

October 4th: St. Francis of Assisi

Gospel text (Mt 11,25-30): At that time Jesus said in reply, «I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

»Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light».

«You have revealed them to the childlike»

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Today, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Gospel begins with a brief prayer from Jesus followed by a lesson of Trinitarian life, and it culminates in an invitation. These three things set up the spiritual portrait of the Saint we are celebrating today.

In the prayer, Jesus exalts the Father because He reveals himself in the Son to the simple and the humble: "and you have revealed them to little children (...) » (Mt 11:25). God reveals them the depth of His Trinitarian life: «No one knows the Son, except the Father (...) » (Mt 11:27). Getting to know the Father and the Son with the Mind which is the Holy Spirit! He is who truly knows the depth of God! Let us remember that the verb "to know" in the Bible means to love and be loved, to devote yourself to others and to possess. This mutual "Knowledge" between the Father and the Son is the very Spirit; similarly, we can also assert that the Holy Spirit is the Love, the Unity, the Encouragement, the Language... of the Father and

the Son.

The Saint of Assisi is characterized by his smallness and simplicity; his humility makes him the suitable soil to receive this revelation of the Trinitarian mystery. In actual fact, his writings and primitive biographies indicate his profound experience of the mystery of the Trinitarian life. God Trinity lets him "know" HIM and he is known by God.

Jesus' final invitation is the crowning of it all: "come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). Jesus is benevolent and humble at heart; that is why He is the repose of the humble, and also of all of us who are burdened, because we are not humble enough. With Jesus we learn humility: Learn from me» (Mt 11:29).

Pope Francis has not only the name of our Saint, but also his simplicity and humility, as we can realize from his gestures and words. Cheer up! We have before us the greatest example: Jesus Christ. And, after Him, St. Francis and the Pope.