

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are." (1 Cor. 3: 16-17).

Every time I read these words, I feel special. God is in each of us, and we are in him. My heart is filled with special love, realizing that I am a temple of God, a part of His Divine Love. Thank you, Father!

"Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds" (Matt. 14:22). And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matt. 14:25-31).

Love of God is closely linked to trust in God. We cannot be sure that we will always be faithful to God, because we do not know what trials we will face in life. God knows us perfectly, but we do not fully know ourselves, and we do not know how deep and lasting our trust in God is.

Dear believers, in all of our life's circumstances, we trust, completely and absolutely, the merciful God! Whenever we feel God's presence around us, remember that He is giving us His hand to hold on to.

One climber decided to conquer the peak, which was considered one of the most difficult. Wanting to have all the glory to himself, he decided to climb alone. But the peak did not give in just like that. It was getting dark. The dusk and the moon hid behind the clouds that night. It was completely dark. But the climber did not stop. On one dangerous ledge he slipped and fell down. He probably would have died if he had not been such an experienced climber. Hanging over the abyss in complete darkness, the unfortunate man shouted, "God, I beg you, save me!" Suddenly, a voice spoke from heaven, "Cut the rope." But the experienced climber only grabbed it tighter, hanging helplessly. He never dared to cut it off. The next day, a rescue squad found the body of the frozen climber trapped in a rope hanging half a meter above the ground.

We live in a time when our world is full of wars and murders. We see wars raging everywhere. The world is filled with evil and the earth can barely tolerate that evil. We see that this is constantly happening, the air is poisoned by factories and cars. The water and soil is also poisoned. We are already looking for something environmentally friendly to eat, because we know, if you eat with pesticides and antibiotics, you may end up in the hospital.

Dear believers, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to live in a world full of corruption, lies, and terror. I want to share with you another short story.

One man, who underwent heart surgery, shared his impressions. On the eve of the surgery, a nurse entered the room. She took his hand, and shook it, and asked him to respond with a handshake. Listen to me carefully, the woman continued, during tomorrow's operation you will be separated from your heart, and your life will be supported only by a machine. When the operation on your heart is completed, consciousness will return to you. You will wake up in the intensive care unit, where you should remain motionless for another six hours. You can't move, talk, or even open your eyes during this time. It will be difficult, because when you come to your senses, you will hear and understand everything that is happening around you. During these six hours, I will sit next to you and hold your hand, as I am doing now. I will stay with you until you return to your normal state. Even when helplessness bites your heart, you will feel my hand and know that I have not left you.

Everything happened as the nurse promised, the man said. I woke up in full consciousness, but could not do anything. Since then, I fully understand what complete helplessness is. I was united with this world only by a woman's hand, which for a long time, squeezed mine.

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus promised, before he left us, that the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would do the same for each of us. Throughout our life, the Holy Spirit is there to hold our hand and comfort us. We just need to learn to trust him.

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