

WORKSHEET 8 - SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

8. A yes is all that is needed to change your life

The encounter with Christ is not a spiritual inspiration or an emotion, but a present event that happens again today in a particular point. Saying “yes” to Him means following this particular point. For this reason, as Fr. Carrón asked the entire Movement, we encourage you, too, to read the letter that Pope Francis sent us attentively, “and reflect upon it, to help each other understand it more and more with the help of friends, [...] to cherish and apply its contents.”

D.S.M., November 30, 2016

Reverend Fr. Julián,

I would like to thank you and the entire Fraternity of Communion and Liberation for the offering you collected during the pilgrimages and generously sent me for works of charity.

It does my heart good and consoles me to know that from more than two hundred Marian sanctuaries in Italy and the world, so many people wanted to undertake the journey of mercy in the spirit of sharing with the needy. In fact, the poor remind us of the essential core of Christian life. Saint Augustine teaches us, “There are certain persons who are more ready to distribute all their goods to the poor, than themselves to become the poor of God.” This poverty is necessary because it describes what we truly have at heart: the need for Him. Therefore we go to the poor, not because we already know that the poor person is Jesus, but to return to discovering that that poor person is Jesus. Saint Ignatius of Loyola in turn adds that “poverty is mother and wall. Poverty generates, is a mother, generates spiritual life, life of holiness, apostolic life. And it is a wall; it defends. How many ecclesial disasters began for lack of poverty.”

In a world lacerated by the logic of profit that produces new poverty and generates the culture of waste, I never cease invoking the grace of a Church that is poor and for the poor. It is not a liberal program, but a radical program because it means a return to our roots. Going back to our origins is not a form of reverting to the past, but it is the strength for a courageous beginning directed at tomorrow. It is the revolution of tenderness and love. For this reason, I ask you, too, to unite your intents toward this objective. May you work with serenity and fruitfulness, and courageously testify the authenticity of the Christian life.

To each and all of you I send wholeheartedly the blessing of the Lord.

Please do not forget to continue to pray for me.

Francis