

Letter of Lent for the Family of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary

ONLY SILENCE WILL ALLOW US TO HEAR THE SUFFERING HEART OF JESUS

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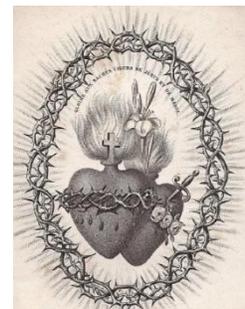


February 13th, 2018

Dear Sisters and dear Family,

Today, 13 years ago, Sor Lucia, the oldest visionary of Fatima, went to the house of the Father. She lived 98 years, and for 88 years of those years, she kept in her heart all that she saw and heard from the Angel of Peace and from Our Lady of the Rosary—every detail of the apparitions of the angel, every word contained in the prayers of reparation that the angel taught her and her two younger cousins, the sense of responsibility that they experienced when the angel said: the Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of Mercy for you... and through you for all humanity. All of that was kept in Sr. Lucia's heart. Even more so did she keep in her heart everything that related to the apparition of Our Lady and every word, every gesture, every warning, every tear that Our Lady shed when She spoke of sinners, the need to pray for conversion, when She revealed hell and when She said: "stop offending My Son who is so offended." Could we ever try to imagine what it meant for Sr. Lucia to keep that in the silence of her heart, and live to be an offering of consolation and reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, so wounded and offended by our sins? Could we ever try to imagine what it meant for her to know that she was chosen to make Our Lady known and loved so as to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart, because She alone can obtain peace and conversion for a world in turmoil?

How much silence surrounded the heart of Sor Lucia.... How much silence was necessary to keep and guard with care everything in her heart and ponder their meaning... *pondering how she was to live, respond and proclaim Our Lady's messages and how to console and repair the sufferings of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary whom she saw surrounded by thorns...* Silence, dear family, is a gift and also a task. We must cultivate the virtue of silence in our minds, our hearts, our lips, our gestures and our sentiments. Silence is the environment needed to hear the deepest secrets of God's Heart. Without silence, we do not learn to have ears that truly hear, or eyes that truly see. One of the greatest pains of Jesus' Heart that we read many times in the Gospel was: *"Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear?"* Our lack of remembering His words and His actions also caused him pain, as we see in this same passage of Mark 8: *"And do you not remember...."*



Silence is one of the most necessary dispositions of our hearts to be able to hear, to see, to understand and to remember everything about Jesus. Without silence, time passes and the Lord cannot do anything with us during that time. He cannot do anything because we waste the moments of visitation if we do not have a recollected heart and mind, if our capacity to meditate, to reflect, is not developed by the power of silence.

Tomorrow, the 14th, we begin the Sacred time of Lent. It is a sacred time in which the Lord, by the silent contemplation of His sufferings, His Passion and His death out of love for us, desires to speak so much to our hearts; desires to transform us into men and women of heroic love; desires to reveal to us what His Kingdom truly is; desires to change our vision of reality that is so tainted by worldly aspirations and values, and desires us to enter into the School of His Pierced Heart to learn the truth of His love, His word and His actions, his gestures....their true meaning and true purpose. Yes, in this Sacred Time of prayer, silence, meditation of the Passion of Christ and of penance and reparation for all the offenses we commit against His love, the Lord wants to do something new with us.... He wants to heal the wounds of sin, capital sins.... He wants us to renounce to the old self so as to allow him to make us a new creature, first fruit of His blood and His Passion.



