

(English translation)

Trent, Advent 1944

To be available to God's plans

Letter from Advent 1944 to Duccia Calderari

Duccia, a few years older than Chiara, was a social worker, a Red Cross nurse who lived in Piazza Cappuccini, in Trent, near the focolare where Chiara had moved to in September 1944.

Chiara gave her as a model Saint Catherine of Siena, who was very popular in Italy and whose spirituality was centred on the two terms «Blood and Fire.»

We can perceive that the Author starts being aware of being bearer of a gift, of having been chosen by Jesus to be his confidante regarding his wound. The word "key" appears, which indicates that the cross, and especially Jesus Forsaken, opens every heart and leads to holiness.

Advent of the Kingdom of Love!

Dearest Duccia,

Before I left you, and as I left you, I abandoned you to Love, so that you may become Saint Catherine of modern times.

I went into St. Mark's Church and I prayed to Him, the Almighty for you.

I was close to Him in body and heart and He spoke to me of you. He told me that your wish is welcomed in Heaven and He, the Almighty One, is ready to carry it out.

But He told me to tell you this:

Wanting to be St. Catherine is a good thing.

Being able to be St. Catherine depends totally on God and it depends totally on you. Everything remains in the fact that your will be *the Will*.¹

Duccia, everything lies on the fact that your heart aspires *not* to be St. Catherine, but to love like this and *more* than Catherine loved.

Yes, Duccia, Love told me that if you want, you can do more than St. Catherine because the Power that He makes available to you goes beyond what He gave to St. Catherine.

He told me, «I, the Almighty, never make duplicates of people; and you must aspire not only to great things, but to *sublime* things,» (because He Almighty can give us some of his Omnipotence.)

He told me that the exterior facts, that were and are also imposing for the world back then and now and made Catherine a Saint, by all accounts, are worth nothing, because they are simple expressions of an ardour that was burning her from within.

We are the ones, only used to calculate from the outside, that let ourselves be blinded by external things.

But God sees our hearts and the Saints *know* what has value: it is Love.

Catherine did what she did, without knowing that she was doing what she did because otherwise she wouldn't have been a saint.

She was aware, knew and solely, solely loved

Jesus Crucified the Truth, the Almighty, the Total Love!

She was literally *in love* with *this Divine Man* and her heart was clutched in a Divine Madness of

¹ Meaning the will of God.

Love for this Crucified One whom only she understood in her days.

Absorbed in this divine Passion, nourished by the Blood of Her Most Sweet One, she didn't understand *anything else* other than Him and she saw no other than Him!

It's like this, Duccia.

Only this Love can be born in your heart (and God wants it). It will lead you to what you want and what He wanted from you, before you did.

Duccia, believe me, *Love* is the salvation of the twentieth century because *Love* is God.

All the trappings and deceptions more or less mundane, are a waste of time or serve as humus for God's plans.

So then fill yourself with this personal Love for the God-Man, the only one worthy of being loved.

... but you don't know how fortunate you are. You don't realize it.

Perhaps now Love will work the miracle of helping you understand all that my heart has understood so far in contact with Him, it's His Unique Love!

I told you so: Love is never the same. If Love reappears in the world, it is new with a very limpid light which infinitely surpasses that already seen.

Love has reappeared in the world and it gave to our heart the *Key* which opens up *every* heart in the world.

Duccia, *believe me*, all those who have reached holiness have attained heights which correspond to the ardour with which they *loved Jesus crucified!*

Very well: do what I too want to do: plunge yourself, body and soul, *into the Abandoned Love!*

You have heart and understanding: listen.

Think of the infinite difference between the suffering of Jesus crucified by *His enemies*, abandoned by His disciples, forced to entrust His Mother to another, and the immense suffering of feeling disunited from His Father who loved Him as Himself and with whom He was one.

Imagine... it was the atrocious doubt of no longer being one with the Father that made Him cry out in that way:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A cry that should break every human heart, made worthy by that divine anguish of being *bonded* to God, *united* to God, as an adopted child of God!

Here, here, here is all the Immensity of Love! He gave us His Divinity.

Think about it Duccia – you who have a heart – think about this Jesus hanging like a rag from the Cross, with His soul torn by suffering, *doubting whether He is still God!*

Think about it and allow Him to rest on your heart which wants great things, but for Him!

Tell Him to give you His Divine Humanity, reduced to nothing in order to give us Everything, reduced to hatred (almost, because He believed that the Father no longer loved Him) – in order to give us Love; tell Him to hand over His torment to you, to tell you about it so that, *inflamed and impassioned with so much Love, you may run through the world, not with your small heart, but rather with the Heart of God.* May this heart, thirsty for Love, no longer touch anyone or anything in the world without inflaming it with the desire to follow this abandoned Lord of hearts.

Vow to Him with your life that *He is God*, precisely because out of Love He willed to be for a moment in doubt!

Promise Him that your heart will never again abandon Him, for you will find here on earth, in your heart, that paradise that He lost when His Father seemed to turn away.

... and then do whatever you like, for everything will be great in the eyes of God and of the world.

Choose to follow and to love the Crucified Love in this way, *in the greatest suffering, expression of the greatest Love!*

In answer to your proposal to Him, to the All Powerful Love, who never allows Himself to be outdone in generosity, He will accomplish in you works greater than those of St. Catherine, because His Love is inexhaustible and He never ceases to kindle on earth the *Fire* He had reserved for everyone, but which no one wants.

Open your whole heart to Him and tell Him to give you all the power of Love He had reserved for all the people of today's world.

Tell Him that your only passion is for *Him* Crucified in His Abandonment!

Only in this way will you set Italy on fire²! Oh! *No*, it is not enough to preach honesty with our lips and our life.

It is *God* who must preach *from* our heart with all His Love!

I *invoke* from this Jesus Forsaken who confided to me His Spiritual Wound, deep enough to burn His heart to ashes – the Wound of the Abandonment – I invoke upon you His All-Powerful Blessing so that He may give you no peace until you give yourself completely to this madness of Love!

My God-Love has the right to fervent hearts and He expects from you your whole heart with every power that He has sown in it (and it is the power of Love).

Do not apply any brakes, Duccia, and with your spontaneous generosity make yourself available to God's plans; forcefully resolve, as though taking an oath, to neglect nothing (for as long as you live) so that by you and by all, *Love may not be abandoned!*

But you will not accomplish anything until you sincerely love Him and for Him spare nothing in Love.

Duccia, it is Love who told me to write these things to you.

God loves you so much, my dear little Duccia!

Yours, Silvia

² Reference to St. Catherine who said: "If you be who you are supposed to be, you'll set the whole of Italy on fire."