marzo 13 lunedi

6 13 20 27 7 14 21 28 1 8 15 22 29 2 9 16 23 30 3 10 17 24 31 4 11 18 25

S. Eufrasia v. - 73/293

17/1172 Perché at te regt modernet non of può parlare Quella Levolate de brono sento del popolo, de certo gapolar poesano Opero e saproletto le Dane accette aucora dal parroco l'invito alla pens tenza. E la Ja. Pensie mo ai vollagrinespo che conducioso falle de visitans a tatique a lourdes. I ma social cello James, cel Però nono toute questi fatti che segran ciono, la realtà è che appl per l'erstran la parole peurte usa à hadesta. Cinfener E porse à juisto. E possecure fortuna perché s'avverte che aggingere opps alla ista postava che R'ariduce (o sueglio the nor of corders mes penstense è vous callivare if from d'un veso destinato and In state the mouse il più, e pradi i I mecessoio, e punds il meno, soo à secondario perde d'il vilore mon les fiero. Perché le vita vinstraux è for le volonte de los e il ventiono opporte

ie tauto se si, ente verdette , 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 21 22 23 24 25 Longino m. - 75/291 aucoma inquir emre mo puòse e un divina tal are molvoleatiers. Perche ever protiens A posines ed astonies mo - le lo nosto perents were sola Jamoglia copto alter , velle anocheros alle notre posse ... Ognico peus a se e ne la allego de notre posse ... Ognico peus a se e ne la allego de le notre peus a se e ne la allego de la company d Pershe ever crostrain myn fice a chi la ropeperente eggs é pros avoda obbedie calle sue dirativo vice to poo ... Perole ... perche .. gralisa de porticates de cio che dorse nomuale nelle u/ vite sonsto el appren pero perelisa relaterio una peartease valitaria

marzo 17 venerdi

S. Patrizio v. - 77/289

Eppere Papa frovancia che non è stato
certo un exteriporanco ma dia attratto
il mondo colla ma bonta dire cose au
to che non corto de questo te nigo, ma che
reprindono tata la loro istato to perche
expere sa quella locca supporiste da quel
puore vi onte prima, eta pos pedende
aple atti. (B) (B) da quell'arima

Oppi cerchero di fire quelche penoterise
on lortorri per diri ortore a S.A un amore
speciale.

E perché sono nerota delle de
lui sorueno di moda:

www.centrochiaralubich.org

(The text is a second draft with respect to the original)

17.1.1972

The essential is missing

We are in Lent.

Why is it so difficult to talk about penance in our modern times?

Good people, in certain areas, especially country people, and above all, women, still accept the parish priest's invitation to penance. And do it.

We hear of pilgrimages entailing bodily sufferings which throngs of Christians make to Fatima and to Lourdes, and they are not usually fanatical people.

The fact is that, despite the survival of these events, for Christians today in general the word penance has rather fallen into disuse.

And perhaps this is right. Perhaps it is fortunate because it warns us that to add a penance to the Christian life as it is being lived (or rather as it is not being lived), is like cultivating a flower in a pot destined for the balcony of a house that is not yet built.

We can feel that the greater part, the essential, is missing, and that, therefore, the lesser part, the accessory, has no meaning.

Because the Christian life is to do God's will and the Christian often does his or her own or does God's, but unwillingly ...

Because to be Christians means to love our neighbour but we Christians only look after our relatives, if we actually do it...

Because to be Christians means to love even our enemies. But who thinks of that? It is already a lot if we avoid revenge....

Because to be Christians means to love each other, to be one heart and one soul with the other Christians, but that is too difficult.... Each person thinks of him or herself and that is already enough.

Because to be Christians means to obey the Church, and to obey those who represent it and their directives. But today it is old-fashioned to obey, and the Church is not too convincing.

Because... because...

How much is missing that should be normal in our Christian life <u>before</u> adding on something particular like a penance.

And yet, Pope John, who certainly was not out-of-touch with his age, but attracted the world with his goodness, says age-old things which, however, reacquire all their vitality, because expressed by <u>those</u> lips, suggested by <u>that</u> heart, and firstly lived by <u>that</u> truly fully Christian soul and then made public.

And because they are truths expressed by him, they become fashionable again.

He states: "In addition to the penances we necessarily have to meet with in the inevitable sufferings of this mortal life, Christians should be so generous as to offer to God voluntary mortification as well, following the example of our divine Redeemer....

In this the saints of the Church are also an example and an encouragement; the mortifications they inflicted on their often most innocent bodies fill us with wonder and almost perplexity. Faced with these champions of Christian holiness, how can we not refuse to the Lord some deprivation or voluntary pain even on behalf of the faithful, who perhaps have so many faults to atone for?"

Chiara Lubich