

Reflections

Father Nicolas Schwizer

191 – April 1st, 2017

The New Paschal (Easter) Man

Easter night is truly joyful, the night is more luminous than the day, the night in which what is human unites with the Divine, the night of Christ, the night of the entire world, the night of the new man. What characterizes Easter is what is new. Christ is the new man who comes forth from the sepulchre to make a new people, a new creation.

The liturgy begins blessing the new fire. Later the new light is lit, symbol of Christ. And in that light our own candle is also lit, the new light. Then the new water is blessed.

Does it not seem to you that it is the night propitious (suitable) for all of us to become new men in Christ Jesus by the power of the Spirit? Does it not seem to you that what the world is expecting from us as Christians is that we constantly reflect that new man to which all of humanity aspires?

This night, when we renew our baptismal promises, with our lit candles in our hands, we go to definitely commit ourselves to Christ and to mankind.

The new man is the man of light. This night we have lit our candle with the light of Christ and then we have passed on this light. One day we were illuminated in Christ through Baptism. “You were darkness – says St. Paul – and now you are light in Christ. Act as children of the light; the deeds of light are truth, justice and love.”

But the light is not lit so that we can save it or so that we can hide it under the bed. It is lit so that it can illumine our way, so that it can shine before men, so that it can penetrate the darkness of our times.

To be the light of the Lord is to live by means of faith the events of history, to commit faith to daily life, in concrete life, to be men of faith. To be witnesses of the light is to radiate faith, to proclaim it and fulfill it. The new man is the man of light, he is the man of faith.

The new man is the man of hope. In the night of Easter hope, in which our dejected spirits – tired and pessimistic – have to resurrect with Christ and live the joy of hope. We do not support ourselves on ourselves: we are poor, lazy and miserable. And neither do we support ourselves on men: we see how they stagger and change. We only support ourselves in the light which is Christ, in the security and firmness which is the Lord.

To hope is to walk, to hope is to commit oneself. Hope is activity, it is creation. It is not folding our arms and hoping for better times. Each one of us has to do something; become a new man, create a new society, create new structures. Hope is commitment, it is activity, it is creation.

The new man is the man of communion. This is the night of fraternity, of communion of brothers. It is feeling supported in the pilgrim mystery of Emaus who walks with us; Jesus in person. It is feeling accompanied by our brothers who are at our side.

The new man we want to be has to commit himself to live more in authentic and profound fraternal communion. The world would change greatly if we Christians were truly brothers. Brothers in a love which leads us to see that the poor would not be so poor, to see that the brother would not feel so tired and disheartened, to see that he is not so marginalized, that he lives more like a man.

Dear brothers and sisters, I wish a new life for you. That we be new men, that is, men of light, men of hope, men of communion.

And thus we will be the Church which the world of today needs, we will make the new Church, we will make the Paschal (Easter) Church.

May the Blessed Virgin, in whose heart the Church was born, see to it that the Church is born anew in us, a Paschal (Easter) Church, and that we radiate it generously to all men.

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