

THE PRIMACY OF LOVE

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There is no fear in Love



In this first week of Easter, I want to be united with each one of you to wish you the joy and peace of the Risen Christ, the triumph of Love over sin, hatred, division and death. The Resurrection of Christ testifies to us that only Love is powerful and eternal. That is why the Cross culminates as Easter, overcoming death and affirming the supremacy of Love. St. John expresses it wonderfully when he says: *“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son”* (Jn 3:16). This love of God is the source and foundation of our joy and hope.

The best news we can receive is that God cannot separate us from His Love, because He is Love. This is the truth that we have to make our own. It is also the foundation of our trust in God. It is a path of conversion and unconditional trust; Only this trust can allow the Love of God to flow in us and through us. Not trusting in this Love leads us to live in fear, doubt and hopelessness.

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One of the disciples of Jesus who experienced the unconditional love of God was Mary Magdalene and she was the first to announce the joy of the resurrection of Jesus. The culmination of her experience begins with her going to the tomb “when it was still dark”. Surely there was fear, uncertainty, doubts; But there is something stronger within her that encourages her and pushes her forward and she meets Jesus face to face, an encounter that makes her an apostle. Mary is going to announce to the disciples that Jesus is alive, and she does so from her experience. Paschal faith is the result of a personal encounter with the risen Lord.

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It would be good to ask ourselves: What is my experience of a personal encounter with Jesus? What intensity do I look for? In the face-to-face encounter with Him, where does he send me? Pope Francis tells us: *“The encounter*

with the Lord, sets us in motion, pushes us out of self-centredness. Relationship with the Lord is not static, nor intimate, whoever puts Christ at the center of his or her life, becomes decentered. The more you unite with Jesus and He becomes the centre of your life, the more He makes you leave yourself, de-centres you and opens you to others. We are not at the centre, we are, so to speak, displaced, we are at the service of Christ and the Church”.

If we remember our ss.cc. spirituality we will conclude that it is born of a personal encounter with the Lord, a meeting of love, which led our Founders to consecrate themselves to Redeeming Love. The writings of our Founders do not reflect a spirituality tinged with fear or doubts; on the contrary, they are born of the abandonment to Providence that the Good Mother so often invited us to live, and the certainty that the Love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary were the strength and joy of the primitive community.

In this moment of change that we are experiencing as a Congregation, we are very well aware of the great Love that God has for us; A Love that we have experienced throughout our lives. Welcome the change from this Love that God has for us, that fills us with blessing and takes away fear. *“In love there can be no fear; fear is driven out by perfect love”* (1 John 4:18). Fear paralyzes us and prevents us from going where God wants to lead us. We have to live with the certainty that we are not alone, we are accompanied by the risen Jesus, although sometimes we do not recognize him, like the disciples of Emmaus. He has given us his Spirit and has promised us: *“I am with you always; yes to the end of time”* (Mt 28, 20).

God, who always remains true to his word, who only wants the best for us, will not make us stumble; will not fill our hearts with fear, dread and resistance. The love He has for us is going to be the force that drives us to build life and SS.CC. mission today, and to be ready to go where his Love needs us. Let us ask ourselves: what is the force that dwells in my heart? Is it love that pushes me and throws me into the adventure of giving life as Jesus did, or is it fear that leads me to stay locked in what is safe, known, like the disciples after the death of Jesus?

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The certainty of God's love in our lives is that ingredient that gives us peace, security, trust, even in the midst of uncertainty; And that, if we walk with Him, there is no place for insecurity, fear or doubt.

An Indian legend tells the story of a mouse that was in complete fear of a cat. A magician took pity on the mouse and turned it into a cat. Immediately he began to be afraid of a dog, so the magician turned him into a dog. But again, he began to feel fear of a tiger, so the magician turned him into a tiger. Then the tiger began to feel fear for the hunter. Then the magician said to him: “You have to be a rat” (An Indian Legend).

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This can happen to us sometimes. It is not a change of appearance, but a change of heart. When we entrust our lives confidently into the hands of God, when we trust and abandon ourselves to His Love, our little heart becomes a great, strong and fearless heart, because it knows who it relies on: *“If God is with us , who can be*

against us?” (Rom 8:31).

God knows us, and knows perfectly what we need, he knows our limitations, fears, stumbling blocks, efforts, hopes ... He knows our dreams, because He has put them in our hearts. No one

knows as he does how bad we sometimes feel because we do not get what we yearn for, our fears about the uncertain future because we do not understand his plans ... Precisely for this reason, he says to us many times through His Word *“do not be afraid!”*; Because he also knows our riches, desires, strengths ...

Let us be enlightened by the Word, by the promises of God, which are always being fulfilled. Let us look at the future without fear, with love and hope, knowing that everything is in the hands and heart of God, who, if he asks us for something, also gives us the grace to carry it out, since this is *“His Work, and if He wants it, He will carry it forward”* (GM).

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