Homily of April 18
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God is compassionate. God loves life.

The message of the Word of God today is truly admirable. It reveals us a great truth that is equally a challenge to our daily living: God is rich in compassion, he immensely loves the world, and foolishly loves all persons. This is the impressive summary of the whole gospel.

God is truly but a savior. We know from experience that He is Abba (Father). That's why, he sent his Son to the world. He sent Him only to save and not to condemn.

Only God is defined by compassion, by love, by salvation. If somebody has in his regard any other experience or impression, he is roundly cheated. God is but love and his project is to save us, never to condemn us. Before our sin, his reaction is always to be compassionate and be a savior. This nobility and kindness of God is made concrete in redemption, a free gift that is not due to our merits. IT IS an initiative and an offering of his that is totally gratuitous and completely disinterested

Nevertheless, redemption will not be carried out without us, without our collaboration and active participation. The salvation given by Jesus demands a response or an option on our part. Saint Augustine said, “God who created you without you, will not save you without you.” Salvation is a gift on the part of God, but also a responsibility and a task on the part of each of us. It will be much more confirmed when we more actively receive Jesus as the light and the truth of our life. To believe or not to believe is the challenge that the gospel of John makes, and to live or not to live is the consequence of this option.

In the first reading we are before this situation. The members of the Sanhedrin who oppose the Easter announcement, and bring the apostles to the prison, and these, animated by the Spirit, cannot keep quiet, and they once again proclaim the risen Christ. This has its consequences; the chains would also not be quiet for them. From the beginning the work of evangelization, of the announcing of the Good News, was done in the midst of difficulties, persecutions …

Today we can see that, though with different names, the opposition to the proclamation of Jesus Christ continues. And in this our Europe it has many names. It is our task to discover new and creative forms to present the message of Jesus Christ.

May the message of the gospel and the courage of the apostles inspire us up in this work of “the new evangelization.”