

NOVENA TO SAINT JOHN PAUL II

DAY 3 – THE PERSON

On this earth be the bearers of Christian faith and hope, each day living in love. Be faithful witnesses of the resurrected Christ, never give ground to obstacles that accumulate on the paths of your life. I am counting on you, your youthful enthusiasm and dedication to Christ.

A person cannot live without love. A person remains an entity that cannot understand himself, his life makes no sense, if love does not manifest itself to him, if he will not encounter love, if he can't touch it and, in some way, make it his own, if he does not find some living participation in it. That is precisely why Christ the Redeemer, (...) manifests a totality of the person to the person himself. This is the human dimension of the mystery of redemption. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not be lost but will have eternal life." (Jn 3, 16) And through the Son-Word, who became man (...) God entered into human history – one of billions, and at the same time just One!

We wish to look towards Him, because there is salvation in no-one else but Him, the Son of God, repeating the words of St. Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". Through (...) all the roads of activity by which the Church expresses itself, we must continuously go to Him, who is the Head, "through whom all came into being, and thanks to whom we also exist". (...) The Church does not cease to listen to His words. She rereads them anew, reads every detail of His life. The Church lives His mystery, draws from it without any respite, and constantly seeks ways to bring this mystery of our Master and Lord to humanity, nations, the succeeding generations, and every individual human being.

Man discovers in Christ his own greatness, dignity and the value of his humanity. Man remains in the mystery of the redemption newly asserted, newly declared. Created a new! A person, who wants to understand himself to the end (...) to come closer to Christ, must in a way enter into Him with himself, to assimilate the entire reality of the Incarnation and Redemption, in order to find oneself. If this deep process is realized in a person, he then not only brings forth fruit to praise God, but also looks upon himself with great awe. A person must carry in the eyes of the Creator a special value because he deserved such a powerful Redeemer since God "gave his only-begotten so that man would not be lost but would have eternal life" (J 3,16).

John Paul II, Encyclical Redemptor Hominis, 1979

Let us pray:

**God, our Father,
You are loved and You were first to love us.
Your Son became a man for our salvation
and revealed to his brothers and sisters
the truth about love,
permitted them to understand themselves
and discover the sense of their own existence.
We ask You that Saint John Paul II,
a tireless defender of human dignity,
a good shepherd,
seeking lost souls in the confusion of life
and plunged into hopelessness,
will intercede for us ...
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

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

