

## **THE POPE TO CATECHISTS: DO NOT BE AFRAID OF GOING BEYOND YOUR BOUNDARIES – GOD IS ALREADY THERE**



*Vatican City, 28 September 2013 (VIS) - "Catechesis is a pillar for education in faith. ... Even though at times it may be difficult, it is necessary to work hard and make efforts for which you don't always see the results you hoped for, educating in faith is good! It is perhaps the best legacy we can give: faith! ... Catechesis is a vocation: 'being' a catechist, this is the vocation, not 'working' as a catechist. Be careful: I have not said to do the work of a catechist, but rather to be one, because it involves all your life. It means guiding towards the encounter with Jesus with words and with life, with your witness ... I like to recall the words of St. Francis of Assisi to his friars: 'Always preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words', so that people may see the Gospel in your lives ... we must begin with Christ and this love He gives us".*

*With these words Pope Francis greeted the participants in the International Congress on Catechesis promoted on the occasion of the Year of Faith by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation, whom he received in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall.*

*To start again from Christ, the Pope indicated three stages, "like the old Jesuits ... one, two, three!", he said. "First of all, ... it means being familiar with Him: Jesus insisted on this to disciples at the Last Supper, when he prepared himself to live the greatest gift of love, his sacrifice on the Cross. Jesus used the image of the vine and its branches, and said: stay in my love, stay attached to me, just as the branch is*

*attached to the vine. If we remain united to Him, we can bear fruit, and this is familiarity with Him. ... The first thing, for a disciple, is to stay with the Master, to listen to Him, to learn from Him. ... I ask you: how are you in the presence of the Lord? When you go to the Lord, you look at the Tabernacle, what do you do? Without words ... But I say, I say, I think, I reflect, I feel ... Very good! But do you let the Lord look at you? To let ourselves be watched by the Lord. He watches us and this is a form of prayer. ... If in our hearts there is not the warmth of God, of His love, of His tenderness, how can we, poor sinners, warm the hearts of others?"*

*To explain the second stage, Francis said that starting again from Christ means "imitating Him in coming out of oneself and going towards others. This is a beautiful experience, if somewhat paradoxical. Because the person who puts Christ at the centre of his life is off-centre. The more you unite with Jesus and make Him the centre of your life, the more He makes you abandon yourself, decentralise yourself, and open yourself to others. This is the true dynamism of love, this is the movement of God Himself! God is the centre, but is always the gift of oneself, relations, life that is communicated. ... In the heart of the catechist, there always exists this 'systolic-diastolic' movement: union with Jesus; encounter with the other. If at one of these two movements is no longer beating, then you do not live. It receives the gift of kerygma,\* and offers it as a gift in turn".*

*The third element "follows the same line: starting again from Christ means not being afraid to go with Him to the peripheries. Here I think of the story of Jonah, a truly interesting figure, especially in our times of change and uncertainty. Jonas was a pious man, with a calm and orderly life; this led him to have very clear mental framework and to judge everything and everyone accordingly, in a rigid fashion. ... Therefore, when the Lord called on him to go and preach in the great pagan city of Nineveh, Jonas did not feel like doing this. 'Go there? But I have all the truth here!' ... Nineveh was outside his way of thinking and at the periphery of his world. And so he ran away and boarded a boat".*

*The story of Jonah "teaches us not to be afraid of going outside our ways of thinking in order to follow God, because God always goes beyond. ... God is not afraid! ... God is not afraid of the peripheries. If you go to the peripheries, you will find Him there. God is always faithful and creative, ... and creativity is the pillar of being a catechist. God is creative, He is not closed, and for this reason He is never rigid. God is not rigid! He welcomes us, He comes towards us, He understands us. To be faithful, to be creative, it is necessary to know how to change. ... If a catechist allows himself to be conquered by fear, he is a coward; if he is not calm, he ends up*

*as a statue in a museum. ... What I want to say now, I have already said many times before, but it comes from my heart to say it again. When we Christians are closed in our group, in our movement, in our parish, in our own environment, we remain closed and what happens to us is what happens to whatever remains closed: when a room is closed the odour of humidity gathers. And if a person is closed in that room, they become ill! When a Christian is closed in his group, or parish, or movement, he remains closed and becomes ill. If a Christian goes out into the streets, in the peripheries, what may befall him is what happens to many people on the street: an accident. We have seen many road accidents. But I say to you: I prefer a thousand times over a Church afflicted by accidents rather than a sick Church!"*

*"Jesus did not say: go out and get by. No, he didn't say that! Jesus said, go, I am with you! This is our beauty and our strength: if we go, if we go to bring the Gospel with love, with true apostolic spirit, with boldness and candidness, He walks with us, He goes before us. ... When we think of going far away, to an extreme periphery, and perhaps when we are a little afraid, in reality He is already there: Jesus awaits us in the heart of that brother, in his wounded flesh, in his oppressed life, in his soul without faith".*

