HE HAS BECOME father of many

2005. JOSEPH RATZINGER

"HE FOUND CHRIST, THE TRUE JOY"

Fr Giussani grew up in a home—as he himself said—poor as far as bread was concerned but rich with music, and thus from the start he was touched, or better, wounded, by the desire for beauty. He was not satisfied with any beauty whatever, a banal beauty; he was looking rather for Beauty itself, infinite Beauty, and thus he found Christ, in Christ true beauty, the path of life, the true joy.

Fr Giussani really wanted not to have his life for himself, but he gave life, and exactly in this way found life not only for himself but for many others. He has become really father of many and, having led people not to himself but to Christ, he really won hearts; he has helped to make the world better and to open the world’s doors for heaven.

2005. JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO

"PROFOUNDLY HUMAN"

I have accepted to present this book by Father Giussani [Why the Church?] for two reasons. The first, more personal, is the good that in the past ten years he did for me, as a priest and as a man, by my reading his books and articles. But I would like to say something more: Giussani changed my thinking, he gave me a hermeneutic in regard to life and faith. He did me good as a Christian and as a man.

The second reason is that I am convinced that his thought is profoundly human, pertinent to man, and that it reaches man’s innermost longing. For these two reasons I am glad to present this book.

Maintain the freshness of your charism. Always renewing the “first love”. Always on the way, always in movement, always open to God’s surprises.

Pope Francis to participants in the congress of ecclesial movements and new communities, 2014