

(English translation)

Seoul, 2 January 1982

"Answers to Questions"

(translation in Korean)

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"The vast majority of employees in Korea spend almost all their work week, which goes from Monday to Saturday, at their job and in related activities, at such a pace that generally they don't have time to think of anything else.... Chiara, what advise could you give us to help us put God at the centre of our lives in every moment of the day, even in such a situation?"

So I would respond to you by saying that our job, whatever job that we have to do, is an expression of the will of God. We have to have the awareness that we do not have to wait for the evening or for Sunday in order to pray and to be united to God, but that we can love him right away. This is the wonderful thing, that we can love Him right now. Therefore, also in working, even in a hard job, we do not waste time. So what must we do? We have to work well with all our heart, in order to do the will of God. Then there is something else: in general, every job that we do is for humanity, and we in general, we Christians, are aware that we are loving humanity when we do, for example, works of mercy, even when we help our neighbours out, but we do not have the consciousness of helping out the community, our nation. Now, just as we see Jesus in the poor person, in that child, we must also see Him in the community. I do not know how it is here in Korea, but back where I come from, for example, the community is not willingly served. One rather takes advantage of the community and one even steals from the community, while instead the community is Jesus, just as individuals are Jesus to be loved. So when you work, you need to change your intentions and say: I am doing this for Jesus in the community. But we can also do much more, concretely. For example, a bartender can think that each time he gives a glass of water, orange juice or wine: I am giving drink to the thirsty. So too a saleswoman at a dress store continues to dress the naked all day long. Perhaps you will say: "But I have no neighbours. I work at a computer where I input data..." I remember when we were small, like the young people among you, and we had understood that our way was through our neighbour, to love our neighbour, we would say: we can always do it, even in prison because there is at least the prison guard. This is to say that besides serving the community, there are always neighbours around us. And if you love all day long, they are full days and so then your union of God also grows, so you do not waste time. Is it clear?

"I come from a very traditional family where they have taught me to treat my elders or people responsible for me with an attitude of reverence, so carefully and scrupulously that it makes me lose any spontaneity towards them. This makes it so that often I do not feel free when, for example, at work I have to love my superiors or my older brothers at home. How can I make it to love also in these cases with the freedom of a true gen?"

Look, all the wisdom of Christianity is contained in one verb, and also all of its revolution, and this verb is: to serve. In the world, we try to compete with others, to oppress others, to command. Jesus said the very opposite and gave us the example by washing the feet of his disciples, He who was the Lord and the Teacher. He wants us to serve everyone, to serve all. So if the Christian verb is to serve, what are all the others, all our neighbours? They are our masters and the masters are to be served as they want to be, not as we think we should. So, you do not have to worry about that they want to be served in this way or that way: you only have to remember to always serve. But don't do it because they want it or expect it

from you, but you must do it out of love for Jesus. In doing so, what happens? You totally die to yourself because you would want to overcome the others, or even to free yourself from this slavery. Instead, you do it out of love for Jesus; you mortify yourself out of love for Jesus. Then what happens? In this way, you live Jesus crucified, but wherever there is the Crucified One there is also the Risen Lord. In you there is love, in you there is the Risen Lord and others sooner or later will feel it. Through you they will have contact with Jesus himself and Jesus will teach them what he brought on earth: equality and universal brotherhood. But you cannot go against the whole culture of this nation. And then, even if you are a gen, you do not care about going against your culture. If you are a gen, what matters to you is Jesus; show Jesus and the Christian revolution will be a reality. Raphael, are you happy?

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