Sunday 10th (C) in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Lk* 7,11-17): Jesus went to a town called Naim and many of his disciples went with him —a great number of people. As He reached the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother and she was a widow; there followed a large crowd of townspeople. On seeing her, the Lord had pity on her and said, «Don't cry». Then He came up and touched the stretcher and the men who carried it stopped. Jesus then said, «Young man, awake, I tell you». And the dead man got up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. A holy fear came over them all and they praised God saying, «A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people». This news spread out in the Jewish country and the surrounding places.

«Don't cry»

Fr. Antoni CAROL i Hostench
(Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain)

Today, we would also like to wipe out all the tears of this world: "Don't cry" (Lk 7:13). More than ever before, the media show us the pains of humankind. There are so many! To all these men and women, if we could, we would tell «get up» (Lk 7:14). But, we cannot, we cannot, oh Lord! It comes from the soul to tell Him: - Look, Jesus, we are overwhelmed by all this pain. Please help us!

Before this sensation of helplessness, we must respond with supernatural sense and with common sense. First of all, with supernatural sense, to immediately put ourselves in God's hands: we are not alone, "God has come to help his people" (Lk 7:16). The helplessness is ours, not His. The worst tragedy of it all is the modern claim to build a world without God and, even worse, behind God's back. It is certainly possible to build "something" without God, but history has thoroughly shown us that this 'something' is often inhumane. Let us learn it once and for all: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5)

Secondly, common sense: pain cannot be removed. All "revolutions" that have promised us a paradise in this life have come to an end by spreading death all over. And, even in the hypothetical case (an impossible one!) that one eventual day we could get rid of all pain, we should still be mortals... (by the way, a pain which only Christ-God has given a real answer to).

The Christian spirit is a "realistic" one (it does not hide pain), and at the same time, is an "optimistic" one: we can "deal with" pain. Even more so: pain is an opportunity to display our love and to grow in love. Jesus Christ - the "handy God" - has come this way. In Pope Francisco's words, «to be moved by ("move - in"), to feel sorry by ("to suffer with") he who has fallen, are attitudes of those who can recognize their

own image [of fragility] in the other. The wounds healing the brother are ointment for his own. Compassion becomes communion, it is a bridge that draws near and close ties».