

Making God's Will Our Own

As it has always been, today it is extremely important to seek and do the will of God at every moment. In this age of computers, high technology, work, and so much more to do, God is not asking us for great penances, long prayer vigils, much fasting... God is asking us to do God's will in a perfect way. And once we find out that God's will is the best thing for us, we do it with joy.

Some years ago, in a gathering of priests in a mission land, a bishop shared something on the will of God.

He had a priest in his diocese who was ill and needed medical attention. Despite insisting with him to go and see a doctor, the priest would not do it.

One day the bishop went to see him personally and again he insisted that he go and check things out with a doctor, and that he would accompany him.

The priest, a bit angry, replied: "Only if you oblige me under the vow of obedience, or else I won't go." And the bishop, with wisdom, said to him: "My brother, if you do what I want, you are a 'slave' and, no doubt, that is not what God wants. However, it doesn't seem right to me that I, too, should do what you want. So, why don't we pray together to discern what God wants?"

In conclusion, they went to see the doctor together: the priest got his health back and also discovered what a profound joy doing the will of God gives.

A few years later the bishop had the opportunity to know that priest personally who confided to him: "You know that on that day I was re-born, and that joy is still with me?"

What an immense joy to discover that living the will of God is not an imposition, rather our greatest freedom, the source of true joy. Only by doing the will of God, which is placing ourselves at the service of others, can we discover true joy, joy that does not pass, for it comes from the heart.

Are we living our life together as a family, as a community with a "family spirit", mutual understanding, acceptance, and service in such a way that others may recognize Jesus' living presence in our midst?"

With gratitude, blessings, and much peace,

Fr. Mark and the Xaverian Missionaries