

## THE CIVILIZATION OF LOVE

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Foundress

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

From the time of Paul VI to our present day, by means of His Holiness John Paul II, the Holy Spirit has been telling the Church: "The hour has come to construct the civilization of love." What important but greatly unheeded words!

This entire century that will soon come to an end and modernity itself have been characterized by a notable decay in faith and, consequently, in morals. The collapse of these structures that sustained our culture has brought grave consequences to the lives of the individual, the family, society, nations and the Church. This brings to mind a prophetic word that the Lord gave during the closing Eucharistic celebration of the Charismatic Renewal's International Conference in 1975: Difficult and dark times will come upon the world; structures that have been in place will be no more. I believe that it is now a fact that the religious, social, moral, and even civil structures that have always sustained humanity have crumbled due to the manifest action of the devil and of evil spirits, as well as the absurd aspiration of man who believes he can maintain love, order, justice, peace, fraternity and restraint without having God in the center of his life.



We have seen unveiled before our eyes what Pope John Paul II has called the "civilization of death," which consists in the devaluation of the gift of life. This devaluation manifests itself in many forms: abortion, suicide, euthanasia, wars, nuclear bombs, injustice that results in poverty, family violence, child abuse, martyrdom, etc. It seems as if our Lord's words in Matthew 24:18 were describing the sorrowful realities of our times: "and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold."

In the face of the culture of death, the Holy Father calls us to work arduously to construct the culture of life. This new culture will be the fruit of new hearts, of new families, of new nations and of a Church that is renewed in love and in truth. At this moment, we the People of God have a great responsibility: allow ourselves to be transformed from the heart, purified from all selfishness, from personal interests, from a disordered self-preoccupation, so as to be able to open our hearts wide to the Redeemer and to His saving love. If we open ourselves to the love of God and we are willing to give it to others, this love will necessarily be like seeds that are planted in a field, which, with the showers of God's grace, will germinate in many hearts and flower among the fields of the world. Love is most powerfully fruitful!

The spirit of selfishness that has entered into our culture has also penetrated very subtly into our mentalities and into our decisions. This is why a deep purification of our minds is required in order for us to be builders of a new civilization in which love, peace, joy, fraternity, service and justice reign. The culture of death is overthrown only by means of hearts totally open to life; this openness to life first begins with an openness to a life of grace and continues with an openness to human life. The culture of violence is overcome only with peaceful, meek and sacrificial hearts. The culture of rebellion is overthrown only with obedient and docile hearts. The culture of hatred, indifference, scorn and competition is overcome only by hearts that are willing to give everything, even one's own life for the Gospel of love, forgiveness and unconditional service.

If we are faithful to the Holy Spirit who desires to transform and purify us, after this century of lights and great shadows, a new springtime awaits us, as John Paul II has told us - a new springtime, in which the sun of the love of Christ shines, in which we can breathe in the freshness of brotherhood, in which we can contemplate the beautiful flowers of joy, humility, simplicity and service, in which the love of God moves hearts to love without limits and conditions. This will be the civilization of love. This will be the civilization which you and I ought to be willing to build up with our prayers, our openness to sacrifice, our concrete actions and our commitment to evangelization.

The new civilization begins within each one of us, in each heart that makes the decision to love, even unto the ultimate consequences.

In the Love of the Pierced Hearts,

Mother Adela, Foundress SCTJM

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