Reflection on the Message of the Queen of Peace from 4/25/16. Fr. Gustavo E. Jamut

"Dear children! My Immaculate Heart bleeds as I look at you in sin and sinful habits. I am calling you: return to God and to prayer that it may be good for you on earth. God is calling you through me for your hearts to be hope and joy for all those who are far away. May my call be for you a balm for the soul and heart so that you may glorify God, the Creator, who loves you and is calling you to eternity. Little children, life is short; you, make good use of this time and do what is good. Thank you for having responded to my call."

When reading in this message of the 25th. of April, the sentence "my Immaculate Heart bleeds", I remembered that when I was a child –approximately eight years old-, that once playing war in a field with some friends, I was hit by a rock on my forehead and began to bleed copiously. Then I was pretty scared – not because it hurt too much-, but rather for the large amount of blood from such a small wound, and besides, because I knew that during that time, I should have been studying, instead of being in the middle of this war game with rocks.

Maybe these words from the Queen of Peace led me to evoke this childhood memory, so that the inner child we all carry inside, can understand more deeply, the pain and the suffering that our sins caused the Immaculate Heart of Our Mother, to the point of making her Heart bleed.

My disobediences and yours, my rebelliousness and that of my brothers and sisters, are the ones wounding the Heart of Mary, to the extent of making it bleed though in a bloodless way, but just as painful.

For certain, when in this and in other messages, the Queen of Peace speaks of the heart, She does it in the same line or with the same sense as those in the Bible, that it does not refer to the biological organ that pumps blood into our body, but rather She is referring to the innermost of a person (1 Peter 3:3-4), to the man or woman inside. The heart then, is who the person really is, the deepest and most genuine of each one.

Last year –after preaching in a retreat in Palermo- I went to visit the Sanctuary of the Virgin of the Tears in Siracusa, (Sicilia, Italia). It is an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in relief, that hung above a nuptial bed, and that in August 1953, shed tears during four days. And this year, after preaching in Guayaquil, Ecuador, the brothers and sisters there took us to preach at the National Sanctuary "White Star of the Sea" in Olon, which is a temple with a ship's structure that appears to be as if hanging over a cliff over the sea. There, on November 11, 1960, the Image of the Mystical Rose in the Crypt cried tears of blood during 7 hours.

These and other exterior expressions of grief from Our Mother, that drove Her to cry tears of blood, should not surprise us, since that, during her earthly life, St. Luke the evangelist reminds us that She kept all things in her Heart.

And above all because the Most Blessed Virgin gave her heart along with the heart of Jesus in the Cross. This is how the love with which she always lived, was manifested in the highest degree.

The heart of Jesus bled when pierced by the soldier's lance, the heart of Mary bleeds for my and your sins, it bleeds our bad habits and hardness.

Going back to my childhood, I remember that when I was hit in the head with the rock, all it took was a little bit of peroxide, gauze and the abundant love of my mother for the wound to close and began to heal.

In the case of the bleeding heart of Mary, I must ask myself: How can I help in healing it? The Blessed Mother herself gives you the answer in her Message, through three things that you can do to stop the bleeding of her Immaculate Heart, when She says:

- 1] "Come back to God and to prayer"
- 2] "That your hearts become hope and joy for those who are astray"
- 3] "Take advantage of this time to do good"

The biggest paradox is that, when we come back to God, and to prayer, or, when we are a bridge of hope and joy between God and those who are far from Him, and when we take advantage of time to do good, it is not us who are healing and consoling the heart of the Gospa, but rather that the healed and comforted will be us, since as She herself affirms, her call (and our "yes" to that call) is a balm for the soul and the heart, so that we can be happy, since now on earth.

Therefore, dear brother or dear sister, let us not postpone the decision of taking "times to ask the Queen of Peace to grant us a new effusion of the Holy Spirit, so that we can come back to prayer with greater faith and intensity, so that we can make known with hope and joy the love of God and the Messages of His Mother, and to decide to take advantage of every instance that we can make good.

I am about to leave on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, I take you spiritually with me, and I ask you to pray for me and for the seminarians that are with me in the Evangelizing Community of the Messengers of Peace.

A warm hug, and until the next encounter that God and the Queen of Peace allow us to share.

Ft. Gustavo E. Jamut

Oblate of the Virgin Mary