

### Homily for December 1 2016

A person's life can be built on many different kinds of foundations: on rock, on clay, on smoke, on air ... Only the Christian has a firm foundation which securely supports him: the Lord is the everlasting rock. In the Gospel of the Mass He tells us about two houses. In one of them, perhaps the builder wanted to economize on material for the foundations; or perhaps he was in a hurry to finish it. He did not take as much care as he should have. Our Lord calls such a builder a fool. The two houses were completed and looked identical but they had very different foundations. One of them was firmly bedded on rock, but not the other. Time passed and there arose problems that would put the solidity of their construction to the test. One day a storm arose. The rain poured down, floodwater began to rise and hurricane winds hurled themselves against those buildings men had erected. The time had come for proving their stability. One house remained firm and unshaken, the other collapsed with a roar in total ruin.

Our life can be built safely only on Christ himself, our sole hope, our sure foundation. And this means, first of all, that we strive to identify our will with his. Ours is not a more or less superficial adherence to a faint and barely distinguishable historical figure called Jesus Christ, but an adherence to his manifest will and to his clearly discernible and knowable person. It is not those who say to me, Lord, Lord, who will enter the kingdom, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. We read this also in the Gospel of today's Mass. God's Will is the compass needle which at every moment accurately points the way that takes us to him. At the same time, this course is the path to our own happiness. The fulfilment of the Divine Will also gives us tremendous fortitude to overcome obstacles. What a joy to be able to say at the end of our days: I have always tried to seek and to follow God's Will in everything! The successes we have had will not gladden us half so much, nor will the failures and the sufferings we have undergone matter to the same degree. What will matter to us, and matter a lot, is whether we have loved God's Will in preference to our own and made its implementation active in our lives, whether the Divine Will showed itself, as it does at times, in a more general way, or, on other occasions, in a more immediate and very specific form. Always perceptible, it will be seen clearly enough if we do not become blind to that light of the soul we call conscience.

The loving fulfilment of God's Will is, at the same time, the summit of all holiness. All Christ's faithful then will grow daily more holy in the conditions their life imposes, its duties and its circumstances. These things will be the means of our advance in holiness, if we combine our faith with an acceptance of everything that comes from the hand of our heavenly Father, and if we are so cooperative with the divine will. It is here that we demonstrate our love for God as well as the closeness of our union with him. And God will make clear what his Will is by means of the Commandments, the indications, the counsels and precepts of our holy Mother the Church, and the duties that are involved in one's own vocation and state in life. The recognition

and love of the Divine Will in these duties will give us the strength to carry them out as perfectly as possible. And in them we will find the opportunity to practise the human and supernatural virtues. God's Will is intimately bound up with meeting each day with a loving smile, with the fulfilment of our duties no matter how difficult they are and, with the help, both supernatural and human, that we give to those at our side.

God works for good with those who love him. The accomplishment of God's Will is the true source of tranquillity and peace. The saints have left us an example of an unconditional fulfilment of the divine Will. St John Chrysostom expresses it this way: On each occasion I say: 'Lord, thy will be done! It's not what this or that one wants, but what You want me to do.' This is my fortress, this is my firm rock, this is my sure support."