



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

MESSAGE FOR PENTECOST

“*Spes non confundit*,” *Hope does not disappoint* (Rom. 5:5) is the title of the bull for the jubilee to be celebrated next year. Courage of the apostolic Church of which many brothers and sisters witnessed their faith even to the outpouring of blood, urges us to always return to our origins and invites us to fidelity to Christ the Lord. We are the closest to the memory of the first Christian communities in the Greek Roman world. And this is a great privilege, but at the same time also essentially a responsibility for the vocation we have received as Christians.

The central message of the upcoming Jubilee, proclaimed by Pope Francis, invites us to a limitless hope based on Christ. On what do we base our hope: personal hope, hope in the sphere of the family, in the sphere of the Church. Will our hope be based, on our ability to work and success, on wealth? We know very well, that all wealth fades, all certainty disappoints, and that our projects based on selfishness, cannot be the light either for ourselves either for others. What is the foundation of our hope?

Pope Francis reminds us of the source of our hope: “For it is the Holy Spirit who, by his constant presence in the Church's journey, makes the light of hope shine in believers: he keeps it burning like a torch that never goes out, to give support and strength to our lives. Indeed, Christian hope neither deceives nor disappoints, because it is based on the certainty that “nothing and no one can ever separate us from divine love” (*Spes non confundit*, cf. Rom 8:35, 37-39).

Responsibility is the fundamental characteristic of our relationship with others; we have a great responsibility toward all those who are close to us: in married life, in family life, in professional life. And we all have a great responsibility in the life of the Church, the first of which is to participate actively in its liturgy, to live according to fundamental Christian principles, and to participate in the Church's activities for the proclamation of the Gospel.



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The question is how aware we are that the life of the Church, its future, depends on us too, because we are a small, fragile community, dependent on so many internal and external conditions.

Before his ascension, Jesus entrusted his work and the responsibility for the future of the community he had founded to the disciples themselves. And they went, faithful to the word of the Lord, proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world (cf. Mk 16:20).

We have received this great news; we have received the gift of believing in Christ our savior. All this is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The treasure of faith, which we have received means responsibility. The first act of our responsibility is to open our hearts to the consoler Spirit, who gives us strength and hope.

Second act of hope is to realize the importance of the Church in our lives. Without the Church, without its sacramental presence as well as without its structure, how limited it may be, there can be no access to Christ for anyone; because he is the Head of the Church, and the Church is his body. “Christ is the Head of the body, that is, of the Church” (Col. 1:18). Christ is the principle of creation and redemption. He unites us to his Passover. For this reason, we are taken up into the mysteries of his life, associated with his sufferings as the body with its head, suffering with him, that with him we may be glorified.” (Cf. Catechism 792, 793)

Only one within the Church and united to Christ the Savior can we be a sign of hope for our brothers and sisters, for our Church in her difficulties, for our world, and above all for those who suffer.

In the consecration of the Catholic Church that is in Turkey, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus during the June 7th celebration, let us entrust to the Lord every human being on earth who is in suffering, poverty and despair. Let us entrust ourselves to the Lord, let us entrust ourselves to the pierced Heart of Jesus because of our sins, for our salvation and for the salvation of the world. The Heart of Jesus is the principle of our communion and our hope.



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Spirit of Jesus, open our heart ears to the beats of Christ's Heart. Spirit of the Father, make us the sons and daughters who seek His Will and fulfill it at the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

May the Lord Jesus bless our hope. Mother of hope, pray for us!

Certaldo, May 18, 2024

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