

## **Homily – Encounter of the Family of the Cross, Living in the Heart of Jesus – September 30, 2023**

The Book of Revelation may seem like a description of a series of surreal paintings, but in reality it contains very deep symbolism. In the reading we just heard, it tells us how worthy is the Lamb, who had seven horns and seven eyes. Because of our liturgical and theological language, it is easy for us to know that when speaking of the Lamb it is referring to Jesus, the Paschal Lamb prefigured in the Jewish Passover. When hearing about his seven horns and seven eyes, we can think that it is referring to the fullness of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are like eyes to see and horns to charge. By pouring out his blood on those who sacrificed him, he has bathed them with his seven spirits, which have been sent throughout the earth.

In the responsorial psalm we heard: “All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.” The gifts of the Holy Spirit are like seven secrets kept within the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When the Lord reveals himself to those who fear him, and teaches them the meaning of his covenant, he shows it with the heroism with which these seven expressions of God's love shine in him. Thus, his blessing is poured

out onto the world to transform it, and to integrate it into the dynamics of divine life.

Nothing is lost from the Gift of the Father to the Son. Everything is used. As the Father loves Jesus, so the Lord loves us. That is why Pope Francis says: "Let us not forget this: The Lord seeks us and waits for us always, always! Precisely because he has such a broad heart, God pays everyone with the same 'coin', which is his love." Let us remain in that love, the love of the Heart of Jesus. Let us humbly prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If we fulfill the commandments, our dignity as God's children is manifested. This is the humility that opens our hearts to receive the gift that is poured out from the Heart of Jesus. That is the secret of complete joy and blessedness.

The divine blessedness, which is poured out on men, is like a balm, which anoints and spreads over the earth. The anointing of the Holy Spirit quickens, appoints, dignifies, preserves, perfumes, nourishes, strengthens, proclaims and consecrates those who belong to the Lamb. No one has greater love than the one who bears witness to the anointing which he or she has received from the Lamb. The Lord recognizes his friends because they demonstrate – with the works of God's love – that they have been anointed with that same love.

We have been called to show with our service that we have been loved first.

**Thus, the anointing of God's love is poured out onto the world, revealing that we are not servants, but friends who have heard the voice of the Father. The voice of the Father is the Holy Spirit and his gifts. The initiative has not been ours. We have been destined to bear fruit, a fruit that surpasses us because it lasts forever. The Heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (Cf. Lk 11, 1-13). That is why the Lord commands us, with the authority of the Anointed One: love one another as I have loved you.**

**May Our Lady of Guadalupe unite our hearts with her immaculate heart, to prepare us to receive the gift that flows from the Sacred Heart of her Son, so that we can live in Him.**