

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Common Mass at Vernay

+Frédéric Trautmann

Homily

A guaranteed wow effect:

- attend a superstar concert (Coldplay, Taylor Swift or other);
- attend the Olympic Games;
- visit the latest fashion exhibition;
- taste succulent pasta carbonara cooked over a wood fire;
- watching the sunrise on top of a mountain;
- to participate in the mythical All Saints' Day gathering in Paray;
- to adore the Lord Jesus in the mass;
- or more importantly: to meet the eyes of his beloved Gontran (male name in France);
- these are all the things, among many others, that fill Cunegonde's (female name) heart, and especially the last, gives her butterflies in her stomach. It's pulsating intensely!!

Each one will choose the field that interests them the most: culture, gastronomy, sport, religion, scouting...: the wow effect is great, it marks the heart but by definition, but it passes quickly and quickly becomes a past memory that we remember with nostalgia. Remember what you think when your parents say the wows of their youth: maybe you're smiling at the best of times... they are very nice...

With the theme of our gathering "Give your heart free", we are invited to move from the wow effect to the wonder and contemplation of beauty. To move from the exteriority of the exclamation wow to the interiority of the gaze and the action, from what fixes in the past to what makes us grow today. From wow to how beautiful it is!

To do this more easily, all you have to do is add supplements: make your heart free **to live, to serve, to love**. But as we are caught up in time, I will not develop any of these 3 aspects but only the beginning which is fundamental: **give up** your heart...! **Make** it free!

Not just the passive emanation of the feeling that comes out of me spontaneously. But the action of the personal will made luminous by the grace of the Lord.

Not just the expression of my whim (I want this or that, sleep or eat, here and now!), my *precious* (cf. Lord of the Rings), this raw desire that eats away at me from the inside like acid and makes me vegetate like a zombie.

But a "**I want to make** my heart free" which is the expression of my total commitment, which expresses my deep aspiration. I want to give all my will to make my heart free to live, serve and love.

This is the meaning of scouting in that it does not just propose what comes to mind but, through its law and its principles, gives a framework to my will which is like

an apprenticeship in the double way of the craftsman and the artist: men and women of the art who make and redo day after day the same gestures, to achieve a more perfect mastery, to inhabit their art in the quest for the good, the beautiful and the true. It is certainly not enough to want to succeed, but without a will put back on the loom of my life on a daily basis, it is certain, I will never get anywhere.

This is the meaning of our pilgrimage to Paray at the end of the Mass and the lecture that Fr. Kern will give us to introduce us to the message of the heart of Jesus. The pilgrim who goes to Paray (as to Compostela), needs a great deal of willpower to set out and even more to persevere in the adventure. And that's not all. The culmination of a total personal will is to be able to live the request of Our Father: "Thy will be done", to live it so that the Lord's will may gradually become mine; may his will be my will in a perfect adjustment, a sign of the communion of love, as already in the communion of the persons of the Holy Trinity.

A greater freedom where God gives me the wings to fly towards the peaks, to meet him. To want the essential and to stick to it, in God. What a beautiful life project!

Amen.