

(English translation)

Fontem (Cameroon), 15 May 2000

The Night of “Stars and Tears”: Love Conquers Everything

To the students of “Our Lady Seat of Wisdom” College

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I would like you to tell us, students of ‘Our Lady Seat of Wisdom’ College, something special, could you give us a watch word.

This is the word. In the world, all the revolutions, good and bad ones, start up in schools, especially in universities, because young people have ideas and the revolution changes, changes things, and young people are made for changes. Also our revolution could begin and develop here in our college, especially through you. What are the students in all the states of the world doing? They meet together, they form commissions and they plan together what to do, how can we conquer this place or the other? What can we do to conquer that person? How can we transmit our ideal? And they have an influence on the environment. And this revolution, which we hope is a good one, will always go ahead.

So I wish that this college, ‘Our Lady Seat of Wisdom,’ becomes a heart of our revolution of love, a beating heart, which helps all the others to bring ahead this revolution of love. And I invite all of you, not one or the other, nobody can lag behind. We really hope it will be like this.

So your word of life and this is my conclusion, a word of life for you. I’ll give you mine, the one I used when I started. I’ll explain when it was.

There was a big bombardment over Trent, and with my parents we had to escape, evacuate in a forest, during the night, and we slept on the ground, under the stars. But already in the town the Movement had started, there were my companions. And during the night I thought: now we’ll go back to our home, maybe it will be destroyed, and my parents may have to evacuate in the mountains to look for a lodging, but I cannot go because I have my companions, there is the Movement. And I was crying, and I saw the stars in the sky and I saw them moving during the night, in fact I have called that night, it was May 13th, “stars and tears.” At a certain point I was really sure that my parents had to evacuate and I was really fond of my parents and I was also helping them economically because I was a teacher. How can I leave my parents in these conditions? And I was crying because of the pain I felt within, at a certain point I understood a sentence in me, and this is the sentence I want to leave you “Love conquers everything,” and I said, must love conquer also this? Yes, also this.

So in the morning we went back home, our house was completely destroyed, I had not said anything yet to my parents, I went up the stairs which were all broken, and I found my father, I knelt in front of him, and I said, “Daddy, I cannot go” and my father understood and he told me, “Daughter, I give you my blessing.” So in the morning my parents left for the mountains and I went back to the city, and the trees and houses, everything had collapsed. In front of me, I remember, a lady arrived and she was coming out of these collapsed houses and she took me by the shoulders and she said, “Four of my own have died, four of my own have died!”

I was still crying because of my parents, I dried my tears and I understood: forget your own suffering and dedicate yourself to the suffering of humankind. And that’s how the Movement went ahead. But what decided all of that was this word: “Love conquers everything.” You too, “love conquers everything.” (Applause)