

Excerpts from the Spiritual Itinerary - Part 2: Retreat (5th day)

Fourth Sunday of Lent



We are all moved and filled with admiration by the extreme gestures or behaviour of people who dare to give themselves beyond what is reasonable, beyond what is "logical", beyond what is humanly demandable. - They risk their lives for others, they stand by those who are in high-risk situations, they do not take themselves into account and, without calculating or measuring, they give what they are and what they have, risking their own existence until they lose it.

These behaviours seem senseless, as this Sufi poem expresses:

***"They told me:
You have gone mad because of the One you love.
I answered them:
The zest for life is only for the insane."***



Those we call "saints" have been men and women who have allowed themselves to be carried away by that logic born of love, which sets aside calculations and measurements and enters into following Christ. At certain times, we too have felt the impulse to behave in this way, to break boundaries and move for the inexplicable reasons of love. And even if we have not settled there, we know from experience what it is all about.

Song: [Toi, tu nous aimes, source de vie. \(You love us, source of life.\) Taizé](#)
Lord God, you love us, source of compassion.

God has given us his Son...

Excerpt from the Gospel

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God [...] But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." (Jn 3: 16-18, 21)

Out of love, God gave his only Son to the world.

A gift free of calculations or demands! A gift to be welcomed...

He was not sent to condemn but to save the world. He took the initiative to seek out the lost in order to save them. This is what Christ offers. It is an offer, because love cannot compel or impose.

When a conflict has been raging for years, His weapon of massive reconstruction is the only way to convert murderous hearts - in the literal sense, to put life back into what was dead, to remember the face of a brother and not that of an enemy - to dispel hatred, put an end to weapons and open the breach to forgiveness. But in order to come to "the light",

"Love and truth meet. Peace and justice embrace." Ps 84 (85):10

Let us give thanks and be inspired by all the peacemakers we meet.



Prayer of intercession:

"God has sent..."

We pray to you for all those who live in abysmal loneliness in the midst of trial.

Please give them brothers and sisters who can listen and empathise.

Father, our tears pour down your cheeks, you know our distress, you hear the laughter of a child who has found a new home and that of a mother after a shipwreck, you know the burden of patience needed to hope. Dwell in all our lives with your tenderness and wisdom. Give us a heart that is alert, patient and compassionate. Help us to grow in humanity through our actions, our words and our thoughts.

Song : [O Christe Domine Jesu - Taizé](#)

Christ Jesus, Lord and Saviour!