers add nothing to what He is, yet they draw us closer to Him. We need Him and His infinite love, He willed to need us for the purpose of manifesting His own love to our brothers and sisters.

His love of people is so great that He accompanies us night and day, He gives us life, movement, and being. In the daily existence we receive from His graciousness, we acknowledge Him as the Creator of every element and Master of all times and history. Our whole being is a gift of His graciousness: may our existence be consecrated to Him and may our life proclaim His praise! He has given over His creation to our care so that, admiring His work we may ever give Him thanks. He has done even more: He gave us His beloved Son who lived our earthly life, suffered, died, and rose again. By the blood that was shed by Jesus, by the outpouring of His Spirit, God the Father assembles His children in a vast family, and this people, united by the Holy Trinity, is the Church, Body of Christ and Temple of the Spirit.

And the marvels accomplished by God among His people are numerous. We recognise this fact in the following hymn: "In his Paschal mystery Christ performed a marvellous deed: we were once slaves to death and sin, yet we are invited to share his glory, and we henceforth bear the glorious names; holy nation, redeemed people, chosen race, royal priesthood; we can proclaim to the world your mighty acts, you who called us out of darkness into your marvellous light." Not only heaven and earth are filled with the glory of the Lord, but we bless him who comes in His name to free and sanctify.

Have a beautiful St. Ann Day!

Have a good week!

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