



## Commentary on the Word of God

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*Isaiah 61, 1-3 : Eph 3, 14-21 : Jn 15, 7-14*

I am very touched to have been asked to share with you the commentary of the Word of God on this day of your definitive commitment.

You have heard Christ's call to follow him in religious life in the manner of the Religious of the Sacred Heart and today you are going to answer Yes forever. This answer is both simple and crazy! It is the simplicity and the madness of love!

The Scripture texts we have heard invite us to believe that *it is possible to love because God reveals himself as love, relationship, life, joy in receiving and giving. And he created us to discover and reveal this love.*

You, like so many others, and like St. Paul on the road to Damascus, have been seized by Love. The risen Jesus came to meet you and since then you have had no other desire than to respond to love with love.

How would Paul have found these words that we have just heard: "*I fall to my knees...*" without this encounter that turned his life upside down, his deepest being, his vision of history, his faith...? From now on, the meaning of his life, his "Way, his Truth, his Life" is Someone! He commits himself to it with all his being.

In our lives, our experience of human love and God's love, imperfect as it may be, leads us to recognize that this response often exceeds our capacity to love and that it also scares us a little.

The experience of the encounter with the risen Jesus opens a future for us and makes us taste a deep joy "that nothing and no one can take away from us"! The taste of this deep joy, experienced in our lives, makes us risk this "Yes" and commit ourselves to follow Jesus, on his human path to learn to love by giving our lives and believing that it is possible! "*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete*" (Gospel)

This joy sends us towards others.



## Società del Sacro Cuore Casa Generalizia

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The letter to the Ephesians reminds us that "to live rooted and established in love" is to participate in the very life of the Trinity, which is open to the other, as only Love can be:

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love..."*

In his Eucharist, the risen Jesus gives himself to us as bread and wine, as food so that we too may become bread and wine for the life of the world. He draws us into the gift of himself and makes us participate in the Father's plan of love for all creation.

In our commitment alongside our brothers and sisters in humanity, we can get to "know" something of Christ's love! This knowledge, following Madeleine-Sophie, we call it "union and conformity to the Heart of Jesus". It assumes a long and regular association with Jesus in the Scriptures and in a companionship with him in the world.

It is the invitation to "abide"...

We are invited to contemplate Jesus in order to learn from him, gentle and humble of heart, and also to contemplate him in the sufferings and hopes of our brothers and sisters.

The way of Jesus is a way of passion for God and passion for humanity.

Let us look at our world, where we live and work: hatred, violence, wars, exploitation of people and of the resources of the Common House, injustice in the sharing of goods... All these realities are part of our lives and call us to love with the same passion as he did.

Through all that is given to us to live, the Spirit transforms us from within and our heart becomes more and more united and conformed to that of Jesus. This happens little by little, throughout our lives! It is never completed or finished! It is a long road of conversion! And this is the price of fruitfulness... bearing fruit, "fruit that remains".

The experience of following Jesus humbles us, but also gives us hope.

This is what the beautiful text of Isaiah reminds us: "The Spirit of the Lord has sent me to bring good news, joyful news: the promise of liberation, comfort, healing". Jesus took up this announcement for himself, saying: "Today this Word is fulfilled". This prophetic word is also addressed to each of you in a very special way. Today the Lord sends you to bring the joyful news, a source of hope for all.