



Synod
2021
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For a synodal Church
communio | participatio | missio

Reflection 6
FOLLOWING CLELIA'S FOOTSTEPS
TOWARD THE HEART OF JESUS

Year of the Sacred Heart

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.”

REFLECTION

We, too, have times of fatigue and disappointment. So let us remember these words of the Lord, which give us so much consolation and help us understand if we are using our energies to do good. Indeed, sometimes our fatigue is caused by placing our confidence in non-essentials, because we distance ourselves from what matters most in life. The Lord teaches us not to be afraid of following Him because the hope we place in Him will never disappoint. We are called to learn from Him what it means to live by mercy so that we may be instruments of mercy.

To live by mercy so that we may be instruments of mercy: to live by mercy is to know we need the mercy of Jesus, and when we know we need pardon and consolation we learn to be merciful with others. To keep our gaze fixed on the Son of God helps us understand how far we still have to go; but at the same time it

fills us with the joy of knowing that we are walking with Him and are never alone.

POPE FRANCIS

"If we show him our inner wounds, our sins, He always forgives us. He is pure mercy. Let's go to Jesus!"

"So many rare and unknown diseases! When I find people in the audiences - especially children - and I ask: "Are you ill?" - [they answer] "A rare disease". There are so many of them today! How hard it is to keep up with pathologies, with treatment facilities, with healthcare that is really what it should be, for everyone. We could become discouraged. That is why we need *consolation* - the third word. The Heart of Jesus beats for us, always repeating those words: "Courage, courage, do not be afraid, I am here!". Courage, sister, courage, brother, do not lose heart, the Lord your God is greater than your ills, He takes you by the hand and caresses you, He is close to you, He is compassionate, He is tender. He is your comfort."

"And let us ask the Sacred Heart for the grace to be able to console in turn. It is a grace that must be asked for, as we courageously commit ourselves to opening up, helping one another, carrying one another's burdens. It also applies to the future of health care, especially "Catholic" health care: sharing, supporting each other, moving forward together."

"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."

"Families always, always, have crosses. Always. Because the love of God, the Son of God, also asked us to follow him along this way. But in families also, the cross is followed by resurrection, because there too the Son of God leads us. So the family is a workshop of hope, of the hope of life and resurrection, since God was the one who opened this path. In families, there are difficulties, but those difficulties are resolved by love. Hatred

doesn't resolve any difficulty. Divided hearts do not resolve difficulties. Only love is capable of resolving difficulty. Love is a celebration, love is joy, love is perseverance."

MOTHER CLELIA

The love of the Heart of Jesus makes itself present in the entire life of the Apostle: in her gestures, her words, her smile, her features, in a style of life which speaks with the eloquence of the Gospel and which is an expression of an existence consecrated by God and given to her brothers and sisters in love. (*The Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Church today: Charism and Mission, 38*)

"Try to take your rest in the most loving Heart of Jesus, and unite it to the rest that Jesus takes in the bosom of his Divine Father and in the Most Holy Sacrament. Offer Him every breath and every beat of your heart that these may keep watch before Him while you sleep, as so many acts of love and sacrifice of your entire being; and beg Him that your rest may give you new strength to serve Him better. (*Spiritual Anthology, p. 185, 4.1, Mp, p.9*)

- Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus helps us to experience God's love and then witness to it. Love lets our hearts beat in unison with the Sacred Heart.

- To have a heart like the Heart of Jesus, we can't let the seed of evil and weeds grow and take over our will. We must pull out the evil from the root.

How committed are you? Is the Heart of Jesus the center of your life?
