

Monday 26th in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 9,46-50): One day (...) John spoke up, «Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he doesn't follow you with us». But Jesus said, «Don't forbid him. He who is not against you is for you».

Virtuous tolerance

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Jesus Christ fosters a bridge of "tolerance" —even of "healthy cooperation"— before the outburst of "exclusivity" from the apostle John, not in vain nicknamed "son of thunder ". It is a wake-up call in front of the danger of intolerance and violence. To prevent the force of the Law itself from becoming injustice, it must be submitted to strict criteria which should be acknowledged as such by all.

Furthermore, humanitarian gestures which break with violence and seek the fellow man in the opponent and appeal to his own humanity, are also necessary, even when they seem, at first, to be a waste of time. A genuine "ius gentium" is urgently necessary, without hegemonic dominion and accompanying intentions: only in this way can it be evident that it is a matter of protecting the rights common to all, even of those who find themselves, so to speak, on the opposite side.

—O Lord, as a Christian I wish to learn the best way to mutual understanding by doing whatever possible to achieve that conscience always prevails and to prevent it from being trampled by ideologies or narrow minded-interests.