

GFASC: a journey to discover the love of the Heart of Jesus, guided by Mother Clelia Merloni



The GFASC Family reflects the sentiments of the Heart of Jesus

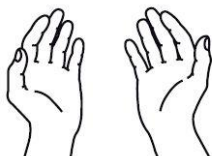
Year B - Reflection 2

Mother Clelia's Evangelical Style

Mother Clelia draws from the Gospel her teachings and the way of life it indicates.

Jesus and the Ten Lepers The great value of "gratitude" (Lk. 17:11-19)

As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he travelled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met [him]. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."



The story of the ten lepers helps us to understand the formative value of gratitude. To say "thank you" means to celebrate love. It is the Eucharist of life. Gratitude must be the most spontaneous action of the heart, a truly human act.

Mother Clelia invites us to be grateful to our Creator.

Gratitude is born of a soul that is delicate and humble; from a person who is grateful because he or she is convinced that all that he or she receives is not his or her “due” but because of the goodness of others.

“Lord, we are yours because you have created us, doubly yours because you have redeemed us; but we want to be all yours in gratitude and love” (Mother Clelia).



Mother Clelia invites us to cultivate the garden of our hearts. She asks us to look at the actions of Jesus so that we may also have the intensity of his zeal: praise, gratitude, charity, mercy, tenderness.

“Jesus wants me to treat everyone with kindness and goodness and place my happiness in living them loving attention in amiable courtesy....He wants me to accept insults, injury, rudeness, and unkindness from others, without lament, and without making them suffer anything” (Words to Remember 491).

If I do a favor with the attitude of getting away from a bothersome person, I have not reached the perfection of love that Jesus desires. My good work is like a flower from the fascinating corolla, but without a scent; it is like a beautiful face without a smile. There are talented and competent people who could help their neighbors in marvellous ways, but who, because of their sullen nature, create emptiness around them and bring unhappiness to themselves and to those with them....Evangelical meekness puts one at ease, brings balance, self-mastery, optimism, joy, peace, because the soul that possesses God radiates joy, has a serene view of life and lives in abandonment to Divine Providence... Mother Clelia is convinced that a greater love for others helps us to live with an attitude of forgiveness and mercy, without being dominated by anger (*Notebook of Spirituality*, no. 3).

“Don’t forget that Jesus’ love is sensitive to all our neighbor experiences of good and of evil; He weeps with those who weep, rejoices with those who rejoice. He suffers everything that others suffer: whether they be present or absent, friend or enemy, near or

far away; because He seeks in everyone a member of the same Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head” (SA Mg., I, p. 23).

“The Gospel tells us that out of the mouth the heart speaks; if, therefore, our thoughts and our words are always in conformit  with the teachings of Christ, taught by the Church, certainly it is the Holy Spirit who has written on our hearts; but, if we make rash judgments, calumniate, tell lies, give bad reports...then it is Satan who has written on our hearts” (Words to Remember 434).

Pope Francis

Pope Francis invites us to implement, in our family or wherever we are, three words that help us to live the Gospel.

“Can I, may I?” This is the polite request to enter the life of another with respect and care. One should learn how to ask: may I do this? Would you like for us to do this? True love does not impose itself harshly and aggressively.

“Thank you”. It seems so easy to say these words, but we know that it is not. But it is important! We teach it to children, but then we ourselves forget it! Gratitude is an important sentiment.

“I’m sorry”. In life we err frequently, we make many mistakes. We all do. Wait, maybe someone here has never made a mistake? Raise your hand if you are that someone, there: a person who has never made a mistake? We all do it! All of us! Perhaps not a day goes by without making some mistake. And, thus, we make mistakes... Hence the need to use these simple words: “I’m sorry”. In general each of us is ready to accuse the other and to justify ourselves. Let us learn to acknowledge our mistakes and to ask for forgiveness. “Forgive me if today I raised my voice”; “I’m sorry if I passed without greeting you”; “excuse me if I was late”, “if this week I was very silent”, “if I spoke too much without ever listening”; “excuse me if I forgot”; “I’m sorry I was angry and I took it out on you”... We can say “I’m sorry” many times every day. In this way, too, a Christian family grows. Never let the sun go down without

making peace! Never, never, never! This is a secret, a secret for maintaining love and making peace. Pretty words are not necessary... Sometimes just a simple gesture and... peace is made. Never let a day end... for if you let the day end without making peace, the next day what is inside of you is cold and hardened and it is even more difficult to make peace. Remember: never let the sun go down without making peace!



COMMITMENT

♥ Is my life made up of gestures of gratitude, sensitivity and attentiveness towards my neighbor? Towards my family? What kind of testimony do I give?

♥ Share your faith story with your family: the first love; the initial enthusiasm. This will help us to live the present moment with intensity and gives us hope for the future.

“You must edify by your example.”

(Mother Clelia, SA Mg. I, p.53)

“Courage! I understand you and bless you with a double outpouring of my heart, so that Jesus might sanctify and bless you as your most affectionate Mother desires.”

(Mother Clelia, SA Mg. II, pp. 173-174)



Mother Clelia, pray for us!