

5th Sunday of lent (A)

This weekend the word of God called us to reflect about life and dead! And we must question ourselves: are we alive or death?
Even the answer is quiet obvious let's see.

What may be those signs of death in us:

* *Lack of life...* may be even we are among the living, our life is without sense, without meaning... and we live an empty life... where nothing makes us happy, where nothing please us, where there is not joy, not peace, not love.

* *Absence of light...* just darkness: that happens when we allow ourselves to be lost in our bad habits, our sinfulness, our individualism, our blind searching for pleasure and our inability to faces challenges or trials preferring despair and easy ways out.

* *No having interest in newness and renewal:* we all get use to routines and habits in our life and to our comfort zones; it may produce a sense of monotony, a sense of selves indulgency... we do not like to have new things, persons, routines or ways to do things...

* *Attachments...* it is also part of our human condition, we get easy attach to many things: our pets, our material possessions, the persons in our life, our job, our friends... and these attachments can bring us great joy, but also great pain... whenever we lose them.

* *Blindness or luck of ability to see...* it can happen when we are blinded by our pride and we do not recognize our lack of commitment, our lack of faith, our lack of sincerity in the practice of our faith, our lack of repentance and contrition for our sins, our lack of care and love for those in need, our lack of tolerance and acceptance, our luck of obedience to the will of God, our lack of mercy and compassion, our luck of forgiveness for those who have offended us.

* *Infidelties...* something that is common in human history, something common in the People of God... (the Israelites), to forget easily what the Lord has done for them and look for idols to replace God. That can also happen to us, to be ungrateful to God, to others... and to look for new idols in our life, idols done or crave according to our will.

It looks like a negative and chronic diagnostic! But the word of God today is full of promises and remedies for our illness:

At the first reading, God promised to open our graves and have us risen from them... He promises to put his Spirit in us, that we may live!

St. Paul in the letter to the Romans reminded us: "If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is alive because of righteousness".

At the Gospel, Jesus presented him self as the resurrection and the life, and question Martha and us: "Do you believe this?" and called Lazarus and us: "To come out... of our graves".

To open our life and hearts to Jesus and his mercy can bring back life, light, renewal, freedom, new perspectives, faithfulness, inner joy and peace. But we need to believe... we need to hear his call.

At the Catechism #456-460, to the question: Why did the Son of God become man? It answers for us men and for our salvation; He became man to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God's infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us "partakers of divine nature".

Question for Children: what will be signs of life in us? Good things that you can see in others?

God our Father, help us to experience your mercy, hear the voice of your Son and own your redemption. Amen