

(English translation)

Rome, 12 November, 1949

If we are united, Jesus is among us

If we are united, Jesus is among us. And this has value. It is worth more than any other treasure that our heart may possess; more than mother, father, brothers, sisters and children.

It is worth more than our house, our work, or our property; more than the works of art in a great city like Rome; more than our business deals; more than nature which surrounds us with flowers and fields, the sea and the stars; more than our own soul.

It is He who, inspiring his saints with his eternal truths, leaves his mark upon every age.

This too is His hour. Not so much the hour of a saint but of Him, of *Him among us*, of Him living in us as we build up — in the unity of love — his Mystical Body and the Christian community.

But we must expand Christ, make him grow in other members, become bearers of Fire like Him, (that dissolves the human side of us into the divine which is Charity lived out). Make one of all and in all the One.

It is then that *we live* the life that He gives us, moment by moment, in charity.

The basic commandment is brotherly love (see *IPt* 4:8). Everything is of value if it expresses sincere fraternal charity. Nothing we do is of value if there is no feeling of love for our brothers and sisters in it. For God is a Father and in his heart he has always and only his children.

Where there is charity, there you find Christ in the Christian.

In all the people you encounter throughout the day – from dawn to evening – in all of them see the presence of Jesus....

If your eye is simple, it is God in you who sees. And God is Love and Love wants to unite, by winning over.

How many – in error – look at people and things to own them! And their gaze is full of egoism and jealousy or, in any case, sin.

Or they look within themselves to possess themselves, to possess their soul, and their gaze is lifeless because it is bored or disturbed.

The soul, because it is made in the image of God, is love and love closed in itself is like the flame that, when lacking oxygen, dies out.

Look outside of yourself: not in yourself, not at things, not at persons: look at God outside of yourself in order to unite yourself to Him.

He is in the depths of every living soul; if a soul is not alive, it is like a tabernacle of God waiting to achieve the meaning and joy of its existence.

Look at every neighbour with love, and loving is giving. But one gift calls for another and you will be loved in return.

Thus love is loving and being loved, as in the Trinity.

And God in you will capture hearts, enkindling in them the Trinity, perhaps already present through grace, but lifeless.

One does not turn on the light in a room – even if there is electric current – until the two poles are placed in contact.

So too is the life of God in us: it is made to circulate, to shine it forth and bear witness to Christ: the one who unites heaven and earth, brothers and sisters.

Look then at every neighbour and give yourself to him or her in order to give yourself to Jesus, and Jesus will give Himself to you. It is the law of love: “Give and gifts will be given to you” (*Lk* 6:38).

Let yourself be possessed by your neighbours - out of love for Jesus ; let yourself be ‘eaten’ by them - as another Eucharist; put yourself completely at their service, which is at the service of God, and your neighbours will come to you and they will love you.

And in fraternal love is the achievement of every one of God’s wishes, which is a commandment: «*I give you a new commandment: love one another*» (*Jn* 13:34).

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