

**Notes from Davide Proserpi's contribution at the Annual Gathering  
with Moderators of the International Associations of the Faithful,  
Ecclesial Movements and New Communities**

*Rome, June 22, 2023*

I would like to contribute to the discussion, focusing on two words that describe some of the steps being taken by the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation: communion and co-responsibility for the charism.

The point of departure for us is to make memory of the origin. As then Cardinal Ratzinger said at Fr. Giussani's funeral, if we follow Fr. Giussani it is because in thinking of him, we think of a man who totally spent himself to guide us not to himself, but to Christ. Therefore, renewed missionary drive is not just a matter of thinking up new and more intelligent forms of communicating the beauty of the Christian encounter, maybe abandoning that particular, let us say, *temperament* that characterizes the charism we are representing here today. Rather, we are invited to return continually to the one foundation of everything: Christ Himself. Our *communion* originated with Him alone, and this communion is what can fascinate today's women and men, who are often attracted by an individualistic mentality that is ever more widespread and pervasive but at the same time, are disarmed by the solitude that comes from it.

Certainly, only if we actually experience what Jesus called the "hundredfold here below" will we become credible witnesses, but the personal experience that each can have of this hundredfold is cherished and supported within a lived communion. In order to be lived, it also needs work done without fear of the difficulties and weaknesses that emerge on a personal or community level, and in dialogue with people, with different realities, with movements and the Church, just as within the Church herself: reciprocal listening is crucial, as is allowing ourselves to be educated to make memory of the encounter with Christ.

I would add that our unity in the Church is seen not so much in the fact that we all do the same things or say them in the same way, but rather in the fact that in the midst of our differences we always affirm the same thing, the expression of the one center of our affection: Christ.

Linked to this is the second aspect on which we are concentrating our proposal: communion lived as *co-responsibility* for the charism. Fr. Giussani said, "In order to communicate a life in the charism that we have been given we have to live conversion, not to me but to what has been told me." (*Event and Responsibility*, "Word Among Us," *Traces*, n. 4/1998, p. VIII). The foundation of co-responsibility is our continual conversion to the event of Christ present here and now. Thus, our co-responsibility is grounded in the reciprocal call to the origin of the charism, which continues within a story that for us is the Fraternity of CL, which in turn is embraced and guided by the entire Church. I believe it is a fundamental step, above all in the period following the death of the founder.

So, I would say that for our Fraternity, educating ourselves to the apostolic life means educating ourselves to the wholeness of the Christian experience within a *communion co-responsibility* (in the movement, among movements, with and in the Church, also understood in its institutional aspect), according to her dimensions expressive of culture, charity and mission that engage us personally and in public life.

For the Fraternity of CL, the challenge to "wish to lead the *vita apostolica*" is education to an authentic missionary drive. In this regard we are rediscovering that being *called* by God coincides with the awareness of being *sent*: sent to a country, a city, a neighborhood, a certain workplace, "sent" in the relationships with our relatives, friends and colleagues. Every instant, if lived as response to His call, is the beginning of mission. I will conclude by sharing the invitation Pope Francis extended to us at the audience granted to CL last October: "Let this holy prophetic and missionary restlessness burn in your hearts. Do not stand still." Thank you.