Without silence the greatest mysteries of God's love are lost... noise, loudness, is becoming the greatest enemy of our spiritual life and our prayer life. How can we see all that was being revealed in the Way of the Cross if we are part of the people that were talking and distracted while Jesus passed by them? How can we hear God on the Mount of the Beatitudes if our minds are saying, "that way of life that He proposes is for a few holy people, but not for all of us...I could not be a peace maker if someone offends me... How can we let the pounding of the nails pierce us if we are discussing with others and giving our opinion of what it means, or how it should have been done? ***The only one who understood fully what it meant was Our Lady, and She was at the foot of the Cross in the most powerful silence the world has ever heard.***

If we do not know how to be quiet, how could we understand the Words of Jesus, how could we understand why He allowed himself to be persecuted; why He freely chose to be apprehended and why he spent a whole night in a dark hole with His hands in chains; or why He allowed himself to be whipped 39 times, having His own flesh opened for our healing. If we do not know how to be silent, how could we understand the meaning of the woman who anointed His feet, or the miracles of love for the suffering people. How could we understand that He who raised the dead, multiplied the bread and the fish, opened the eyes of the blind, made the paralyzed walk, the mute speak, the deaf hear and the possessed be totally free... yes, the one who worked so many miracles for others, did not do one for himself. How much silence we need in order to understand that He loved us to the extreme and showed us with all His words, gestures and actions what love is all about... the true meaning of love.



If we do not know how to be silent, Jesus will never be able to make His home in our hearts because, like the people in Bethlehem, our homes will be so full of noises, of our own thoughts, interests and projects, of our own selfishness, that we will not be able to recognize the one knocking at our door and we will not open it and give him space. Dear Family, how could we hear Jesus' words, the few words he pronounced during His Passion if we are not silent? How could we hear him speak those seven powerful words, His testament, on the Cross and understand them in order to allow them to convert our hearts?

Silence warms the human heart because it allows us to find ourselves, allows us to see ourselves in truth, with our beauty and our needs of purification and beautification. In silence, we are able to see everything as it is, not as I would like it to be for my own selfish satisfaction or for my own project to be realized. In silence, we learn to let go, perhaps painfully, but to let go of all that separates me from God's plan or pedes me from becoming the fullness of who I am called to be. In silence, we are prepared to surrender to God's will, in whatever form it is manifested...In silence we learn to be men and women of true joy, which is not an exaggerated emotional happiness, but a profound experience of fulfilment and gratitude. In silence, we learn to live in the house of Nazareth, with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with the Holy Family who lived with the greatest mystery of human history: God made man dwelling with them. Such a mystery remained in

silence for 30 years until the time to be proclaimed arrived. God was born as a child in the silence of a stable.... with very few knowing who he was....because silence teaches us to desire not to be known, recognized, applauded, popular or even honoured.... Silence teaches us to desire to be known only by God and if we are known by people, to be known in reference to God and because of Him... because silence makes us disappear in worldly terms and makes us visible in heavenly ways. Silence is born of a choice to be silent... and it grows as a language in itself. How many times do our words say nothing, even if they are many? How many times does our silence, empty of words but filled with actions, speak louder than all of our words?



Words, words.... We are so filled of them, of our own words... our own opinions, of our own way of thinking and of judging events.... How foolish we are! Our words only have power if they flow from the authority of the Word of God; if they are filled with the wisdom of the Word of God and they lead others to desire to be immersed in the Word of God....

The Word became flesh in the silence of a humble room in Nazareth.... The Word made flesh was hidden 9 months in the silence of His Mother's womb.... And then, all His life was surrounded by a silence that is not empty or the fruit of those who want to be alone for love of self.... No, ***He was surrounded by the silence of those who understood that to live and understand the mystery of God's love, you must create a home of silence which is not the absence of words and dialogue, but the absence of unnecessary words or vain, superficial dialogues.***



Romano Guardini said in his book "The Lord" that the "greatest things are accomplished in silence, not in the clamour and display of superficial eventfulness, but in the deep clarity of inner vision, in the almost imperceptible start of decision, in the quiet overcoming of self and the choice of hidden sacrifice. Spiritual conception happens when the heart, like Our Lady, is ready to love and readied by love and is free to stir to action." What profound words for our present world that promotes the opposite and for us who have fallen into the worldly way of living.

