

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 15:1-2. 22-29 Apoc 21:10-14. 22-23 John 14:23-29

The Peace the World Cannot Give

"A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" - John 14: 27

Jesus' words to his friends as he was about to take his leave of them:

- Words bringing **calm** and **comfort** at a time of parting and the events that will follow.

He promises to leave behind **a different kind of peace**: the kind that the world cannot give.

Our reflection today is on

- this **"different kind of peace"** and, we may ask:

Q: **what makes it different?**

Q: **What peace can the world give?**

We certainly know that the world gives various kinds of peace but in terms of security:

- a) national // financial // personal // Social security,

"The peace that the world offers us," says Pope Francis, **"is a peace without tribulations."**

- ❖ He says the world offers us an artificial peace **"reduced to tranquillity"**.

It is a peace "that is only concerned

- i) with one's affairs and
- ii) one's security a bit like the rich man in the parable of Lazarus

A tranquillity that "shuts" oneself from seeing "beyond"

A tranquillity that does not want see tribulations and suffering around.

"The world teaches us the way to peace that is insensitive to seeing another reality of life: the Cross.

The world's peace prevents us from seeing the cross.

Jesus said these words just the night before his cross to prepare them for the cross and to plant peace in the hearts of his disciples.

The peace that Jesus offers is a peace in the midst of the cross.

- Peace that lasts through tribulations and beyond; knowing that something good will come out.

Such peace that will be there in the midst of pain, illness and even in the face of death.

In other words' God's peace is **"a gift that keeps us going."**

God's peace is real peace, in the sense that it enters the reality of life, and that it does not deny life.

- ❖ There is suffering but this peace **keeps us going.**
- ❖ there are the sick people and we too get sick, but the gift of peace **keeps us going."**
- ❖ There are many bad things in the world, even natural disasters, but the same peace **keeps us going."**
- ❖ there are wars, terrorist acts and conflicts but this peace, **keeps us going."**
- ❖ There are even scandals, especially those connected to the church, but Jesus peace **keeps us going."**

The peace that Jesus offers is that kind of peace which is within

It is a gift not lost because of difficult circumstances, but goes ahead in trust, bearing the Cross and suffering.

Peace **without the Cross is not the peace of Jesus**

May the Lord make us understand well what this peace is which He gives us.