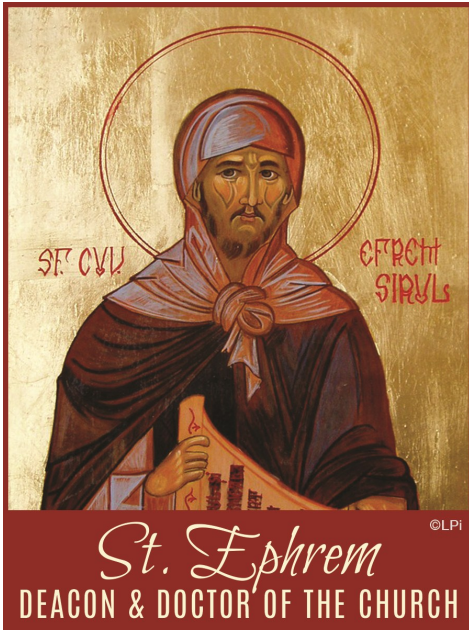


FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Tuesday, June 9th, Holy Mother Church invites us to celebrate the liturgical memorial of St. Ephrem the Syrian, deacon, great poet, and Doctor of the Church. We welcome this feast with profound joy and gratitude because St. Ephrem is a shining example of a faith that is deeply incarnated, sung, and lived in the midst of the People of God.

St. Ephrem was born in Nisibis around the year 306 and lived during a turbulent time marked by doctrinal confusion and powerful heresies that threatened the purity of the Christian faith. He did not respond with harsh polemics or intellectual arrogance, but with the humble and powerful weapon of beauty. He became known as “the harp of the Holy Spirit” because he composed hundreds of hymns and poetic songs that taught the mysteries of the faith to simple people. Through his verses he sang of the greatness of God’s mercy, the virginal motherhood of Mary,

the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the power of Baptism, and the hope of the Resurrection. His poetry was not mere art. It was evangelization, catechesis, and liturgy all at once. Do we believe that the Word of God, when it is announced with power and welcomed in faith, must become celebration, song, and life? St. Ephrem shows us that the Gospel is not a cold doctrine to be studied, but a living reality that must be sung, celebrated in community, and defended with creativity and love.

St. Ephrem always remained close to the Church and to the liturgy. He taught the faithful by helping them participate actively in the sacred mysteries. He understood that faith is transmitted not only through explanations but above all through the beauty of the celebration and fraternal communion. Today the Lord is doing the same with us. He is forming us, little by little, through the Word, the Eucharist, and the community, so that we may rediscover the primitive beauty of the Church and become credible witnesses in a world that has grown cold and skeptical.

In our present time, we also face subtle but dangerous heresies: a Christianity without the Cross, a faith without conversion, a spirituality without the power of the Resurrection, and a love without obedience. Like St. Ephrem, we are called to respond not with fear or aggression, but by allowing the Word to take flesh in our lives, to become song in our liturgies, and to shine with the beauty of a people who have encountered the Risen Lord.

I invite you to ask St. Ephrem for the grace of a renewed love for the Word of God and for the liturgy. May our community become a place where faith is truly sung, where the Kerygma (“Christ died and rose for us!”) resounds with fresh power, and where each one of us learns to give his or her life as a living witness.

Let us pray together: St. Ephrem, harp of the Holy Spirit, intercede for us. Help us to welcome the Word with a simple and obedient heart. Teach us to sing the wonders of God in the midst of our community. Grant that our lives may become a beautiful hymn of praise to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

Peace, 