

TOGETHER pilgrims on the way towards MADRID 2011

Spiritual journey in the company of CA young saints

Twelfth stage (June 2011)

TIME TO MEDITATE

**Matthew 11,25-30 • WE PRAY FOR POPE BENEDICT XVI, FOR THE BISHOPS
AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE PREPARING THE FORTHCOMING
WORLD YOUTH DAY IN MADRID**

«At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light"».

From experience, we all know what it means to be tired. We know what the sensation of being helpless, when faced with something beyond us, means and at one time or other we all have had a the strong desire to give up. We know just as well how sometimes we wish to go back in years and be "young" again, without any responsibility and preoccupations, and to be able to let others, who are more powerful than we are, act and decide for us as they please... The older we grow, the more we discover that the places, where we can find true rest and where we can feel loved and protected like young children, are becoming rarer and rarer.

In this text, we can find some consolation in Jesus' words. There is a place where it is possible to find true rest and where we can be just like children, who can rely and feel secure in hands which constantly support us. This place is open to all; it is the heart of God. Only in God can we truly find the place where we can carry the responsibility we have for ourselves, our brethren and the whole world and at the same time totally abandon ourselves and are able to find true rest.

So let us pray for the Pope, the Bishops and all those who are responsible for us and work for us, so that they too, amid all their responsibilities, may have a child's heart which finds its rest in God. Let us also pray for each other so that God may grant us the experience of being small, loved and trustful.

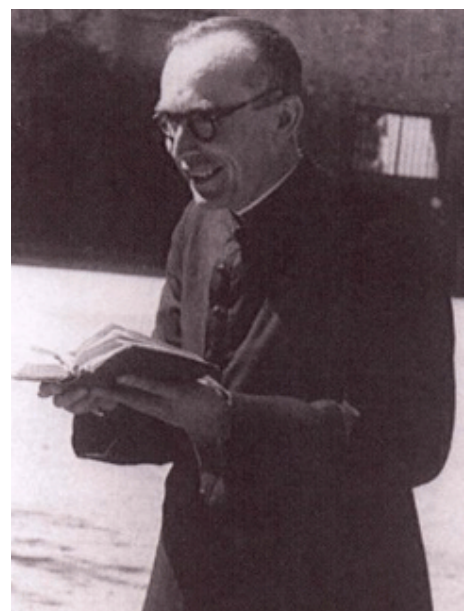
IN THE COMPANY OF SAINTLY YOUNG PEOPLE

BLESSÈD PERE TARRÉS I CLARET

Short biography

When he was ordained priest in 1942, Pere was already 37 years old. Yet, this late ordination did not lead to a life dedicated to long and empty meditations: rather it opened the way to a very intensive life.

The future blessèd was born in 1905 in Manresa in Catalonia. His parents were very exemplary strong believers. He had two younger sisters, Francesca and Maria. The family had to move residence quite often because of his father's job as a mechanic. Pere was confirmed and received his First Holy Communion in Badalona, where he pursued his studies under the Calasancians from where, on his return to Manresa, he proceeded with his formation with the Jesuits. He was very open, cheerful and loving and was very poetic. Mr. Balaguer, in whose pharmacy Pere worked as a helper, encouraged him to continue with his studies. Through different scholarships, he got a Bachelor's Degree from



St. Ignatius College and then graduated in medicine in Barcelona where he lived in the Gracia apartments and frequented St. Philip Neri Oratory.

During these years, he got to know Catholic Action wherein he held several posts of responsibility. Love for the Holy Eucharist and devotion to Our Lady were the basis of his spiritual life. In 1927, when he was 22 years old, with the approval of his spiritual director, Pere took the vow of chastity.

He carried out his medical profession with extraordinary competence and love. He was always cheerful but made sure that he always treated his patients with respectful familiarity. When the Civil War broke out, he was persecuted by the anarchists and worked hard so that Christians could live their faith and receive holy communion in spite of the insurrection. In 1938 he was compelled to go to the front as a doctor of the republican army. When the conflict was over, he returned to Barcelona and carried on with his medical practice, resumed his CA activities and prepared himself to enter the Seminary on the 29th September of the same year. Between '43 and '44, the newly ordained priest found himself in Salamanca, where he obtained the Licentiate in Theology from the Pontifical University. Back in Catalonia, he assumed different apostolic roles such as Ecclesiastical Assistant of the CA Youth Section and of the CA Female Branch, at parish and diocesan level. He expressed his joy about this even on his death-bed.

The tragical year was 1950: in July, he was diagnosed as suffering from a lymphoblastic lymphosarcoma. He died in a clinic, on the 31st August when he was only 45 years old.

In 1975 his remains were found in the Church of Saint Vincent in Sarrià.

Pere's words

«Every human activity should be based on two fundamental principles: persistency and perfection in the undertaken actions and disciplines».

«Enthusiasm is indispensable if an organization aspires to win over masses of people. This is of vital importance especially in Youth Organizations. Irrespective of the discipline under question, everybody ends up carried by enthusiasm if he realizes that the results of his efforts are beneficial and useful.

Enthusiasm is life, love, boldness, talent; it is in reality a creative power; the soul of whatever we express, inspired by ideals regulated by reason».

«Sacrifice is a powerful weapon. Many link sacrifice with something which is serious, painful, harsh and impossible to achieve... Don't you see how we always look for comfort, how we run away from even the least nuisance, how we feel irritated even by the least opposition? How many times, a smile at an unpleasant person and a humiliation accepted with joy, wins over a soul, which would never have been won over by brilliant, oratorical and applaudable speech?».

«The power to love is man's greatest gift; the desire to be loved is his greatest craving and this desire intensifies when man is experiencing suffering. The cure, which medicine and effective treatments cannot bring about, can be achieved by a gentle word, a loving smile, an affectionate gesture».

A young person like us

«Pere Tarrés i Claret, first a doctor, then a priest, dedicated himself to the lay apostolate among the young people of Catholic Action in Barcelona, whose adviser he subsequently became. As a medical practitioner, he devoted himself with special concern to the poorest of the sick, convinced that "the sick person is a symbol of the suffering Christ".

Ordained a priest, he devoted himself with generous daring to the tasks of his ministry, ever faithful to the commitment he had made on the eve of his Ordination: "A single resolution, Lord, cost what it may". He accepted with faith and heroic patience a serious illness from which he died at the age of only 45. Despite his suffering, he would frequently repeat: "How good the Lord is to me! And I am truly happy"».

John Paul II, *Homily during the Beatification of Pere Tarrés i Claret*,
Montorso Esplanade, Loreto, 5 September 2004