



FRATERNITÀ DI COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE

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Life presses on!

Summer Proposal for High School and College Graduates

This year, 2020, has been full of the unexpected. Covid-19 has turned the usual rhythm of our life together upside down. We have seen how this event has affected the usual gestures of our companionship over the last few months. And it is not over. Now, though we have come out of *lockdown*, the reopening is still preventing us from participating in our familiar gestures of summer (community vacations, the Meeting, etc). Further, in respecting the health-related guidelines in place, we cannot organize the pilgrimage to Czestochowa, that gesture so dear to high school and college graduates, as we can see by the desire to participate that has not weakened over time.

Life, however, does not stand still. In fact, it is more pressing than ever! The fact we cannot make the pilgrimage to Czestochowa has not erased the irreducible need that inspires it: to give thanks for the experience one has had and to look at the question of one's life during such an important rite of passage as finishing high school or college. Paradoxically, the pandemic made the need not to turn away from that question emerge with even greater urgency in many of us.

The decisions we need to make, in fact, will not wait. From choosing what to study and which university is the best fit, for the high school graduates—including the decision of whether to move into student apartments or not—to the job search for college graduates, with all the sense of uncertainty the economic consequences of the lockdown have generated in each of our lives.

All these decisions are tied to the need for a personal work to clarify one's vocation: what am I here to do in the world? How can I be useful?

The last few months, we have invited each other to verify that great working hypothesis Fr. Giussani offered to us as the way of becoming truly human within such challenging circumstances: "To always live the real intensely," (*The Religious Sense*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal 1997, p. 108). How have we verified this? What have you discovered to be essential in facing this new step of the journey opening up in front of you, whether it is the beginning of university or entering the professional world? These are the questions you would have meditated upon, walking toward Our Lady's shrine. And these same ones can accompany you now, in this summer with the gradual coming out of

lockdown, depending on the country you are in, in the present time given to you to live. This strange time is a precious opportunity to rediscover your true need and the companions you have on this journey.

So, then, how can we use our time this summer–this year when the regular pilgrimage to Czestochowa is impossible–in a way that makes it equally useful for our life? How can we preserve the richness of and reasons for life we gained over the months of isolation and years of school, especially in relation to the pressing vocational question inside all of you? “Life is vocation,” Fr. Giussani told us; it is the call of the Mystery. In the midst of all the voices that, during this rite of passage, creep into your heart to toss you in one direction or another, usually out of some calculation or personal interest, there is nothing more critical than intercepting that singular voice of the ideal, the singular voice of the One who takes all of your humanity to heart, because He has made you for a destiny of happiness.

As a help to use your free time over the summer to humanly face the challenges not even Covid-19 could cancel, we thought it would be useful to propose working, personally or in a group as circumstances permit, on two readings we would have used for the pilgrimage to Czestochowa.

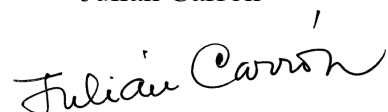
The texts are: *La voce unica dell'ideale* [*The One Voice of the Ideal*] (Edizioni San Paolo, 2018) and the notes from the meeting of high school graduates which took place last February entitled, “*What am I here to do in the world?*” (published online on the CL website).

At the end of the summer, on **Tuesday, September 1 at 8:30 PM**, we will have a virtual assembly to witness to one another the work we have done. The instructions on how to participate will be communicated by the GS and CLU secretaries through the usual channels.

If you would like to send a contribution, you may do so by writing to: 1settembre@comunioneliberazione.org

Have a good summer and happy walking!

Julián Carrón



Milan, July 27, 2020