

## **“Always looking after yourself”**

Selfish. Always looking after yourself. You seem incapable of feeling the fraternity of Christ. In those around you, you do not see brothers: you see stepping stones. I can foresee your complete failure. And when you have fallen, you will want others to treat you with the charity you are not willing to show towards them. (The Way, 31)

11 November

Therefore I repeat to you with St Paul, 'I may speak with every tongue that men and angels use; yet, if I lack charity, I am no better than echoing bronze, or the clash of cymbals. I may have powers of prophecy, no secret hidden from me, no knowledge too deep for me; I may have utter faith, so that I can move mountains; yet if I lack charity, I count for nothing. I may give away all that I have to feed the poor; I may give myself up to be burnt at the stake; if I lack charity, it goes for nothing' [1].

Some people have reacted to these words of the Apostle to the Gentiles like those disciples who, on hearing Our Lord promise the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, commented: 'This is a hard saying. Who can listen to it?' [2]. It is indeed hard, because the charity described by St Paul is not just philanthropy, humanitarianism or an understandable sympathy for

the sufferings of others. Rather it requires the practice of the theological virtue of loving God and of loving others for the sake of God. (Friends of God, 235)

[1] 1 Cor 13:1-3

[2] John 6:61

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