

Palm Sunday

On renewal in poverty in imitation of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey and her colt. This is the triumph of poverty. But we who glory in our own, we must see if it is real and if we embrace it with all its consequences. Poverty is not a feminine virtue, it is a masculine and austere virtue, which does powerful works¹. Its prerogatives are to lack many things, to have nothing of one's own and to use nothing except by charity and by the permission of others, to have then in one's needs only what is cheapest, the least nice, most inconvenient, sometimes most ridiculous and to bear with love what is humiliating in the eyes of men.

Let us follow Our Lord entering Jerusalem. The donkey and the colt are not His. Understand here the dispossession to which the religious soul is obliged and see if we do not believe we have a right of² possession over something that we have made, that has been given to us, etc., our notebooks, our books, etc. To get onto the donkeys, Our Lord does not even have what is necessary: the disciples put their clothes on them. What do we think if in our jobs, in our needs, we must make up in a similar way for something necessary that we lack? Do we like it? Do we even accept it? etc.

But what a gear for Our Lord! It is a popular expression to say: "You treat me like a fool" to say: "You put me on the donkey" and this is how Jesus wants to enter His royal city. It is that He gives glory to poverty and we blush at it. To appear to lack more than is acceptable for a nun, to appear not to be able to dispose of, to give, to have; this saddens us and we carefully push it aside. We would not want to appear to belong to a poor family and of vile condition. We want the honor of poverty, but the reality in practical life we neither like nor accept it. Or at least perhaps it has been like this until now, but following Jesus today we will also embrace it so that it may make us strong against our cowardice in dispossessing ourselves and against our human respect in not wanting to appear so.

¹ 1st draft: "souls", transformed into: "works".

² "have the right of": added