

**Homily – Tuesday of the Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time  
Mass with Catholic Charities – October 24, 2023**

Adam's disobedience reached all men, both in space and time. For Saint Paul, Christ is like the nemesis of Adam, as the Lord's saving work also reaches all mankind across time and space. If we have all sinned in Adam, with the obedience of Christ we have all been reconciled with God. We have been justified in Christ. The good work carried out by Catholic Charities finds its root in the obedience of Christ to the Father, and ours to Christ.

We have the experience of sin and death, as children of Adam. But as God's children, we have been made righteous. We all carry the imprinted image of Christ, and that is why the Father sees his beloved Son in each one of us. This outpouring of grace is seen more clearly after an experience of conversion, when the gratuitous nature of God's gifts is appreciated. Then, everything is joy, praise and thanksgiving to the Lord who saves us. Neither our salvation, nor any good work we may be able to carry out, are initiatives of our own. They are fruits of the Holy Spirit, who makes Jesus present in our lives, and in our world through his missionary disciples.

Let us pray for the grace of feeling like the Father's beloved children in Jesus Christ. May we continually drink from the source of life, forgiving ourselves and feeling forgiven. May we learn to welcome everything that comes from God, rejecting the old remnants of Adam that do not lead us to life. Our works of mercy flow from our own experience of God's mercy.

Vigilance is a typical attitude for Christians. The Church longs for the return of her Lord. But it is love which keeps the heart awake.

Waiting for the Lord cannot cause tension or anguish, because in fact, we already possess – through faith – what we are waiting for: our encounter with the Lord.

Faith in the Lord is above all joy and trust. The gospel we just heard alerts us to be awake, to keep our faith alive. It is a call to remain close to Jesus, because if we do not take care of our faith, it will weaken and eventually fade away. We need to read the Gospel frequently and rekindle in us the flame of God's love for us. The Holy Spirit renews in us the Lord's own passion for the Truth, and his compassion for the poor. Through his work in our hearts, we will even find life amid realities of death and despair.

Jesus himself will serve us. He nurtures us with life-giving food. Already in this earthly life, the Lord Jesus is given to us in the Eucharist, as a pledge of eternal blessedness. We already participate in his glory. We can ask ourselves: what prevents me from keeping an attitude of joyful expectation? What is it that helps me keep my lamp on?

Let us remain hopeful and ready for the Lord's surprises in our lives. Let us respond to his invitation with an attitude that says: Here I am, Lord! I pray that we all become brighter lights, showing the light of Christ to the world. May we remain aware that as we serve God's children, we are serving God himself. Christ is truly present in those who can benefit from our works of mercy.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, help us be truly nurtured by the food of mercy.