

(Transcription)

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We have a great responsibility

We certainly have a great responsibility. We Christians must give witness to Christ and from the way we act people should be able to grasp the message that Christ brought on earth.

But at times the witness we give of Christ is weak—if not non-existent— or deformed in one way or another.

Various personalities and minds averse to the action of grace project an image of Jesus that is often in their own image and likeness. Therefore, those looking on deduce what they can from the data they have: for example, that deep down, religion simply bends people's necks but not their will. And this is because those Christians, who call themselves Christ's disciples, since it is they who live and not Christ in them, cast a shadow that veils in their own person the religion they profess. As a result, the separation tragically continues and is perpetuated between those who are far from Christ and those who, if they were to relive the love that is God, should attract the world and bring it to the Lord.

Basically, it is a religion that is not attractive because it has been distorted. And yet, there is a fascination or at least an unspoken respect, even among the people most deeply agnostic, for a missionary who ventures to the ends of the earth leaving everything behind for God, or for the martyrs who shed their blood for their faith.

And all this because Christianity is either genuine and radical, or it leaves much to be desired.

This holds true for the many cases that are obvious at first glance but also on a higher level in more subtle cases. For example, getting to know those who have given themselves to God with real generosity, it is not uncommon to find errors, perhaps practical, that disturb and obscure the beauty of our faith.

At times the journey on this earth is so arduous and this "vale" so full of tears, that people, finding solace only in the cross, cling to it, make it their banner, offer it to others, help them to love it, but ...they stop there. They stop there because, although they love with all their heart and love in deeds, *they do not believe enough in God's love for them and for all.*

The Easter mystery bears witness to the fact that Jesus is life that conquers death, light that shatters the shadows, fullness that annuls the void.

This, in the final analysis, is Christianity: the cross is essential, but as a means to an end; tears are a harbinger to consolation, and poverty to possessing the kingdom; purity opens the veil of heaven, and persecution and meekness announce in advance the victory of eternal life and guarantee the Church's progress in the world.

Among the fifteen mysteries that adorn the rosary, the church has established five joyful, five sorrowful and five glorious. And this helps us Christians to understand that we should always hope and sing like the first Christians did, even at the threshold of martyrdom. Because our heritage is the fullness of joy that Jesus promised and invoked for those who would follow him.

Let us help one another — in our own small way — to be authentic witnesses to that Jesus who fascinated our hearts, in that Church that we too can help beautify, so that upon seeing her the world's pilgrims will recognize her.

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