

Heart to Heart with Mother Adela, scjtm

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Extracts from letters written to our Spiritual Family

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WITNESSES AND MISSIONARIES OF MERCY

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, June 12, 2015

Proclamation of the Theme and Logo of the Year 2015-16 for the Family of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Dear Family,

Today our year, "*Called to Live in the School of the Gospel*," ends and we give profound thanks to the Lord for the gift of having called us as a Family to *contemplate* in prayer and in the silence of our hearts, the passages, events, teachings, signs, and gestures of the Gospel of Our Lord. To contemplate and prayerfully read the Gospel is indispensable for growth and maturation in the identity of disciples of Christ. In this year that is concluding, we should have sat in the School of the Gospel and let ourselves be penetrated by the powerful luminosity of Christ, of His life, His teachings, His gestures and works...We should have allowed ourselves to be illuminated by the light of the Word made flesh, the light that illumines all men, the light that shines in the darkness, the light that orders our whole interior with true values and clear priorities... The light that gives us divine wisdom to respond with the gaze of faith to all the events of our daily life... The light that transforms our way of measuring, our values, priorities, interests and purposes...the light that gives us a sure direction and orientation to navigate the oceans of our life, of our own vocations and our missions. Yes, we should have sat in the School of the Gospel, to listen to Christ speak to our hearts...and thus proclaim like St. Peter: "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*" (Jn 6:68)

Every authentic spirituality, every authentic growth in Christian maturity begins with a profound reflection and receptivity to the Gospel. To grow in this prayerful contemplation of the Gospel, together we disposed ourselves to apply *Lectio Divina* to the daily reading of the Gospel (*Reading → Meditation → Prayer → Contemplation → Action*). The assiduous practice of *Lectio Divina*, is truly "*able to open to the faithful the treasure of the word of God, and also to create the encounter with Christ, the living divine Word.*" (Final Message of H.H. Benedict XVI at the Synod of the Word)

We have received so many graces during this year! Remember that only this past Christmas, the whole Family enthroned the Sacred Scriptures in our homes; we have reflected together on central themes of the Gospel, like for example: the Rosary, School of the Gospel; the prayerful reading of the Gospel; the Gospel of the Kingdom; the Parables of the Gospel; the Gospel of the Incarnation and the infancy narratives; the Gospel of the Beatitudes; the Gospel of Suffering...concluding with the Gospel of Mercy. Our journey together in the School of the Gospel, necessarily situates us at **the essential core of the message and mission of Christ**: God is Love and this love is freely given to humanity to save, heal, free, redeem, and restore it...the love of God is stronger than death!!!!

The Essential Core of the Gospel: Mercy

The love of the Father has been fully revealed in the face of Christ...this love is Merciful because it receives and forgives the sinner, because it heals him, restores him, returns to him his greatest dignity and teaches him the path of authentic liberty and

his fullest realization... Mercy is the essential core of the Gospel!...God the Father sent his only Son to reveal His love to us in a definitive way. Christ is the face of Mercy...His Heart is the fount of Mercy!!! His Words are the truth that set us free, that allow us to receive the freedom that is the most powerful effect of Mercy. His gestures, His actions manifest to us the work of God, who is rich in Mercy; always in search of the human heart, forgiving it, always opening His house to man, healing it, restoring it and elevating it to its greatest dignity. The Merciful love of the Father is revealed in the face, in the words, in the gestures and actions of Jesus of Nazareth. This merciful love is the good news of the Gospel that Jesus proclaims at the beginning of his public mission in Luke 4:18-20: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*" Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him."

Before the proclamation of the power and salvific efficacy of Mercy, *the eyes of all looked intently at Jesus!* This gesture of those who were in the synagogue and heard Jesus proclaim the good news of the merciful love of God, speaks deeply of the reality of the human heart, of the reality of humanity today at the beginning of the 21st century. All of us men and women of our contemporary world need to hear with renewed ardor and joy, the good news of the Mercy of God...humanity today needs to contemplate, *to look intently at the mystery of Divine Mercy*, as St. John Paul II said in his Encyclical "Dives in Misericordia": "*it is now fitting to turn our gaze to this mystery. It is called for by the varied experiences of the Church and of contemporary man. It is also demanded by the pleas of many human hearts, their sufferings and hopes, their anxieties and expectations.*" Yes, the humanity of today must fix its gaze on the mystery of Divine Mercy, because "*Modern man often anxiously wonders about the solution to the terrible tensions which have built up in the world and which entangle humanity...*" Jesus has responded to this questioning that arises from the depths of the human heart, from within families, nations and the whole world, He has responded in our times through a religious, St. Maria Faustina, to whom He said: "*My Daughter, speak to the whole world of My unfathomable Mercy*"... for "*mankind will not find peace until it turns with trust to My Divine Mercy.*" Jesus also responded to this deep questioning of the human heart with the Pontificate of St. John Paul II, who said that "*when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to transmit the message of the Merciful Love of God.*" Pope Francis says, in the bull for the convocation of the

