

## SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS - 1. "TRACES OF THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE"

*"Too easily we do not start from our true experience [...]. We often identify our experience with partial impressions. [...] Even more often we confuse our experience with the prejudices or schemes" (Traces of the Christian Experience—worksheet 1).*

*We include here the flyer of CL high school students in Spain, centered on the testimony of one of our Catalan friends: in front of what is happening in her country, she did not stop with first impressions, she did not let herself be confused by the prejudices of adults and by the schemes of the media, but looked deep down into her experience, with sympathy for her humanity and the humanity of those around her.*

*What does it mean to look with this sympathy at what we live, from the student protests of these days to daily life in our classes, from life with family and friends to our most hidden feelings?*

## WE NEED A GREEN LIGHT

It is the 2nd of October 2017. A town on the Plain of Vic. A 17 year-old girl is surprised when she feels the shattering of the convictions she has always believed: "This morning they read us the official communication of the school where I study, which expressed anger at and rejection of the cruel acts of violence against citizens at the voting booths. It really pissed me off, because the violence came from both sides, even if what the police did was more brutal. It kills me when people generalize the actions of the Government and of the Civil Guard, and put all Spaniards in the same boat. It hurts us enormously that they call us terrorists, but we end up doing the same thing to them. Neither the Catalan nor the Spanish news seeks the truth, but only shows what is in its own interest. This is not the independence that I defend." The girl, after reading a letter from the Catalan police, appealing for non-violence on 1st October, ended up saying: "I don't know if it is true or not, but what really stunned me was the conclusion, 'Everything is at stake, EVERYTHING!' I find myself in front of a man who is betting his whole life on this, a man whose happiness depends on a political decision. If ideology is so powerful that it blinds us and the testimony of my experience (the Christian encounter) is not sufficient, how do I build a green light that is strong enough to break the mask of ideology?"

A green light. Like what happened in *Men against fire*—an episode of the series *Black Mirror*—in which the army of a city defends its population from the plague of some anthropomorphic beings called "cockroaches," riddling them mercilessly with bullets. Suddenly, one of these creatures shines a green light in the eyes of a soldier. The next day, this guy no longer sees cockroaches: he sees scared children, women and men who try to hide themselves. He is paralyzed, and no longer able to kill them. The veil of ideology that separated them has fallen.

"You are already the green light," a friend tells the girl. "Your experience seems so limited in front of the immensity of the problem. You feel like a speck of dust. In Bethlehem two »

» thousand years ago a child was born. Too little to resolve the problems of the world? This is God's method: He chooses the small to do great things. You only have to remain faithful to the experience of correspondence you've lived, which little by little can break down the masks."

This young girl no longer wants to throw more wood on the fire. She wants to verify how the Christian experience can cause the veil of ideology to fall. In her fragility, she asks how it can happen in her, how she can be that green light. She wants to live and transmit the change that reached her in the encounter with Christ. An encounter that gives unity to her life and permits her to see the other as a good, not as a stranger. All of us human beings need a green light that breaks up our ideologies and allows us to encounter each other again.

**The High School Student of CL in Spain, October 2017**