Exaltation de la Sainte-Croix / Dimanche 14me après Pentecôte 2014

« Et moi, quand j'aurai été élevé de la terre, j'attirerai tous les hommes à moi » (Jn 12:32)

On this Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Gospel reminds us of those unknown Gentiles from some distant land, who approached Philip the Apostle and asked, « Seigneur, nous voudrions bien voir Jésus » (Jn 12:21). No answer is given to this request, other than the somewhat mysterious utternace of Our Lord : « Et moi, quand j'aurai été élevé de la terre, j'attirerai tous les hommes à moi » (Jn 12:32). As St-Jean does not mention the presence of any Gentiles at the Foot of the Cross—other than the Roman soldiers—we are left to wonder whatever became of those men and their desire to see the Lord.

As we know from the Gospels, people desired to see Christ for different reasons—some desired only to have their belly full of bread; others, to be cured of a physical disease; others, to find political freedom. One of Christ’s own disciples desired only to have a purse full of silver. But these are not the disciples Christ desires to have. As He told the woman at the well, « L'heure approche, et elle est déjà venue, où les vrais adorateurs adoreront le Père en esprit et en vérité; ce sont de tels adorateurs que le Père demande. » (Jn 4 :23) Christ desires to be loved for Himself, not for the gifts He is able to give. We express this unselfish love primarily in the prayer of adoration—whether before the Most Blessed Sacrament, or within the tabernacle of our own hearts, where the Most Blessed Trinity dwells in the souls of the just. Our prayer certainly also includes contrition, thanksgiving, and supplication—but in the first place must always be adoration.

It is only those who truly desire to adore the Triune God who will be able to see Him—both in this life as well as in the next. If we would truly see God, we have only to obey his command : « " Si quelqu'un veut venir à ma suite, qu'il se renonce lui-même, qu'il prenne sa croix chaque jour et me suive » (Lu 9 :23).

« Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow… » (Matt. 6 : 28)

Earth (Horizontal, Human, Maternal, Temporal)

Water (Personal)

Fire (Vertical, Divine, Paternal, Eternal)