



IDEAS FOR THE HOMILY

XIII Sunday of Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:16, 19-21; Psalms 15; Gal 5:1,13-18; Lk 9:51-62

- The Gospel passage we have just read invites us to take the thoughts we have been reflecting on the vocation of our families in recent days quite seriously. Like Jesus, we are called to make a "firm decision" to embark on a new journey. The words we have heard and the testimonies we have shared can be the nourishment and support for a journey that can only be renewed after living such an intense experience together.
- Pope Francis said: "We need spouses alongside the pastors, to walk with other families, to help those who are weaker, to announce that, even in difficulties, Christ is present in the Sacrament of Marriage to give tenderness, patience and hope to all, in every situation of life". Our being family - spouses, daughters and sons, grandchildren, grandmothers and grandfathers, sisters and brothers - is in fact a resource for our Church communities. Having learned to love one another - in the school that has been our families - helps us to share our love with those around us and to be witnesses to those who struggle the most.
- Like every Church reality, the family is also called not to live in self-referentiality, but to undertake a path of going out. In today's Gospel, Jesus seems to have very harsh words and puts following Him even before the duty of burying one's parents. He wants to tell us that even our most precious possession will wither if it is not rooted in Him and in a dynamic of going out and announcing His presence.
- Let us not keep the treasure of our love hidden! Let us share it with those who live next door to us and are most in need. Let every Christian family look for a family in difficulty, a lonely elderly person, a child in need of support- among their neighbors, in their neighborhood, among their children's schoolmates, etc. Let us take care of them in a maternal and paternal way, tenderly and concretely: let us make them part of our family. In this way we will open the doors of our hearts and let the love we have received permeate the world around us.
- Pope Francis wanted to describe his perspective of a world renewed by the announcement of the Gospel using a familiar image: Fratelli Tutti. Indeed, the world needs to rediscover a new fraternity, and the family is where each person can learn to live this feeling. But we also strongly feel the need for fatherhood and motherhood, that is, the need for Christians to take upon themselves the responsibility for societies that seem increasingly shattered, as do parents with their children.