



Message from Julián Carrón
to friends from Communion and Liberation on vacation
Hong Kong, November 10-12, 2018

Dear friends,

Since I could not be there with you over the weekend, I am sending my greetings and an invitation: at the beginning of this vacation, be grateful to be together. Do not take it for granted. Your being there was not something you did, you just said yes to God's initiative toward you. The fact it happened was not random, it is a grace, a gift that comes before any of your own initiatives or merits. This is what fills our lives with hope. Abraham, John and Andrew, Peter were all chosen. They were people like us, normal people touched by the preference of the Mystery.

This means the vacation is a precious opportunity to help you to acknowledge this fact: that we were chosen. If that first piece of evidence gets lost, our world begins to grow dark, both our lives and everything around us.

The Lord had you encounter this "strange companionship." Why? To teach you a method that will allow you not to lose your life in living. One of the greatest gifts that I received from Fr. Giussani was a method to be able to walk. This is why I told him, "I will always be grateful to you because, from the time I met you, I was able to make a journey, a human journey." This is how I discovered how faith is relevant for life's needs. I discover this every day, living those circumstances the Lord places in front of me.

When there is great confusion and uncertainty fills us with fear, it becomes clear that, without a method, we cannot avoid skepticism and, in the end, nihilism. It seems like, in all that we live, nothing remains, everything is lost. Think how many people are unable to walk, are confused and stuck, not knowing how to face life. What is the point of going on vacation together, spending the money to travel, if in the end nothing remains? Help each other, therefore, to make a journey; though we have been chosen, though we have received a great gift, none of it will become truly ours and nothing can withstand the passing of time if we do not make a journey. Every one of our meetings, in Italy, in the U.S., in Brazil, in Africa or in Moscow, is to help us to walk, sharing the things we have discovered and the difficulties we run into along the way.

The Movement is not a club that organizes initiatives just to pass the time; that would not be enough to respond to the most urgent question of our time: how can we live in such a confused world? We are together to verify whether what was given to us can last forever, if it helps us to judge every circumstance, if it can hold up in the face of every challenge.

A vacation is a time to share our lives: some of you have questions, and some have experiences to communicate to the others that respond to the questions.

My hope is that you will go home with greater certainty of the grace you have received, just as John and Andrew went home with greater certainty each time they were with Jesus. That confirmation is part of the journey of faith, because faith includes that entire trajectory that leads us to certainty. Without walking this path, everything is reduced to a moment that does not last, as we have often seen.

Life is not a game; life is a serious matter and it is only if we take our journey seriously that we can become certain about what we have received, and so share it with everyone we meet.

I hope that you will have an experience of what Fr. Giussani described in 1968: “It is a hope in you and in me,” our hope is in our awareness that we are preferred by the Mystery, by Christ present, an awareness that grows if we stay together.

Be happy to spend time together, savoring all the fruits that “the tenacity of a path” will bring to maturity in you.

And we look forward to enjoying the witness you will give us from the other end of the world!

Your companion on the way to destiny

Julián Carrón

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julián Carrón". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small accent mark over the 'i' in Carrón.

Milan, November 9, 2018