



HOMILY 7/20/2024

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Pope Francis said that when it became clear during the Conclave that he was the chosen one, the Franciscan Cardinal Hummes of Brazil asked him not to forget the poor. This is precisely what we have repeated in the psalm. May God listen to the humble and may we, instruments of God's work, not forget the needy and the suffering.

This Eucharistic celebration is full of meaning for all of us. It is the thanksgiving of a believing community that wants to be a coherent witness of God's love in the love of spouses and in the love of ministers. It is also the closing celebration of this beautiful International Gathering that sends us with a burning heart to our world hungry for a message of hope and for people who clearly manifest God's action. It is also the beginning of the work of a new International Responsible Team that we must listen to and support.

In this context, let us allow the Word we have heard to touch our hearts and let the Spirit of the Risen Christ help us to understand and commit ourselves.

The 8th century BC prophet Micah witnessed the fall of Samaria and the end of the Kingdom of Israel. We know little of his biography and vocation, but we know his words. In the text of today's liturgy, we find a harsh denunciation of injustice and oppression and a threat to a people that would soon be destroyed. 2,700 years later, it seems that things do not change. Inequalities, corruption, ambitions, etc., are our ordinary reality.

The evangelist Matthew puts us on the same path. He heals, preaches and makes present and visible the figure of the Servant of Yahweh who, filled with the Spirit, will take care of the fragile and delicate and with his work will lead the nations towards a glorious destiny.

It is the same Lord who with gentleness and simplicity approaches the sad and hesitant disciples to lead them serenely to the recognition of the truth of the Risen One and to the mission of proclaiming him with joy.

A great invitation for those of us who live the mystery of the Incarnate God who gives himself, gives us his Body and Blood as the source of life and unites us in the commitment to go out renewed and joyful to change hard and cold hearts. It launches us from passive compassion to concrete action in favor of those in need.

This is our route: let us go with our hearts on fire to be witnesses of what we say we believe and of what we have experienced during these days. May it be so.

