



Reflection 1

FOLLOWING CLELIA'S FOOTSTEPS TOWARD THE HEART OF JESUS

THE HEART OF JESUS IS HERE, BEFORE YOU AND FOR YOU

For Mother Clelia, to say "Heart of Jesus" is surely to affirm that the Heart of Jesus is here, open before you and for you. It is the refuge of preferred souls, the fountain in which we find "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." It is the nuptial hall where the marriage is celebrated. This Heart now speaks to you and invites you to enter and begin a journey of Love, to let you bathe in the bath of his love, to make you new. (Fr. Ubaldo Terrinoni)

CLELIA MERLONI

"Why are you so worried about things that have no substance? 'Think of me,' Jesus tells us, 'and I will look after you and everything that concerns you'" (SA p. 288). "Everything must bring you to God, and nothing must draw you away. This should be your consolation: that for you everything is bitterness and God alone is your rest" (SA p. 264).

"Take heart and attach yourself as closely as possible to the Heart of Jesus, the only rest of tired and tried souls, the only ark that no storm can shatter" (SA p. 191).

"You could not give Jesus more certain proof of your esteem and your love than by making yourself like Him; since one only imitates those he esteems precisely because love transforms the lover into the person loved" (SA p. 188).

COME TO ME (Matthew 11: 28-30)

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Genuine human rest requires a dose of “contemplation.” If we raise our eyes to heaven and pray simply and with our hearts, we truly will find and see God, for he is there: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth” (Mt. 11: 25). However, he is not only there; we find him also in the “gentle yoke” of the daily little things: we see him in the smile of the small, innocent child, in the grateful look of the sick person we have visited, in the eyes of the poor person who asks our help, in our goodness.

Let our whole being rest and let us entrust ourselves totally to God, our only salvation and the salvation of the whole world. As John Paul II suggested, to truly rest we must keep “a look of joyful satisfaction [for a job well done]: a ‘contemplative’ glance that does not seek to do many things, but rather to enjoy the beauty of what has been done” in the presence of God. We must also thank him: everything comes to us from the Most High and without him we can do nothing.

Indeed, one of the greatest dangers in our day is that “ours is a time of constant movement that often turns to workaholism along with the risk to ‘do for the sake of doing.’” We must resist this temptation and seek to “be” before “doing” (John Paul II). For in truth, as Jesus tells us, only one thing is necessary (cf. Luke 10: 42): *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves”* (Mt. 11: 29).

THE CHURCH – POPE FRANCIS

“The Heart of Jesus is so great that it seeks to welcome all of us into the revolution of tenderness. Closeness to the Heart of the Lord urges our heart to lovingly draw near to a brother or sister, and helps us assume this compassion for the world. We are called to be witnesses to and messengers of God’s mercy, to offer the world a perspective of light where there are shadows, of hope where despair reigns, of salvation where sin abounds. To engage in prayer is to enter Jesus’ heart with my own heart, to make a path within Jesus’ heart, feel what Jesus feels, Jesus’ feelings of compassion, and also to explore my own heart in order to change my heart in this relationship with the heart of Jesus” (International Meeting of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, June 28, 2019).

“Jesus promises to give rest to everyone, but he also gives us an invitation, which is like a commandment: ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart’ (Mt 11:29). The ‘yoke’ of the Lord consists in taking on the burden of others with fraternal love. Once Christ’s comfort and rest is received, we are called in turn to become rest and comfort for our brothers and sisters, with a docile and humble attitude, in imitation of the Teacher. Docility and humility of heart help us not only to take on the burden of others, but also to keep our personal views, our judgments, our criticism or our indifference from weighing on them” (Angelus, July 6, 2014).

PLEDGE

- I will try to leave my heart always turned to the Heart of Jesus so that all my actions may become prayer.
- I will try to love my brothers and sisters with the Heart of Jesus and see them with the eyes of Mother Clelia.

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CLELIA MERLONI

Lord Jesus, you made Blessed Clelia a steadfast apostle of the love of your most holy Heart and a lover of the Father's will throughout her life of continual trial. You filled her with humble trust, the key that opens the treasures of your infinite mercy. We ask you to glorify her here on earth so that the beauty of her holiness might draw us to your most gentle Heart, her intercession assist us on our journey toward the ultimate good, and her example awaken in us the desire to see our triune God known, loved, and served. Amen.

Imprimatur † Bishop Pietro Maria Fragnelli
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“Let us cast ourselves with filial trust in the Heart of Jesus, who can do all things and from whom we can draw that strength so necessary to sanctify our every action.”

(Mother Clelia Merloni)

