

Impulse 06 – Blue: Love brings people together, creates a home.

Everybody needs a place where they belong. **Everybody needs a home** to experience continuity throughout the flow of life. Carlo Carretto, a "Little Brother of Jesus," a religious community founded by Charles de Foucauld, writes, "God is my father. Through him I have the gift of life. Through him I have a home. We are made for a home where there is a father and where there are brothers and sisters. We need a home that gives us a sense of security, continuity and rest." The blue of the rainbow is about this harmony of life that shines from within. Love wants to shape and design the space in which we live and the people themselves (in the way they appear and dress) to make them beautiful, appealing, open and welcoming to others.

In 1951, Chiara Lubich wrote the following about the way to furnish an **apartment**: "It should be bright, friendly and ordered, just as everything that comes forth from the hand of God" – as beautiful as nature, as a meadow, as the sky. "We also have a house, a home, just as Mary had her home in Nazareth. I cannot tell you in what style to arrange things because our life together should bring forth a new harmony. We may have only few things, but these should be arranged in a way to please everyone. Everybody entering the home should be able to say, 'There is nothing special in these rooms, but I feel comfortable here.' If the beauty with which God has furnished nature becomes reflected in our community because we are united in God, it will also shape our surroundings."

In a reflection about the birth of Jesus in the stable of Bethlehem, Thomas von Kempen speaks about the attitude of awe and love that emanates from it and sets people in motion, "How adorable is this place! Enter, my soul, this humble abode of the heavenly King. See how the new-born God-man lies in the manger and keeps silence. Worship God. Think about the simple deeds of the Virgin Mary, her great joy, the deep emotion with which she looks at the child she has born. Look at all this as if you were part of it and say: I will stay here to serve my Lord, his mother Mary and her protector Joseph. I will build a fire and keep stocking it, procure food and fetch water. I will sweep the entrance, keep the place clean and seal all holes in the walls to protect against wind and rain. Then I will pick roses and lilies and decorate the sacred manger. I will also open the stable's window to let in natural light and to allow the angels to descend to fill this room with their soft jubilation."

This **simple life** that is Jesus (see John 14:6) and that he has shown to us speaks "without words" and casts a spell over people. As followers of Jesus we are invited to live a simple life and to attach great importance to lovingly doing everyday (seemingly minor) chores of life. Let us live in the

jesus beim
WORT
genommen



Harmony and atmosphere (ambiente): The love of God creates harmony, in nature as well as among people...



Life in colours

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silence of our house with a blameless heart! (see Psalms 101:2) Then our homes will be furnished neither too poorly nor too luxuriously, because they should make everyone feel comfortable. The decisive point is that our home expresses our love of our neighbours. This love is also reflected in **the way we dress** and practice **hospitality**.

Chiara Lubich writes the following about **clothing**: "Being dressed like the lilies on the field means: with freshness and taste. As we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, our clothing should also reflect the divine life. Therefore, it should be decent, inconspicuous, tasteful and simple, because we are children of God. It should be unassuming, because we are children of Mary, not extravagant and without precious jewellery. What counts is the inner radiance of a person who is filled with the love of God."

Our **home**, the place where we live, is not only there for an individual person, but is always open for others. I will invite them in, just like Mary and Joseph invited Jesus in with them. Even in my home, I exist not only for myself but also for others. Such an attitude creates a basis for solving social problems such as inviting in immigrants and asylum seekers, to whom we can not close our doors. It is through them that Jesus himself knocks on our door: "I was a stranger and you invited me in" (Matthew 25:35) This attitude also opens up potential for further development of our society and politics to create a united world, because now the whole world – not just Europe – has become one house. For this reason, it is important to keep our room / home in order, but also to keep in mind the house of the world and to take responsibility.

Dear young friends, **the beauty of God wants to shine through us**. Therefore, what God asks from us is not so much outwardly visible poverty, but rather an inner poverty that is deep and whole, so that we can let God's harmony shine through us, detached from the things of this world. Everything that comes from God is harmonious. He is the One. He is, above all, simplicity. This is reflected by the simple beauty of our living rooms and our way of dressing – beautiful like na-

ture, characterized by divine harmony. There will be tremendous variety, for no person is like the other. "Our home must have a trace of the divine in it. Even when its inhabitants are absent, anyone who enters the house must have the impression of entering holy ground. Sanctified by the presence of Jesus, who is reflected everywhere." Let's discover the inner divine order – when looking at our rooms, homes and clothing – as a ray of the love and beauty of God!

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Biblical sources

Luke 12:22-30 John 14:6
Matthew 25:35 Psalms 101:2
Hebrews 13:2

Impulses

- Check your closet (perhaps with a friend). What is too much? What can you give away? What would have to be urgently sorted out?
- The eyes of your brother / sister also see you from behind. If you need new clothes, ask someone to accompany you and help you find out what suits you and makes God's beauty shine through you best.
- Tidy up your room regularly. It should reflect the harmony of God in nature!
- Mutual love creates harmony and is attractive. Dedicate your life to making this mutual love come alive among your family / friends.
- Be hospitable to those who have no friends (in our society). Some hospitable people have accommodated angels without so much as knowing it.