

Homily – Vespers, V National *Encuentro* – Thursday, Sept. / 20 / 2018

Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. *Abramos nuestro corazón al Espíritu Santo!* Today, here in the United States, he needs us more than ever as living stones of the Church! The Holy Spirit is the Lord, the giver of life. We can say –in human terms– that He is the “*Encuentro*” between the Father and the Son. And He is also our own encounter with Jesus, and between and among us! ¡Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

*La Iglesia, Cuerpo Místico de Cristo, ha venido recibiendo malas noticias últimamente acerca de las culpas de sus pastores, que a todos ustedes, queridos hermanos y hermanas laicos, les han roto el corazón, y con mucha razón.* You are right to be heartbroken by the faults of your shepherds. In the reading of God’s word that we have just heard, Saint Peter tells us that we “share Christ’s sufferings.”

Let us pray to God for the victims of the crimes that led to this crisis. Do everything you can for the healing of all the victims of these abuses. And pray also for the perpetrators and for us, your shepherds.

Pope Francis has said that clericalism is at the heart of the causes of this crisis. When we feel that something gets out of control, we shepherds can fall into the temptation of abusing power. But as we just prayed in the canticle, the Lord God Almighty has assumed His great power. (Cf. Ap) *Verlo reinar en las conciencias de los laicos, ¡nos lleva a los sacerdotes y obispos a rendir cuentas ante toda la Iglesia y ante Dios!* When Christ reigns in your hearts and

you take it upon yourselves to expand his Kingdom in the world, we become more accountable.

Saint Peter also says to us: “Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God’s Spirit in its glory has come to rest on you.” *“Dichosos si son insultados por el nombre de Cristo; eso indica que el Espíritu glorioso de Dios reposa sobre ustedes”.* *Pero el Espíritu no reposa sobre nosotros para dejarnos pasivos. ¡Viene a despertarnos, a entusiasmarlos, a encender nuestros corazones!* The Holy Spirit comes to inflame our hearts!

When our hearts encounter one another in the name of Jesus, the Holy Spirit causes a fire! Let us set the world on fire with the ardor of the Holy Spirit! Let us light up the Catholic Church in the United States! Let us not be afraid! Let us take the initiative! Let us promote encounters in our environments: in our dioceses, our parishes, schools, movements. Let us take advantage of every opportunity for an encounter.

As the canticle from the book of Revelation says, may our love for life not deter us from difficulties, temporary setbacks, even from death. *No amemos tanto nuestra vida que temamos las dificultades, los fracasos temporales, incluso la muerte. Demos la vida por el Señor resucitado y por su reino.* Let us work to make the love of God present in the world. The Church needs us today! We are the present and the future of the Church. In these times only *parrhesia*, the courage of the baptized, will return to the Church, the Body of Christ, her moral authority. *Sólo la parresía, la valentía, el arrojo, la entrega*

*apasionada de los bautizados, devolverá a la Iglesia, el cuerpo de Cristo, su espíritu evangélico y autoridad moral.*

Let us enjoy these days, and may the Lord Jesus find us in our journey together, as he encountered the pilgrims to Emmaus. And let our hearts burn as we listen to His Word, share the Bread and grow closer as members of one family. *Que nuestro corazón arda al escuchar su Palabra, al compartir el Pan y al crear fraternidad!*

May Our Lady of Guadalupe protect us and give us courage, as she gave it to Saint Juan Diego, to be witnesses of Jesus and his Gospel.

*¡Que viva Cristo Rey!*