

THE STORY OF A GRAIN OF WHEAT

For personal prayer

LOVE NEVER FAILS

(Cf. 1 Cor 13: 1-8)

If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.



Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts,

always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

For reflection

The fifth Sunday of Lent leads us to welcome in depth the parable of the grain of wheat which, in order to bear fruit, dies and corrodes in the darkness of the earth. It is the most profound teaching parable Jesus has given us, telling the the story of the grain of wheat as a way of telling the story of the Son of God, sown by the Father in the heart of the world. The logic of dying to oneself out of love penetrates the whole of Christian existence. Meeting Jesus means understanding how truly Jesus is the absolute truth of our life. The one who has met his gaze of love cannot do other than make a total gift of their own life, a gift of love for others. To love means to have the courage to go out of oneself, getting involved in an "exodus" with no return.

Jesus himself reminds us that "the one who loves his life loses it, going out towards the logic of the Gospel." The authentic worth of a person is tied only to how much he or she gives. It is a matter of a human truth of the highest order: only the one who gives himself for the persons met along the path of life can have life. There is no life outside of this framework. Only the one who "becomes a seed of love in the heart of the world" can destined to bear fruits of life without end. No big achievements, great projects, complex systems of thought, or titles of honor can give life and dignity to the person.

To die to oneself and to one's own logic of death is the only possibility of being. To love is the only path of being that makes man more human. Jesus, the Son of God, precisely by entering into history reveals to each one the greatest truths: give and you will live; love and you will be more human; break your life like bread for the world and the Father will make you another Jesus.