

WORKSHEET 1 - SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. A fact at the origin of a new life

The letters of a teacher and a high school student that Julián Carrón read during his address at the Pilgrimage for the Jubilee of Mercy at the Sanctuary of Caravaggio (BG), on October 1, 2016.

Mercy can reach you through the person from whom you would least expect it

This morning I came into class with a wound, because one of my students asked me, “What was bothering you today? Were you mad at us?” I wasn’t angry with them, but it was true that I wasn’t present, because I had lost my house keys and I was worried. I was struck that he’d noticed that something was bothering me. It made me think, because it meant that it isn’t true that everything is the same, that it doesn’t matter if you’re there or not. This morning I came to school with that question about presence that he had evoked, the importance that I be present in class, and not with my mind elsewhere. As I entered the classroom, I kind of jumped inside, because I perceived that I need him in order to be there. I need their faces in order to be present. This is simple and liberating. It helped me understand a bit better what you said in Cervinia, that “the Movement is the form, the modality through which Christ has reached us, fascinated us, and seized us. It is the way Christianity has become interesting for us, the way Christ has become a real presence in our life. We have discovered Him through experience, through His ability to attract us, to fascinate us, and, in belonging to the Movement, to change our life. But this dynamic never stops, because circumstances change constantly. For this reason, the Church always needs to scrutinize the signs of the times to seek the adequate form of witness.” Today I am attracted by an attention to myself that I hadn’t even imagined. I’ve always thought that being present depended on me, and in part, that’s true. Today I discovered that there’s someone who needs me to be present, and I need him in order to be there. This experience is fascinating. It’s a reciprocity that marks me. It’s not that I know what the good of this boy is. Today I know that I am a good for him, because of the passion I have for my life. It’s up to me to respond to this question, not by doing him the good that I imagine he needs, but by doing what I did this morning. Yesterday I was in class but I wasn’t there; this morning I was there, and my being present is a good for him. I saw it looking at his surprise today!

Simplicity of heart

When I reflect on my experience of the GS équipe, I think of a “re-happening” of an encounter, of a great friendship that continually wins over my life. First of all, starting with the friends of my community, our friendship took nothing for granted, but opened out to new things, to the freshness of meeting new people whose lives and experiences are different from ours, with genuineness and simplicity [...], the dialogue between us opened into an encounter, a ‘bridge’ with the other, an encounter that affirms Christ’s promise to never leave us alone, »

» to be present in a living and ‘carnal’ way in the existence of each of us, such that every day I say, as my friend Stella wrote, “Who are You, that I miss You?”. Who are You, living presence, whom my heart desires because it is aware that without You, I can do nothing?

At the *équipe*, I saw before my eyes the encounter I’d had a few years previously with the companionship of GS, when I felt that the thirst for living that filled and fills my heart was understood, loved, and taken seriously. It’s not that I wasn’t a believer before. I went to Mass every Sunday, and was active in the parish youth center activities, but through that overwhelming experience I sensed through people and events that there is a place where all my thirst for truth is looked at with sincerity and where I am ‘more me’ because there is One who has called me His friend, One who had mercy on my nothingness to the point of being nailed on a cross for me. From then on, I’ve never stopped. Life is exploding in my heart and every day is the moment for verifying the Encounter, “without moving one millimeter from reality,” as Carrón said during the assembly Saturday morning.

I need to live that experience again, to live truly. I don’t settle any more. School, friends, music, sports, in everything reality challenges me to find the “slivers of truth” that correspond to my heart. From that encounter with a greater Beauty in reality, in my existence, I have begun to live in a true way, worthy of my desire, and not according to my thoughts, because I want to ‘savor’ everything, to ‘throw myself into life’ in a big way, not in an ideal world, but in this reality that is given to me, that is a continual battlefield, where daily I have had, and continue to ask to have, the encounter with Him. The *équipe* was an opportunity to keep His memory, a springboard for continuing to journey with more decisiveness, because “people journey when they know well where to go.”