

Free zone
Christian Wisdom in Urban Society
That God who lives among the citizens
by Duilio Albarello

The call *Rescuing Fraternity - Together*, promoted by a group of theologians, highlights an issue that cannot and should not be avoided by anyone who cares about the thought and life of the Christian faith today. I intend to focus on one aspect of that issue, which is mentioned in the first part of that document: *This new kairos in the history of faith is the time when the work of the Kingdom of God resounds throughout the secular world—not only in the community of believers, but in the whole extent of city of man. The Church's task is to make the Kingdom accessible, not to usurp it.*

As a matter of fact, the recognition of the privileged link that in the perspective of the Jewish-Christian faith unites the saving experience and urban coexistence benefits both salvation and the city. Salvation regains its real depth as a gift offered to all men, in their individual and social condition. The city, for its part, is challenged to discern that greater fraternity which allows the covenant between human beings to be born and to develop, "hoping against all hope".

(...)

What is needed, therefore, is the audacity of a witness, able to communicate news that is unsettling for our disenchanted and rather cynical times. It is the news that, in order to achieve the ideal of a city truly on a human scale, it is essential to perceive the occurrence of a fraternity that is never guaranteed, generated ultimately only by that God who "lives among the citizens", thanks to the discreet and effective action of the Spirit who inhabits the Earth.

(Original text: Italian.

Translated and revisde by Leonardo Stefanucci / Fabrizio Mastrofini)