

Homily– Sunday Nov. 3rd 2024 - TO31

8:15 am Closing Mass of the gathering at Paray le Monial

Mgr Xavier Malle

"Make your Heart free... and divine love will pour out in your Heart, until it overflows and irrigates to the ends of the earth." Thank you to the one who found this sentence from Edith Stein, and proposed it as the theme of your 45th gathering of Senior Guides, written on page 72 of your booklet. St. Therese Benedicta of the Cross - that was her Carmelite name - wrote for the feast of the Glorious Cross, September 14, 1939, in the first weeks of the Second World War, when she had just fled Nazi persecution to find refuge in the Carmel of Echt in Holland, where she would be arrested as a Jew in 1942 and murdered in the Auschwitz concentration camp shortly after. She gives you the gift of an extraordinary direction for your life: a heart free to be loved and to love in return. This theme of the heart is natural in this city of the Heart of Jesus which celebrates the jubilee of the 350th anniversary of the great apparitions of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. The message of Paray and the Word of God will help us enter into this dynamic of divine love received and shared. There will therefore be three parts in my homily: 1/ Make your Heart free... 2/ and divine love will pour out into your Heart, 3/ until it overflows and irrigates to the ends of the earth.

1/ Make your Heart free...

Like Edith Stein, I allow myself to address you informally: free your heart. Last night, in adoration and in the sacrament of forgiveness, you may have done what was suggested to you at the beginning of the notebook: "leave your daily life for these few days, or rather come and place it especially in this jubilee year before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who loved men so much". But if your heart is still too heavy, when I raise the bread at the Offertory, slide onto the paten what weighs you down. It is not only our sins that weigh us down, there is also the way the world is going. Edith Stein began her meditation thus, and it can free your heart from your anguish about the march of the world: "The world is in flames. (...) But the cross stands higher than all the flames. They cannot destroy it. It is the path from earth to heaven. He who embraces it with faith, with love, with hope, is carried by it into the bosom of the one and triune God. The world is in flames. Do you have the ardent desire to put out the fire? Raise your eyes to the cross. The

blood of the Savior gushes from his open Heart. It extinguishes the flames of hell." She then says the word that is your theme, then she continues: "Do you hear the groaning of the wounded on the battlefields in the East as in the West?" - We could say in Ukraine, in Gaza, in Lebanon, in Haiti, or even the victims of climate change - Then she says: "You are neither a doctor nor a nurse and you cannot treat their wounds. You are locked in your cell and you cannot reach them. (She is writing to a cloistered nun, so perhaps she is writing to you if the Lord calls you to give your whole life to Him in a cloister.) Do you hear the distress call of the dying? You would like to be a priest to assist them. Are you touched by the complaint of widows and orphans? You would like to be a comforting angel to help them. Lift up your eyes to the Crucified. If you are united to Him as a bride by the faithful observance of your vows, (you can replace with: if you are united to Him by the faithful observance of your duty of state, your studies, your progression as an elder Guide), then His precious Blood is yours. By being united to Him, you are omnipresent as He Himself is. It is not in this or that place that you can help like the doctor, the nurse or the priest. It is on all fronts, in all places of suffering that you can be present by the power of the cross; your merciful love, the love that springs from the Heart of God, carries you everywhere; everywhere love sheds its precious blood, bringing relief, healing, salvation. »

Pope Francis often says to young people: "do not let your hope be stolen" and he has given as the theme of the 2025 Jubilee: 'Pilgrim of Hope'. As I am addressing a young woman, allow me to tell you, to free your heart: Do not let your femininity be stolen. In a text from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, specifically approved by the Holy Father, which you may have read, 'Dignitas infinita', among the serious attacks on human dignity, there is gender theory, which, I quote, "seeks to deny the greatest possible difference between living beings: sexual difference. This founding difference is not only the greatest that one can imagine, but also the most beautiful and the most powerful: it achieves, in the man-woman couple, the most admirable reciprocity and is therefore at the origin of this miracle which never ceases to amaze us, namely the arrival of new human beings in the world." End of quote. Yes, do not let yourself be influenced by the culture of death, love life, love giving life.

About Pope Francis, do not let yourself be influenced by certain criticisms; trust in the Holy Spirit who animates the Church. Love the Church; love the Pope, and you are sure not to be mistaken. This does not mean not thinking. But if some word of the Pope bothers you, dig into the question, not on the internet, but in his writings and in the catechism of the Catholic Church. I can testify to you that we live far away from social networks. While I was

very active there, I decided to take a long break and it still lasts, because the networks have become very violent and full of false information. In addition, the algorithms only show the posts of those who think like us, and this does not invite us to think, as a good book can. (The Pope also wrote a short text this summer on the importance of literature in Christian formation.)

Free your heart, then you will be able to say with the psalmist: "I love you, Lord, my strength: Lord, my rock, my fortress, God my liberator, the rock that shelters me, my shield, my strong, my weapon of victory!"

2/ I come to my second part: and divine love will pour out in your Heart.

"Love him with all your heart." the scribe answers to Jesus in the gospel. He was repeating the famous 'Schema Israel' of Moses that we heard in the first reading: "Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the One You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength." You were able to read in the booklet that St. Margaret Mary received her mission in three stages. First of all, Jesus declares his love to her: "my Heart is so passionate with love for all men and for you in particular". Then he complains because his love is not loved and receives from most "only ingratitude and indifference". These lacks of love are particularly sensitive to him in the sacrament of the Eucharist in particular, from those who are consecrated to him. Finally, Jesus asks, in reparation, for a feast to honor his divine Heart; which will become the feast of the Sacred Heart.

It is first of all, like Marguerite Marie, to let yourself be loved. 'Dilexit nos', 'he loved us'. This is the title of the very recent encyclical of Pope Francis, on the heart of Jesus. I read it on the train yesterday and I invite you to get it and read it. Welcome this overabundant but also wounded love, because you see around you that divine love is not loved.

3/ I come to my third part: until it overflows and irrigates to the ends of the earth.

Jesus says to our Saint: you can love, you can love for those who can no longer, or who do not know how to love. You can give back to Christ "love for love" for them; what is called spiritual reparation. Pope Francis says that by encountering the love of Christ, "we become capable of weaving fraternal bonds, of recognizing the dignity of every human being and of taking care

together of our common home" §217. Love for our brothers is the "greatest act that we can offer to give Him love for love" §167.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart (...) You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Jesus comments. "These words that I give you today will remain in your heart," concluded Moses. Dear Senior Guide, this morning you may be tired, but I imagine you are deeply happy with these three days of traveling with other young women who have the same ideal. The Lord is sending you on a mission: Your national leaders invited you during this journey to "recharge your batteries and know yourself better to find your place within your team, within your pilot or inter-mastery Fire, in your family and in the city in order to set fire to everything around you!" There is a proverb in the biblical book of Proverbs that says: "The Lord has the heart of the king (the baptized) as an irrigation channel, he directs it where he wants" (Proverbs 21:1). This echoes the theme of this Sunday's moment of light: "Love and spread joy." « Make your Heart free... and divine love will flow into your Heart, until it overflows and irrigates to the ends of the earth. » Be an irrigation channel in this world that cries out its thirst for love. Amen!