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: *"faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive."*

Yes, dear Family, humanity will find peace when it contemplates the most complete revelation of Mercy, *the Pierced Heart of Christ, the Holy Door of Mercy, open Fount of Mercy!!!* It is the Pierced Heart of Christ from which flows His Blood and His Water, which is the most perfect, luminous and full revelation of Mercy: *because it reveals to us that love is stronger than death, stronger than sin, abandonment, rejection...stronger than any evil, that love has a salvific power, that forgives, heals, elevates, frees and restores the human heart and offers it a refuge before the great threats and uncertainties of history.* The Pierced Heart of Christ is the open fountain of grace, mercy and fecundity...*The Pierced Heart of Christ Is the definitive Triumph of Mercy!!!...* The definitive triumph of good over evil!...it is the simplest and most perfect definition of Mercy. In this definitive triumph of good over evil, of grace over sin, of tenderness over hardness, of patience over vengeance, of ardent charity over indifference and abandonment...*the Heart of His Mother* participates in a unique and singular way with the Heart of Christ in this triumph of Mercy. *She is the first witness of the power of Mercy....She is the first and singular participant in this Triumph of Mercy...* and from the event of the Cross, she journeys across mountains and oceans...preparing paths...choosing hearts, forming and educating witnesses, apostles and missionaries who give space and cooperate with their prayer, fidelity, sacrifices, obedience and good deeds, in the realization of great triumphs of Mercy in humanity and in history... She seeks sons and daughters who dispose themselves to open fountains of Mercy in the world.

Our Lady knows the price that Her Son paid to open the inexhaustible fountain of Mercy which is the Pierced Heart of Jesus... Our Lady knows how to prepare our hearts to receive the effects of this open fountain, to receive the power of the Blood and Water which gush forth from the Heart of Her Son... She knows how to enter into each period of history with Her maternal presence, to open and to teach us to open "fountains of mercy" in the grottos of our world, of our hearts, of every human reality. *How many Marian Shrines are living testimonies of these open fountains in the midst of the grottos of human history? The beautiful shrine of Lourdes is a privileged place where we have seen Our Lady realize her maternal mission to open a fountain of grace, healing, restoration.... A fountain that is permanently open in which we can immerse ourselves to fully experience the cycle, the interior dynamic of Mercy!*

The Cycle of Mercy: a Gift Revealed and Granted to Our Family!

On March 17, 2006, praying before the image of Divine Mercy in Rome, in the Church dedicated to spreading this much needed devotion, I received a profound intuition in my heart... "The Lord revealed to me three dimensions of the cycle of Mercy, or rather, three effects of the power of Divine Mercy in the human heart:

Forgiveness → Healing → Restoration.

Upon understanding this beautiful mystery, I also interiorly received a promise from Jesus for our Spiritual Family. This promise is a gift that brings with it an act of personal responsibility so that it can blossom freely in our hearts. The Lord made me understand that He desired to pour out upon all the members of this spiritual family, *"the anointing of Mercy"*, an anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we could deeply experience the cycle of Mercy and communicate it freely to everyone: *so that we could be potent channels of this gift to all hearts and to the whole world.* It is very difficult to express in words what the Lord allowed me to understand, but I responded to such an immense gift, asking this anointing of the cycle of Mercy for the three branches of the Family and according to the identity and mission proper to each vocation. The religious, the Servants, would receive the anointing of the maternal mercy of Our Lady, opening fountains in the heart of the Church, in the grottos of humanity

and in all hearts; the priests, ordained ministers of Mercy, would be anointed to communicate with a certain power this cycle in the confessional, at the Altar and from the ambo. The Apostles, the laity, would be witnesses and missionaries of the cycle of Mercy in their families, their homes, in their apostolates, in their work environments. All the members of this Family should dispose themselves to experience in their own lives this cycle or interior dynamism of Mercy: *forgiveness, healing, and restoration.* Only in this way, deeply understanding this full effect of Mercy, can we be witnesses and missionaries of Merciful Love.