In our world there is no silence.... Everything is loud noise, the homes are filled with noises of all types... including the way people speak to each other. How many times do people who ought to speak to one another in love and respect scream at each other? During this Lent, we need to regain the power of silence, to have moments of silence so to learn to calm the interior storms and turmoil that are later manifested in external storms and turmoil. We need to regain silence if we desire to live a fruitful Lent, during which we are to enter deeply into the passages of the Gospel of the Passion and understand somehow what it all means for our lives. Every event of the Passion is not only a remembrance of what happened 2000 years ago to Our Lord, it is a lamp unto our own path of life. How many times have you suffered abandonment as He did? How many times have you felt trapped by the manipulation of others as He did? How many times have you felt tied to a pillar with no possibilities of doing something to escape that moment? The way Jesus lived His Passion is a school for our lives. To be a disciple and sit in the school of His Suffering Heart, we need to be silent.



We have much to learn; we must be formed in the mind of Christ, in the ways of the Kingdom of God, in the school of the Gospel, particularly at this time, in the Gospel of the Passion. But to be immersed in the processes of learning and being transformed into what we contemplate, we need silence... the silence of humility and meekness.... The silence of those who want to learn and follow Jesus through the path of life and truth.

Lent has begun... I invite all the members of the Family (sisters, priests and lay faithful), to spend more time in more silence... to put down the obsessive desire to know all that is going on, to be attached to the social media, to be always speaking and having something to say. **Forgive us, Lord, for having always something to say, when you kept so much silence when you had all the right to speak!!!!**

- I invite you to dedicate daily silent time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or in your places of prayer in your home, doing a prayerful meditation of the narrative of the Passion of the Lord in all four Gospels. Write what it teaches you about the Lord, and what it teaches you for your life. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your hearts about what needs to change in your hearts to be truly more like Christ.
- I invite you to remember that the Passion is not something of the past but is happening today in the Mystical Body Christ. How many brothers and sisters close to us or far away, are carrying big crosses and we could be like Simon the Cyrene, a little help in helping them carry their crosses.
- I invite you to make acts of concrete love for people that are in need putting your time, your life, your love and all you have, at the service of those who are today Christ crucified before our eyes. Do not forget that as family we have many missions of love to alleviate the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. Silence will help us understand the suffering of others, not with a sentimental pity, but with a committed choice to become a missionary who goes out to encounter the Good Samaritan and I take him under my care.
- I invite you all, to offer many moments of silent of love to repair for all the offenses that are being done to the Lord and Our Lady, through oral or written words. They are being blasphemed by so many words, images and writings. Let us offer to speak only what is loving and edifying to one another, and speak of the Lord with love and reverence, as to repair for this horrible sin.
- I invite you all to reflect on how you speak. The use of such a powerful way of communicating which is speaking, can be used to destroy or to build; to guide or to distract; to express a worldly mentality or the mind of Christ; to insult or to honor; to say the truth or to lie; to build a culture of respect, education, kindness, amiability, modesty and fraternity or to build a culture of defiance, of offenses, of bad words, of vulgarity, corruption, criticism and division. How we treat others is primarily manifested in our words. Silence teaches us to see others with their dignity and to treat them with that dignity given by God.

There is so much to offer, dear Family, but I truly believe that offering more time of silence in this Lent, will empower our prayer, our fasting, our denials, our physical sacrifice to transform our character and our inner dispositions. Silence will make you forget about yourself and begin to look first to the Lord and then to the needs of others.

Silence is the path of the passion. Jesus did not say much but suffer it all in deep and holy, sacred silence. Let this Lent be a time of Sacred Silence, as much as possible, so as to truly enter into the sentiments of



Christ during His Passion and death. Silence was freely chosen by the Lord during the darkest hour...we should freely choose to be silent like Our Lady during Her Son's Passion, so as to gaze upon, with Our Lady's heart and eyes, what She contemplated deeply during those moments....no one gazed at Jesus Suffering Heart as Our Lady did, who walked the Way of the Cross silently.

May our silence be an offering of love and reparation to Jesus and Our Lady's Heart during this Lent. May our silence, accompanied by prayer, sacrifice, penance and actions, speak loudly to a world that is succumbing to the power of noise and is becoming incapable of listening. May we be delivered of such a slavery.

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