

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS - 15. "TRACES OF THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE"

We've been asking, "According to you, what are the most meaningful moments of our experience?" Father Giussani gave his answer. For the disciples of Jesus, the most meaningful moments were words expressed as prayer and actions expressed as sacrament, that is, words addressed to "a deeply personal 'you,' as particular and familiar as a mother" and gestures that involve us and lead us "to touch the divine reality with an indescribable confidence" (Traces of the Christian Experience—worksheet 15). Who among us would have described the most beautiful moments of our experience together like this, as a sacrament and a prayer? We offer below the letter of a teacher who speaks about her relationship with a GS student and how their friendship became the voice of a relationship with Christ.

How much does our life together become a prayer to the Mystery, how much does it allow His presence to shine among us?

For the last few months, every Wednesday during lunch break (about 25 minutes), some of my students have begun what we call "the great escape." They leave right after the bell, go to a sandwich shop that they picked out, eat as fast as they can and go back to class. Nothing special. Usually there are four of us, sometimes five, sometimes seven, but given that the place is tiny, we have to make sure there aren't too many of us, or else we won't be able to eat.

Two of these girls have met GS in these last few months, with an awareness of the presence of Jesus among us that is so clear, which I sometimes struggle to recognize. Other than a girl who was already in GS, the others that go out with us were not really believers. Both of these girls speak very little, perhaps because they are shy, and go more or less unobserved. In these months, I've found myself in front of Something that was growing in them and even in me. In December, we got together to study as a GS group and invited one of these girls, who is very strong in school and tries to study a lot. She did not want to come. "I'm not coming because I need to study alone, and so I would lose that sense of being together." I wrote to her simply that she didn't know beforehand what it would be like and that she shouldn't impose limits. After a few days she asked me some simple questions. To sum up: "What is this thing that you guys are living? What's it all about?" It was a question that really hit me because for sure it didn't just have to do with our gathering together to study. I stammered out a few things for I don't know how long, maybe 40 minutes. She was there with no expression on her face listening to me, not making any comment. Not even a nod. I said to myself, "What am I saying?" I explained things as if I was giving a lecture on the social implications of GS. I lowered my head, then looked at her and said: "It has to do with Jesus, the meaning of life. And if one encounters Him, she finds her life changed in such a way that she cannot go back, to the point that one can live only for this, which is what happened to my life." And I told her about myself. Not a word, not a nod, exactly like before. The bell rang, she thanked me and left. The day after, there was this exchange: "I wanted to tell you a couple of things. I should have told you yesterday, but I was too focused on absorbing every word and thinking about it all, and speaking would have been too much. »

» Anyway, the point is that I understand what you were saying yesterday because since I started coming to lunch with you all, I realized for the first time that there was something more there. And I quickly understood that it was worth it to investigate and I feel that there is something more than just our going to lunch. Is the proposal of that gathering still on the table?" "Certainly." "Then I'm coming, you've convinced me."

A few days later, this girl wrote: "I went to bed and slept peacefully thinking about all this, and I felt sorry for those who do not see or understand the greatness and the power of all this, because my life was changed and has a whole new flavor. I understand why when my classmate first told me about GS her eyes lit up, and why I always felt the splendor of the Light when you were in the same room with me. And you were right: this famous 'extra something' is something that we could never imagine because it is infinitely greater than anything the human mind can conceive. For this reason, it is impossible to explain; you have to see it." The story continues and becomes ever greater, ever more true.

(Signed letter)