*On April 3, 2015, this past Good Friday, I was in our convent in Rome during the Easter Triduum, and felt an interior urgency to go to the same Church dedicated to Divine Mercy, to pray for the whole Family at 3:00 pm and in the name of everyone, ask before the image of Jesus, that fountains of mercy would be opened for all of us and that he would renew in our hearts the promise I had received in the same place 9 years before. At 3 in the afternoon, by a singular grace, we could be there among the great multitudes of people that gathered to begin the Divine Mercy Novena. In an unexpected and surprising way for the number of people there, we found ourselves kneeling before the image. Jesus had taken us before his Image, to allow me to make this petition at the sublime Hour of Mercy. After asking that the Lord renew the capacity in us to experience the cycle of Mercy to be able to donate it to others freely and without cost, I perceived the gaze of the Merciful Jesus piercing my interior and calling to our Family: *"Be Witnesses and Missionaries of My Mercy."* Jesus asked us to dedicate ourselves as a Family this year to contemplate the mystery of Mercy and allow ourselves be transfigured by this Mystery; to be transformed interiorly and exteriorly into living images of His Mercy for humanity. *"Everything in you must reflect the power of My Mercy."**

gaze → sentiments → words (language) → thoughts → actions and works...

These five aspects of the human dimension must be immersed in the cycle of Mercy: our gaze, our sentiments, our words, our thoughts, our actions and works...must be transformed so that we can be "living images"..."witnesses of mercy", "missionaries of mercy." Yes, dear Family, *what a transformation occurs in the human heart when it experiences the great effects of Divine Mercy! We could say that the soul finds in this Merciful love of the Father its greatest dignity and elevation, its path and its destiny...I will never forget the day that I visited the Shrine in Krakow for the first time and contemplated that Love...I will never forget how that day I understood that the healing of humanity is precisely in discovering, understanding, and living according to the dignity that has been revealed to us in the Merciful Love of the Father which is incarnated in the Heart of the Son...*

What is man that you are mindful of him? (Ps. 8) I think that a great question that we should ask ourselves before the image of Divine Mercy is "Who am I that you love me this way?" Finding the answer in His gaze and His Heart, our hearts will experience a deep inner healing and we will begin not only to live with the dignity of this Mercy received and manifested in the rays of Blood and Water, but we will burn with love for making it known...for enkindling the world with the fire of His Mercy.

Upon contemplating Merciful Love, we will learn to be His witnesses before all men, communicating freely and fully the mercy which we have come to know. It is in the School of the Merciful Heart that we learn to know Mercy and we learn to be living witnesses of its healing, liberating, and restorative power for humanity; we will reveal the deepest sense of the word "conversion."

Like Our Lady of Lourdes, to Open Fountains of Mercy in the Grottos of Our World

This past Good Friday, after having received the motto and task of this year before the image of the Merciful Jesus, we left with the Missionaries of Love for the mission of service in the Shrine

of Lourdes. This mission takes place during Easter Week during the Divine Mercy Novena. On Easter Sunday I went to the grotto and before the image of Our Lady, I consecrated this new Year to Her maternal Heart. It was there where I perceived the phrase that explains the motto of this year: *"To open fountains of Mercy in the grottos of our world."* Everything seemed so clear to me before Her, so luminous and pure like Her! To be witnesses and Missionaries of Mercy, we must look at Her, she who is the first witness and missionary of the Merciful Heart of Her Son! She who, as we see with luminous clarity, appears in Lourdes within a stone grotto that is the town's trash dump, and there enters to open a fountain of miraculous water that for more than 150 years has been an instrument of great conversions, healings, liberations and restorations for so many, millions have passed through this fountain of water.

Our Lady of Lourdes showed the small and humble Bernadette where to open a fountain, a spring of mercy, that until that moment was covered by mud and grass. Bernadette sought to open the fountain that the Beautiful Lady asked her to near the stream...this was the most logical thing to do. Nevertheless, Our Lady showed her that God opens fountains where everything seems impossible to produce anything good. This is the logic of Mercy, which requires humility, obedience, and a total availability to serve the plan of the Beautiful Lady. With Her finger, Our Lady showed Bernadette, where, how, and when, to open that fountain of grace, healing and mercy. Bernadette with her obedience and humility began to dig in the mud, covering her face with dirt, but with her small hands and with her mouth, she opened an immense fountain of mercy for humanity.

