



E-BULLETIN #58

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5,16)

item 110

silence...unfathomable beauty.....

In this Year of Faith, silence is certainly a powerful tool for spiritual discernment and growth. The truth is that God speaks in silence and through silence. The whispering voice of God is audible, more than ever, only in the spiritual desert of one's inner being.

Modern man, torn apart by a million distractions and disturbances, is faced with the danger of losing contact with the essentials of his existence. Devoid of that profound connection with the core of existence and the most profound sources of happiness and peace, people today seek short cuts to happiness and peace and opt for immediate and easy gratification. The net result is once again the existential vacuum in the core of one's being. Man remains as thirsty and hungry as ever!

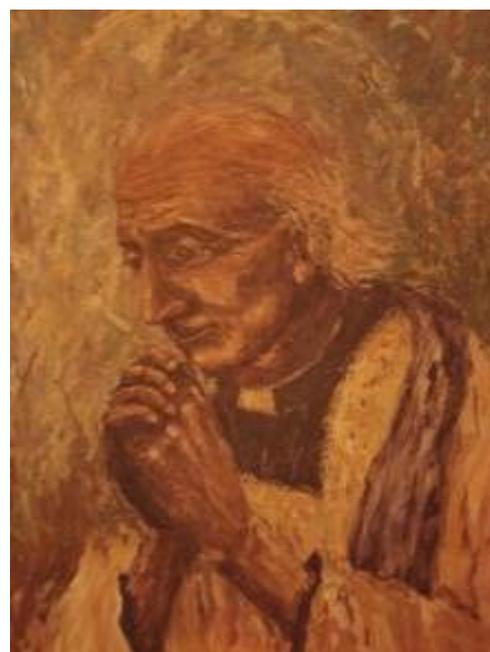
When emotions cloud our thinking and our attitudes, we tend to be continuously swayed by our immediate feelings; objective reasoning and judgment suffer and behaviours become erratic and violent; the solution lies in finding space for silence in our daily living in order to be in contact with our innermost being.

Silence is like music, like a symphony where a hundred instruments play in harmony; silence is like that relentless sound of the oceans waves, never disturbing and ever soothing. It is that murmuring sound in the desert, the whispering voice of a breeze, the voice of God himself.

In short, silence enables one to discover oneself and connect oneself to the Other and other. In such a situation, the human person becomes part of that cosmic dance, together with the whole of creation, in praise of the Creator.

Growth in faith in God is possible only when one has personally discovered the unfathomable beauty and richness of silence. One when one is able to make that inevitable journey from a peripheral existence to the infinite, incomprehensible mystery of the Supreme Being, one can truly become a person of faith with depth and conviction.

Even from a purely human point of view, one who can live



through silence and get enriched by it is a person of integrity, inner harmony and peace. If these qualities are missing in the depth of one's being, one will remain a stranger and enemy to oneself. The result will be a chaotic existence.

Love is the ultimate measure of such an inner coherence and unity. Where there is love, there is God and hence one who is rooted in God will be an individual of rich silence and harmony.

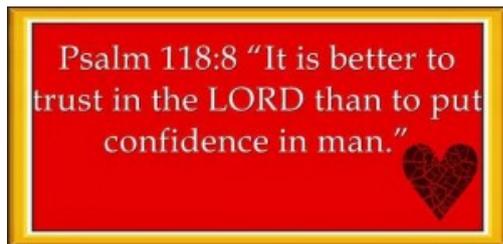
This must be one of the points for our meditation in this Year of Faith. It means plunging into the mystery of the ocean of Divinity and discovering the precious treasure of the Kingdom of God within us.

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item 111

“Jesus, I trust in You”

One of my favourite prayers comes from St Faustina, the mystic, secretary of Divine Mercy. The words of this prayer always touch my soul: "Jesus, I trust in You." I like it and it does me good to repeat it very often, especially in times of difficulty. My dream is that my last words on this earth be exactly these: "**Jesus, I trust in You.**"



Trust is one of the foundations for our personal and spiritual development. It is a good thing to experience trust in families (children and parents), in communities and in our relationship with God. If we have this beautiful experience it means that we are proceeding on the right track. As children grow more and more, receiving love and having trust in those who love them, so do they grow in a similar manner.

Many young people, about 40,000 of them (!), from different parts of the world travelled to Rome from 28 December 2012 to 2 January 2013. Rome was full of boys and girls. All of them came here with the aim of learning to trust.

Brother Alois, Prior of the Taize community, told the youth at the beginning of the meeting:

"It is essential that each of us live these days as a pilgrimage to the interior, finding there the sources for trust in God (...). Let us undertake anew a thousand times this journey that takes us from worry to trust in our life. It is an inner struggle. It means not to be swallowed up by fear, by bitterness and by despair (...)".

And he goes on to add:

"It all begins with the trust that is placed in us by God. Let us allow our lives to be renewed during these days by welcoming the trusting glance of God turned toward each one of us. Because it is not easy in today's world to place trust in each other, it is also not easy to trust in God. However, God always trusts us! This is a fact: God trusts us, in our lives and even in our weakness. But what about us?"

During these days the Romans were very open and very friendly. They received almost all the pilgrims; however, some were unfortunately left without a place to stay. Perhaps not everyone in our world is open

and friendly. Our Generalate was among the many open houses. We opened the door, as St Vincent Pallotti himself would have done, a man who was never closed within himself but was ever available. He opened his heart and his home for the needy. During these days the young people were in fact the pilgrims in need, without a home in which to stay. And we the spiritual children of St Vincent, welcomed them and offered hospitality to 17 people, who included Germans, Poles and Belarusians. We too received so much from them, an experience of youth, so many beautiful smiles, confidence, energy and a real breath of freshness, typical of youth. Goodness shared always multiplies.

It is not the longest or most elaborate speech but the lived experience which is always the best and most profound lesson of love and trust that one can give or receive. I hope and believe that those young people who came to Rome and were our guests have experienced both love and trust, and can share their experience with everyone else.

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22.02.13
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