

POPE FRANCIS REBUKES THOSE WHO CLOSE THE DOOR OF GOODWILL TO GOD'S PEOPLE.



May 25, 2013; Those who approach the Church should find the doors open and not find people who want to control the faith. This is what the Pope said this morning during Mass in the Casa Santa Marta.

The day's Gospel tells us that Jesus rebukes the disciples who seek to remove children that people bring to the Lord to bless. "Jesus embraces them, kisses them and touches them, all of them. It tires Jesus and his disciples want it to stop". Jesus is indignant: "Jesus got angry, sometimes." And he says: "Let them come to me, do not hinder them. For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." "The faith of the People of God", observes the Pope, "is a simple faith, a faith that is perhaps without much theology, but it has an inward theology that is not wrong, because the Spirit is behind it." The Pope mentions Vatican I and Vatican II, where it is said that "the holy people of God ... cannot err in matters of belief" (Lumen Gentium). And to explain this theological formulation he adds: "If you want to know who Mary is, go to the theologian and he will tell you exactly who Mary is. But if you want to know how to love Mary, go to the People of God who teach it better". "The people of God", continued the Pope, "are always asking for something closer to Jesus, they are sometimes a bit 'insistent in this. But it is the insistence of those who believe ":

"I remember once, coming out of the city of Salta, on the patronal feast, there was a humble lady who asked for a priest's blessing. The priest said, 'All right, but you were at the Mass' and explained the whole theology of the blessing in the church. 'Ah, thank you father, yes father,' said the woman. When the priest had gone, the woman turned to another priest: 'Give me your blessing!'. All these words did not register with her, because she had another necessity: the need to be touched by the Lord. That is the faith that we always look for. This is the faith that brings the Holy Spirit. We must facilitate it, make it grow, help it grow. "

The Pope also mentioned the story of the blind man of Jericho who was rebuked by the disciples because he cried to the Lord, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

"The Gospel says that they didn't want him to shout, they wanted him not to shout but he wanted to shout more, why? Because he had faith in Jesus! The Holy Spirit had put faith in his heart. And they said, 'No, you cannot do this! You don't shout to the Lord. Protocol does not allow it. And 'the second Person of the Trinity! Look what you do... 'as if they were saying that, right? "

And think about the attitude of many Christians:

"Think of the good Christians who with good will go to the parish secretary, a secretary of the parish .. saying 'Good morning, the two of us - boyfriend and girlfriend - we want to get married'. And instead of saying, 'That's great! ', the secretary says, 'Oh, well, have a seat. If you want the Mass, it costs a lot ... '. This, instead of giving a good welcome and being told it is a good thing to get married! '- instead they get this response: 'Do you have the certificate of baptism, all right ... '. And they find a closed door when this Christian has the ability to open a door, thanking God for this fact of a new marriage ... We are many times controllers of faith, instead of becoming facilitators of the faith of the people. " "And there is always a temptation" said the Pope - " to try to take possession of the Lord."

And he tells another story:

"Think about the single mother who goes to the church in the parish and says to the secretary 'I want my child baptized'. And then this Christian, this Christian says: 'No, you cannot because you're not married!'. But look, this girl who had the courage to carry her pregnancy and not to return her son to the sender, what does she get? A closed door! This is not zeal! It is far from the Lord! It does not open doors! And so when we go down this road, when we have this attitude, we do not do good to people, the people, the People of God. Jesus instituted the seven sacraments but with this negative attitude, we are establishing an eighth - the 'sacrament' of church customs! ".

"Jesus is indignant when he sees these things" - said the Pope – “because those who suffer are his faithful people, the people that he loves so much"

"We think today of Jesus, who always wants us all to be closer to Him, we think of the Holy People of God, a simple people, who want to get closer to Jesus and we think of so many Christians of goodwill who are wrong and who, instead of opening a door, they close the door of goodwill. And so we ask the Lord that all those who come to the Church will find the doors open, open to meet this love of Jesus. We ask this grace”.

Source; Vatican Radio