There in the grotto in Lourdes, contemplating this school of maternal wisdom, I understood that Our Lady of Lourdes wanted to teach us to *be witnesses of hope in the power of mercy*. She wanted to teach us to trust in Her "small finger", in Her direction, in Her maternal wisdom, so that under Her guidance we may dispose ourselves to "open fountains of Mercy in the grottos of our world which is so indifferent, self-referential, hardened by vanity, the desire for power, ambition and selfishness. She, in the grottos of our world, of our environments, of our own heart, wants to help us to open fountains of grace and mercy, fountains that flow with the power of the love of the Heart of Jesus...fountains of Blood and Water which transform everything...that triumph over evil, that heal, enliven a tired, sick, and disoriented humanity. We, dear Family, have seen the power of His Mercy in so many ways...we have seen the power of the rays of Blood and Water that gush forth from His Pierced Heart..we have seen fountains be opened through the two fundamental virtues and dispositions in our charism: *oblative love and life-giving purity*.

What a beautiful gift we have received for this year.... We were called to be witnesses and missionaries of Mercy before the image of the Merciful Jesus in Rome.... And called to open fountains of Mercy in the grottos of our world before the image of Our Lady of Lourdes in the grotto where she opened such a powerful fountain.

The Time has Come to be Witnesses and Missionaries of Mercy

Pope Francis, in the Bull of Indiction of the Year of Mercy that will begin on December 8 of this year, tells us *"At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective."* Once more, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of Mercy upon humanity, they have called us to precede with prayer, with our response and active cooperation with the grace of this year, a desire of the Petrine heart. Our Year that begins on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and the Feast of the Immaculate Heart, precedes the great year of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

In August 2002, when St. John Paul II solemnly consecrated the whole world to Divine Mercy, he proclaimed: *"This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world. The message of merciful love*

needs to resound with renewed vigor. The world needs this love. The time has come to spread the message of Christ to all: especially to those whose humanity and dignity seem to be lost in the "mysterium iniquitatis." The time has come that the message of Divine Mercy pour forth hope in all hearts and be transformed into a *spark of a new civilization: the civilization of love.*"

Pope Benedict XVI, in an address on April 5, 2008 told us, *"the Gospel of love and life is also always the Gospel of mercy. We are facing an authentic crisis of faith that demands that we seek a new way of expressing the faith that recovers its essential elements, for in times of crisis there has to be a return to the essential. The mercy of God constitutes the essential nucleus of the Gospel."* *"Only by announcing this Gospel can we work to build the civilization of love that humanity needs today more than ever."* The Pope Emeritus continues: *"We can only speak of evangelization when the Gospel is announced in a credible way as the good news of the infinite mercy of God. Only by assuming an attitude of merciful love is it possible to approach in order to bring help and enable victims to pick themselves up and resume their journey through life."*

It is for this reason, dear Family, that we who are called to build the civilization of love and life by promoting the triumph of the Reign of the Two Hearts, we must also contemplate the truth that this triumph of Their Hearts is a design of Mercy that They have for humanity, like the angel told the little shepherds in Fatima. For this reason, during this year we will dedicate ourselves in a singular way to:

- Contemplate the Mystery of Divine Mercy
- Know the attitudes of heart that are opposed to Mercy
- How to receive with responsibility and maturity the gift of Mercy
- Live concretely a culture of Mercy
- Give witness, with words and deeds, to Mercy

A Year to Build the Culture of Good with Works of Mercy!

Just as our eyes will be fixed upon the Merciful Jesus to learn in the School of His Heart to be witnesses of His Mercy, *our eyes will also be attentive to the Heart of Our Lady, so that with Her finger, she can show us, like Bernadette, where we must open fountains of Mercy in the grottos and sufferings of humanity.* This Year we will try to revitalize, fortify, and promote all the works of Mercy that are already done in our Family and be attentive to open new fountains. I ask all of you, that in light of the theme of this Year, that we dispose ourselves to place our hands and our time, our means and talents, to realize all the works of Mercy that Our Lady indicates to us. She wants to give this great and beautiful triumph to Her Son...for the good works are always the remedy and limit of evil! *The culture of love and mercy is always the limit of evil and the most fecund expansion of the good.* It will be a year of gazing with attentiveness at all the good already accomplished...and all the good that we still have to realize to respond to the wounds (spiritual and bodily) of humanity like the Good Samaritan...*being witnesses and missionaries of Mercy, strengthening the fountains already opened and opening new fountains in the grottos of our world. I ask you to be ready to respond to all that the Lord inspires us to do to build a world that is more merciful, more worthy of the human person.*

With our gaze fixed on the Merciful Hearts of Jesus and Mary may we dispose ourselves to give them this powerful and beautiful triumph!

St. John Paul II, pray for us
St. Maria Faustina, pray for us
St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us
St. Margaret Mary, pray for us
St. Bernadette, pray for us
Blessed Jacinta and Francisco, pray for us

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