

Pierre Goursat

Community weekend near Barcelona

29th May 1988

We're going to be talking about the Annunciation

A talk by Pierre Goursat at a Community week-end in Spain, on the union between the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary. Pierre also talks about the Glorious Cross - his last initiative - that he founded in the Community in 1986, when he had already given up his responsibility as Moderator.

We're going to be talking about the Annunciation. At the Annunciation, Jesus was a little embryo. A few days after his conception, his heart started beating. From that moment onwards, he was saying: "Here I am, Lord, here to do your will." The will of the Father, is that his Son offers himself as a sacrifice.

There is a great intimacy between Mary and Jesus. Mary understands her Son is offering himself as a sacrifice. Shortly after his birth, they go to Jerusalem. And over there, there is a prophetess, Anne, who says a sword will pierce the heart of Mary. In reality, what these words reveal to us, is the unity between the Heart of Jesus and the heart of Mary.

This is why St Jean Eudes said the Heart of Jesus and the heart of Mary form one heart. It's difficult to understand, because there's the human heart of Mary and the divine heart of Jesus.

And we, who are [brothers and sisters] of Jesus and Mary, through the Spirit, become like little children of Mary. This gives us the grace to abandon ourselves like a child into Mary's hands.

Because Mary welcomes us as a mother, she receives us as a son or a daughter into her womb. We must live in her Son, abandoning ourselves like little children. It's very simple, and if we manage to have this simplicity, everything is very easy in life: like a child going to hospital for an operation.

Let us be reminded of the example of St Therese of the Child Jesus. She had, on her, a little cross which provoked an infection. She said: "I am too small to carry this cross. The Lord isn't asking that of me. I am content with the little sacrifices I do."

When we talk about martyrs, it's difficult to understand the joy. But in the Charismatic Renewal, we are simple and joyful. Like it says in the song: "Here I am, Lord, here I am like a child."

Mary shows us all that. With her, everything is done with ease. Without her, we harden our hearts with a wilful mindset, and it doesn't work. Look at St. Peter and St. John. St. Peter says: "I am strong. Even if everyone abandons you, I will not abandon you." He was leaning on his own strength and the Lord sends him a lesson. "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." But John went all the way to the cross with Mary. And Jesus on the cross says: "Here is your son." "Here is your mother." That, is abandonment.

Abandonment is a grace. It seems easy, but it's both easy and difficult. If we understand it well, it's very easy. St. Therese of the Child Jesus spoke beautiful words. She made small sacrifices. And going from small sacrifice to small sacrifice, she could then make others, which were bigger. When Jesus tells us: "My yoke is easy and my burden light", he's speaking the truth. In Scripture, St. Paul tells us: "Carry each other's burdens." Like that, it's not so heavy.

Perhaps you know of the association *The Glorious Cross (La Croix Glorieuse)*. There are certain brothers and sisters in the Community who are in a lot of suffering and who have asked that *The Glorious Cross* be integrated into the Community. They get together each month and pray for each other. One sister¹, suffering from an unstable form of diabetes, is obliged to have insulin injections seven or eight times a day. Another sister said to her: "You should ask for some support from your sisters." And she didn't want it, until the day she said to herself: "I let go." And she accepted that the others make a prayer chain for her. Each day, there would be someone praying for her. Each person would pray once a week. It helped this sister a lot. And she gave a testimony about it at Paray-le-Monial, saying: "I'm much more relaxed."

More and more brothers and sisters tell us: "I want help in my suffering." We find seven people² to pray for them. And if we can't find them, we look for them in the Community.

In Uruguay, there was a brother with a terribly deformed face. He said: "I can't live like this. I'm going to commit suicide." Two sisters spoke to him about Jesus. And he asked to be accompanied. Now, his life has a sense. We see that it's for the conversion of sinners. You could do this in Spain. When this young man who wanted to commit suicide came to know the Lord, he understood that the Lord gives strength through abandonment. And that is the secret of strength.

Don't worry about the future saying: "What's going to happen is terrible." For example, St. Therese of the Child Jesus would walk in the garden and it would tire her out. And she would say: "I'm walking for a missionary."

We can say: "I accept this small sacrifice." It's saying yes to Mary. If we say it very often, our life transforms and we become little children. We should be like a foetus in the womb of Mary. In the womb of Mary, we live from her blood.

Gesture: the cross, is that (crossing his fingers). But if we do it like this, (putting his fingers parallel), there is no cross.

In summary, it's in saying yes now. Emotions and sentiments must have the faith as a support.

Pierre Goursat
and his brothers and sisters

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1 This is Marie-France Dunat, one of the first members of the Glorious Cross

2 One for every day of the week.