

NOVENA TO SAINT JOHN PAUL II

DAY 2 – TRUTH

No one can dictate to anyone else his own “Truth.” Truth overcomes only with its own power. Imposing one’s own views leads to making worse interpersonal relationships, giving rise to quarrels and tensions. Thus, one of the conditions to maintain peace in the world is to respect the freedom of conscience of others even if they think quite differently from the way we do.

Truth is the light of the human intellect. If the intellect seeks, from youth onwards, to know reality in its different dimensions, it does so in order to possess the truth: in order to live the truth. Such is the structure of the human spirit. Hunger for truth is its fundamental aspiration and expression. Now Christ says, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free”.

Of all the words recorded in the Gospels these are certainly among the most important. For they refer to man in his totality. They explain what the dignity and greatness proper to man are built upon from within, in the dimensions of the human spirit. The knowledge which frees man does not depend on education alone, even of university standard - an illiterate person can have it too; though education, the systematic knowledge of reality, should serve the dignity of the human person. It should therefore serve the truth. (...) Christ’s words: “You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free”, become a veritable plan.

Young people, one might say, have an innate “sense of truth”. And truth should serve freedom: young people also have a spontaneous “desire for freedom”. And what does it mean to be free? It means to know how to use your freedom in Truth - to be truly free. To be truly free does not at all mean doing everything that pleases me, or doing what I want to do. Freedom contains in itself a criterion of Truth, the discipline of Truth. Without this it is not authentic. It is a lie about freedom. To be truly free means to use your freedom for that which is truly good (...) to be a person of upright conscience, to be responsible, to be a person for others.

Apostolic letter of Pope John Paul II to the youth of the world on the occasion
of the International Year of Youth 1985

Let us pray:

**God our Father, believing in You,
placing my hope in Christ,
I wish to imitate Him
and experience the miracle of an abundant catch.
Come to the aid of all Christians of our generation
to go out into the deep of Truth, good, and beauty.
Make our Saint Pope John Paul II
a patron of the new evangelization,
and through his intercession grant us this favour ...
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be... Litany....

