

Impulse 04 – Yellow: Love links the soul to God.

"If I were to describe the meaning of my life in a few words," Chiara Lubich wrote in a letter in 1944, "I would put it as follows: I love God and want to love Him in a way He has never loved before. I want to make sure He is being loved. Whatever else happens in my life does not touch me. I have only one desire, one passion. **I want Love to be loved.**" A few years later, in another letter, she wrote, "The love of God is the first and only thing. That is how the ideal grew in our hearts: Love God and nothing else. All the rest is simply a result of this." The yellow of the rainbow stands for this burning love for Jesus.

Just like two lovers long to be close to each other at all times, Chiara Lubich longed to always be near Him who loved her infinitely – God Himself. She was filled with the desire to make her entire life a response to this love. As the "son of God" Jesus had lived entirely by the will of the Father. Chiara Lubich wanted to live the life of a "child of God," just like Jesus. She wanted to 'be Jesus' on earth. She wanted to reflect him, just like a mirror reflects facial features and movements. She writes, "**Being the 'mirror' of Jesus.** Making ourselves an instrument of God to be used by Him so that His beloved son can live anew on earth. 'Being Jesus.' Just like every act of Christ was guided by the Holy Spirit, man must let himself be guided and touched by the love that links him with God. Those who live in the present moment and love the 'will of God' with all their hearts, minds and power will be protected and inspired by the Holy Spirit. When he responds with loving faithfulness, he will be reflected in Jesus, reaching union." Just as lovers are always present in each others hearts, those who have a passion for God long to always be immersed in the heart of God.

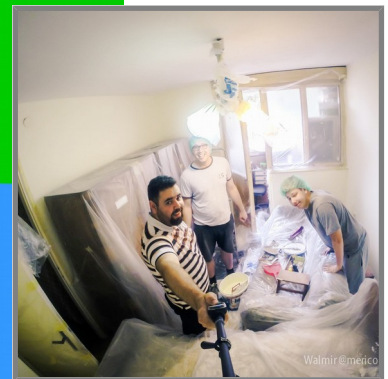
How did Jesus give shape to his intimate relationship with God? God was a loving father to Jesus. He addressed God as "Abba," father. He invites us to address God in the same way and to say "**Abba,**" dear father. We can keep on putting all our trust in His fatherly love. We may count on Him protecting us. He gives us security, divine consolation and an ardent love, which is rooted in the awareness of being loved. In a certain way, we are "in God." "That is the typical Christian prayer. When others believe in a God, they adore him, worship him or call on him, but those praying remain in a position "before" God, outside of Him. This Christian prayer is different: We enter into the heart of God." However, this union with God urges us to want to approach our sisters and brothers. It helps us to make sure that the love for our brothers and sisters does not remain inadequate and superficial but becomes radical and all-encompassing, precious by sacrifice and always willing to commit its own life.

When we make an effort to love others during the day, we will feel the presence of God in the evening, the union with

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Workshop in Sarajevo, 2014:
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Life in colours

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him. When you live in the midst of the world, this experience will make you very happy. It is the most effective antidote to current materialism, which has found many followers. A prayer by Chiara Lubich includes the following lines: "When we are united in complete harmony, when new unity has arisen from troubles, blossoming in greater abundance than ever before – just like the night gives way to the day and tears give way to the light –, then very often I find you, Lord. When I return to the temple of my soul, I meet you; or during one of my few moments of rest you invite me, drawing me gently but firmly into your divine presence. Then, nothing but you reigns inside me and around me. (...) What a strange experience, a mystery to our minds. Throughout the day we were there for our brothers and sisters, and in the evening we found the Lord; he has obliterated every trace of a memory of others." **He comes to you because you went to meet him in others!**

Perhaps this is a clue as to how we can learn to do as Jesus told us, to "always pray" (Luke 18:1). Always praying cannot mean increasing the number of our prayers. Rather, our daily routine will become a constant prayer when, in everything we do, it is not ourselves who are acting, but Christ in us. To reach that point, we need to make love the guiding principle of our lives.

Dear young friends, we have an inner life – we live with Jesus who is in us – and we have an outer life – we give shape to our relationship with Jesus in our relationships with others. These two worlds do not exist side-by-side, but correlate with each other. Each is the blossom of the other one and at the same time, each is the root of the other one. My inner life is nourished by my outer life. The more I enter the soul of others, the deeper I enter into God who lives in me. The deeper I enter into my inner self, the deeper my encounters with others will become. This means that our brothers and sisters are not obstacles on the way to God, but they are the pathway leading to him. **Let us discover others as an open door, a**

passageway, a path to God! And let us discover the act of praying, immersing ourselves in God, as a way that will lead us to others.

Heinrich Oest and Meinolf Wacker

Biblical sources

Luke 10:42 Matthew 16:26 John 7:38
Luke 18:1

Impulses

- Take time every day to "expose" yourself to the daily Gospel. Jesus lives and acts through the words of the Gospel – even today!
- When you have used the day to love your sisters and brothers with determination, take time "before God" in the evening. You will have the experience of union with God. Loving, spontaneous exchange with Him is a logical consequence.
- Make an effort to be in a conversation with God during the day, and thus to be in His presence. Then he can give of Himself to others. His presence is like living water that springs from the innermost core of yourself.
- Make a resolution for concrete daily exercises of devotion, such as a morning and evening prayer, the rosary, a prayer to the Holy Spirit ... they will give you firm support during your earthly pilgrimage, especially in times of crisis.
- Meet others for Mass.
- Try to make a resolution for the daily faces of "Jesus forsaken" on the cross: Await him in the morning! – Discover him when he approaches you! – Give him a name! – Embrace him! – Do acts of love for Him!