

Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Gospel text (Jn 17,1-11a): Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, «Father, the hour has come; give glory to your Son, that the Son may give glory to you. You have given him power over all mortals, and you want him to bring eternal life to all you have entrusted to him. For this is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and the One you sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do.

»Now, Father, give me in your presence the same Glory I had with you before the world began. I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they kept your word. And now they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you. I have given them the teaching I received from you, and they received it and know in truth that I came from you; and they believe that you have sent me.

»I pray for them; I do not pray for the world but for those who belong to you and whom you have given to me —indeed all I have is yours and all you have is mine— and now they are my glory. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world whereas I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your Name (that you have given me,) so that they may be one, just as we are».

«Father, the hour has come»

Fr. Pere OLIVA i March
(*Sant Feliu de Torelló, Barcelona, Spain*)

Today, St. John's Gospel —that we have been reading for days now— begins by speaking of “the hour”: «Father, the hour has come» (Jn 17:1). The crowning moment, the clarification of everything, the utmost donation of Christ who delivers himself to all... But “the hour” still is a hidden reality to men; it will be revealed as the scheme of Jesus' life will open the perspective of the Cross.

Has the hour come? What hour? Well, the hour when men will recognize God's name, that is, his actions, his way to address Mankind, his way to speak to us; in the Son, in the Christ He loves.

Now a day, men and women know God through Jesus («I have given them the teaching I received from you»: Jn 17:8), we become witnesses of life, of the divine life developing inside us thanks to the Baptism. In him, we live, we move, we are; in him, we find words that feed us and make us grow; in him, we discover what God wants out of us: our plenitude, our human realization, an existence that does not live out of personal vainglory but out of an existential attitude that becomes strong through the same God and his Glory. As St. Irineus remind us, «The Glory of God is living man». Let us exalt and praise God and his glory so that we, human beings, can reach our plenitude!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ marks us; we work for the glory of God, a task that translates in a better service for today's men and women's lives. This means working for true human communication, true happiness of the person, to increase the joy of the sad ones, to exert compassion on the needing... In short: open to Life (with capital letters).

For the Spirit, God works inside every human being and lives in the deepest part of the person constantly incentivating everybody to live as per the Gospel values. The Good News is the expression of the liberating happiness He wants to give us.