

Heart to Heart with Mother Adela, scjtm

Foundress of SCTJM and FCTJM

Extracts from letters written to our Spiritual Family

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THE TRIUMPH OF OUR LADY'S HEART: TO FORM LIVING WITNESSES AND ARDENT APOSTLES OF OUR FAITH

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

May the Two Hearts reign! It is one of our cries as family. Yes, Christ must reign...His Mother must reign.... She must prepare in our hearts, with this Marian charism, a great triumph for Her Son in our hearts, in the Heart of the Church and in the heart of the world. It is not a triumph based on greatness, pride, or the pomposities of this world...those pomposities or immediacies of greatness that appeal to so many....

Simple but constant triumphs become the most powerful ones...those that transform the human heart, one that change hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, ones that bring the light of truth to the darkest paths of error, ones that give birth to **the most heroic witnesses of faith in a world that has eclipsed God...**These kinds of triumphs that build firm columns of hope in a world that does not know the reason for our hope...

Yes, dear brothers and sisters, we are Their triumph if we are generous in our self-donation in a world in which utilitarianism and selfishness seems to rule almost all relationships; if we are simple and meek to embrace our sufferings with a transcendent gaze, to transform the cross into an offering; if we respond with enthusiasm and undividedness of heart, without distractions and with great generosity in service to fulfill the task that the Hearts of Jesus and Mary have placed in our hands to respond to the urgent needs of humanity and of the Church in our present time.

We will truly be a reflection of Their Triumph, if the love of their Hearts impels us, urge us, demand of us to live in responsibility our charism thus to give the necessary fruits to cooperate with Their designs. Yes, dear daughters and sons, we are and we must be, a living reflection of This, so urgently needed, Triumph. **We must be apostles of this Triumph!**

This triumph will only be obtained by an authentic renewal of the gift of Faith.

The Heart of Mary: Authentic School of Faith

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

(Lk 1,42.45)

Blessed John Paul II, in the Encyclical *Mother of the Redeemer*, communicated to us a profound legacy about his contemplation of the Faith of the Heart of Mary. It is for this reason, that I desire in this letter, to cite his words, taken from different excerpts from his Encyclical, but that gathered together will give you the opportunity to contemplate the Heart of Mary as the authentic school of Faith:

"Mary precedes the Church in the pilgrimage of faith. Mary, as the Mother of Christ, is in a particular way united with the Church. In the "pilgrimage of faith", the Blessed Virgin advanced faithfully preserving her union with Christ. In this way the "twofold bond" which unites the Mother of God with Christ and with the Church takes on historical significance. Nor is it just a question of the Virgin Mother's life-story, of her personal journey of faith and "the better part" which is hers in the mystery of salvation; it is also a question of the history of the whole People of God, of all those who take part in the same "pilgrimage of faith". Her exceptional pilgrimage of faith represents a constant point of reference for the Church and for all humanity. It is indeed difficult to encompass an measure its range. Mary's faith proclaimed at the Visitation, indicates how the Virgin of Nazareth responded to the gift of fullness of grace. "The obedience of faith" (Rom. 16:26; cf. Rom. 1:5; 2 Cor. 10:5-6) must be given to God who reveals, an obedience by which man entrusts his whole self freely to God." This description of faith found perfect realization in Mary. The mystery of the Incarnation was accomplished when Mary uttered her fiat: "Let it be to me according to your word," which made possible, as far as it depended upon her in the divine plan, the granting of her Son's desire. Mary uttered this fiat in faith. In faith she entrusted herself to God without reserve and "devoted herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son. To believe means "to abandon oneself" to the truth of the word of the living God, knowing and humbly recognizing "how unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways" (Rom. 11:33). Mary, who by the eternal will of the Most High stands, one may say, at the very center of those "inscrutable ways" and "unsearchable judgments" of God, conforms herself to them in the dim light of faith, accepting fully and with a ready heart everything that is decreed in the divine plan.

This heroic faith of hers "precedes" the apostolic witness of the Church, and ever remains in the Church's heart hidden like a special heritage of God's revelation. All those who from generation to generation accept the apostolic witness of the Church share in that mysterious inheritance, and in a sense share in Mary's faith. The journey of faith made by Mary, whom we see praying in the Upper Room, is thus longer than that of the others gathered there: Mary "goes before them," "leads the way" for them. In the Upper Room Mary's journey meets the Church's journey of faith. The Virgin Mother is constantly present on this journey of faith of the People of God. This is shown in a special way by the canticle of the "Magnificat," which, having welled up from the depths of Mary's faith at the Visitation, ceaselessly re-echoes in the heart of the Church down the centuries. The words used by Mary on the threshold of Elizabeth's house are an inspired profession of her faith."

Dear brothers and sisters, may we be able to proclaim together with all the strength of our heart, with a new ardor, a renewed firmness, a new joy and a firm conviction: **I BELIEVE!...**

As such, this year we must dispose ourselves to make memory, to go deeper in the truths of the Faith that we believe and proclaim. Five movements, so to say, will take place in each one of our hearts:

1. *Believe*
2. *Love*
3. *Treasure*
4. *Witness*
5. *Proclaim the Splendor of Our Faith*

Our Lady needs apostles of Her Triumph.... as She needed the Apostle James, and in the midst of the darkness and of the aridity before the mission of communicating the Faith, She appeared on the Pillar....and she left as patrimony of the Church, Her image and the Pillar....reminding us that the apostles sit in the School of Her Heart, sustain their own faith in the pillar of her Faith. The apostles sit at the School of Mary...who teaches them to be ardent witnesses of the power and splendor of Faith.

To believe, to love, to treasure, to witness, and to proclaim the Splendor of Our Faith are five dispositions of the Heart of Mary....in this way She lived her pilgrimage of faith: she believed what the Lord had revealed, loved with total dedication and personal adherence each word received, treasured that truth in Her Heart even when circumstances seemed to contradict it, witnessed with her life, her actions and choices, her fidelity to the Word which became flesh in Her, and proclaimed with her powerful Magnificat, the marvels of God.... She always directed the gaze and the hearts of the Apostles, disciples and servants to the obedience of faith: **"Do whatever He tells you"** (Jn 2)

This year we will study the Catechism of the Catholic Church in a particular way. I ask all of you to obtain it and to have it at hand....I could tell you that this year, we will have in our right hand the Holy Rosary (compendium of the Faith) and in our left hand the Catechism, which was declared by Bl. John Paul II as **"valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion and a sure norm for teaching the faith."** (Apostolic Constitution, *Fidei depositum*, October 11, 1992).

In the School of the Heart of Mary we must rediscover the path of faith, to be formed **in a pure faith, a firm faith, an immovable and faithful faith, an ardent faith and a fecund faith.** These are five expressions of a mature faith, of a treasured and cultivated faith...of a heart which has acquired an **"exact knowledge of the faith, so as to reinvigorate it, purify it, confirm it, and confess it"** (H.H. BXVI, *Porta Fidei*, 2011)

Our Mother needs us to cooperate with the Triumph of Her Heart....for us to love our faith, to treasure it, but that we make it fruitful, to profess it and share it.... **"Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy"** (PF). Faith grows living it and giving it!

In Her Immaculate and Maternal Heart, school of Faith, may we cooperate with Her Triumph... so that she can form us into living witnesses and ardent apostles of the Splendor of Faith....

"Treasuring every memory in her heart, she passed them on to the Apostles assembled with her in the Upper Room".
H.H. Benedict XVI, *Apostolic Letter, Porta Fidei*, 2011

In the Triumph of the Heart of Mary who forms apostles of the Splendor of Faith,

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