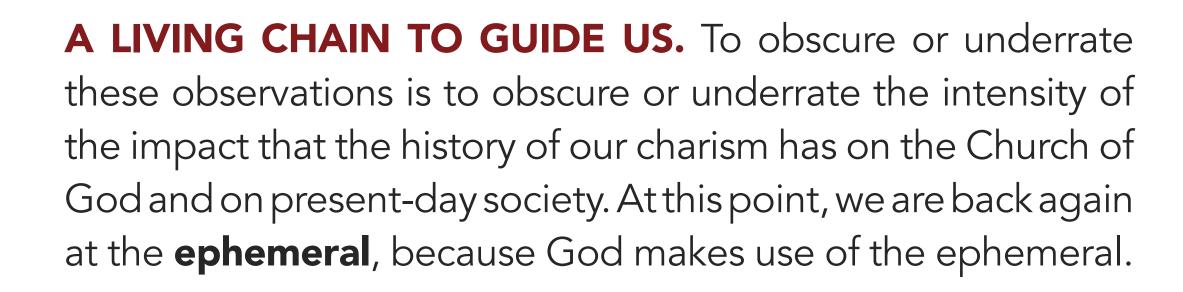
## THE CHARISM TODAY

## THE GREATEST SACRIFICE is to give your life FOR AN OTHER'S WORK

historically, phenomenally, as it appears, is a particular person; in the case of our Movement, for example, I am the one. As I say this, it is as if all that I am were to disappear (because the "Other" is Christ in His Church). A historic point of reference remains—the whole flow of words, the whole torrent of work that was born from that first moment in the Berchet High School.

To lose sight of this point is to lose the temporal foundation of our unity, of the usefulness of our actions; it is like making cracks in a foundation.

Each one has the responsibility of the charism; each one is the cause of the decline or the increase of the charism's effectiveness; everyone is either a stretch of land in which the charism wastes away or a stretch of land in which it bears fruit. So we have reached a very serious moment, which urgently requires everyone, as a matter of loyalty and fidelity, to become aware of his own responsibility. It is the moment for each of us to take up his own responsibility for the charism.



I may dissolve, but the texts I leave behind and the uninterrupted following—God willing—of the people indicated as points of reference, as the true interpretation of what happened in me, become the instrument for correction and re-awakening; they become the **tool of morality**. The chain of individuals indicated as points of reference is what is most alive in the present, because even a text can be interpreted; it is difficult to interpret it wrongly, but it is possible.

To give your life for an Other's work always implies a link between the word "Other" and something historical, something concrete that can be touched, felt, described, photographed, and has a name and surname. Without this, our pride imposes itself—this is ephemeral, yes; ephemeral in the worst sense of the word. To speak of charism without a historical reference is not to speak of a Catholic charism.

(L'avvenimento cristiano, Milan 2003)



I always told Fr. Giussani,
"I will be forever grateful to
you, because by introducing
me to the Movement, you
gave me the opportunity
to make a human journey."
A journey that helped me to
perceive the true nature of
Christianity and
to understand myself.
Without Fr. Giussani's
friendship, we never
would have understood
the full meaning of human
experience or of faith.

Julián Carrón