*\*def. - **Kerygma** ([Greek](#): κήρυγμα, k rugma) is the Greek word used in the [New Testament](#) for preaching (see [Luke](#) 4:18-19, [Romans](#) 10:14, [Matthew](#) 3:1). It is related to the Greek verb κηρύσσω (k r ss ), to cry or proclaim as a herald, and means proclamation, announcement, or preaching.*

### **BOOK OF HEAVEN**



***Volume 22 - August 25, 1927 - Relations between the branches and the vine. The soul, depository of the Divine Will.***

While I was praying, I found myself outside of myself, and with my sweet Jesus in my arms. Claspng Him tightly to my heart, I said to Him: "Tell me, my Love, what are the relations between You and me?"

And Jesus, all goodness, told me: "My daughter, do you want to know? The relations that pass between you and Me are like the relations that pass between the branches and the vine. The vine forms the branches, and they receive the vital humor from the vine in order to vegetate from the vine, to clothe themselves with leaves and with grapes. So, there is such union between the vine and the branches, that the branches can neither be formed nor have life without the vine, and the vine would make no impression or display of itself, nor would it give any fruit without the branches. Therefore, there are such relations between the two of them, such bonds of union, that they form the same life and are inseparable from each other. And if they separate, the vine remains sterile, without display and without fruit, and the branches lose their life and wither.

"Now, the vine is your Jesus and you are the branch. The relations between you and Me are inseparable; one is the blood that circulates in our veins, one the Will, one the heartbeat. I form your life, and you form My Glory and My fruit, and I delight in resting in the shade of the thick leaves of your branch, and in picking the grapes of My vine, and in enjoying them as I please."

**Volume 14** - (Jesus speaking to Luisa): Having to call you (Luisa) into the Center of My Will to Live a communal Life in It, and to make you (Luisa) cover all the Acts done by Me, which are not yet known by creatures, it was necessary to restore your nature to this happy state, for My Fecorum, Danctity and Fignity. Otherwise, you (Luisa) could not have run with Me in the interminable Acts of My Will, nor be with Me with that familiarity which is needed in order to operate together. The passions, the seeds of tendencies which are not good, would have been like many bars of division between Me and you. At the most, you would have been at the Commands of My Will like many of My faithful ones, but you (Luisa) would have been very far from doing what I did, and neither you nor I would have been happy; while Living in My Will is precisely this - to Live completely Happy on earth, to then move on to Live more Happy in Heaven.

Therefore I tell you (Luisa), true daughter of My Volition, First Happy Birth from My Will - be attentive and faithful to Me; come and Live in My Eternal Volition. My Acts await you, wanting the seal of yours; those of My Mama

await you (Luisa); the whole of Heaven awaits you (Luisa), wanting to see all of their acts glorified in My Will by a creature of their own stock. The present and future generations await you (Luisa), to be given back the lost happiness. Ah! No, no... the generations will not end until man returns into My Womb, Beautiful, Dominant, just as he came out of My Creative Hands. I AM not content with just having redeemed him; even at the cost of waiting... I will still have patience, but he must return to Me as I made him, by Virtue of My Will. By doing his own will, he went down into the abyss and transformed himself into a brute; by doing My Will, he will rise and acquire the New Transformation into the Nature created by Me. Then will I be able to say: 'I have accomplished everything; the order of the whole Creation has returned to Me, and I will rest in It.'

### **Volume 17 - October 17, 1924**

**With how much love God creates souls. How He raises them; how He waters them and gives all of Himself to them.**

**(Luisa): I was thinking of the great Love with which Jesus Loves us.** My mind was wandering within the Eternal Love, and my sweet Jesus, moving in my interior, showed me spokes of light, before my mind. Within these spokes there was a sun, and this sun contained as many rays for as many existing creatures; and each creature had a ray all for herself, which gave her life, light, heat, strength, growth - everything that is necessary to form a life. It was delightful to see how each creature was attached, like branch to the vine, to each ray of this sun, from which she had been delivered. And while my mind was wandering through this, my adorable Jesus said to me: "My daughter, do you see with how much Love I Love the creature? Before coming out to the light of the day of this world, she was already in My Womb, and in delivering her, I did not leave her: a Ray of Light containing My Life follows her in order to administer to her all that is necessary to develop this Life. And with how much care do I not raise her! With how much Love do I not water her? I Myself become Light, Heat, Food, Defense. And when she ends her days in time, on the way of that same Ray, I withdraw her into My Womb, to let her wander through the Celestial Fatherland.

My Love for the creature becomes more than the sun which I formed in the blue heavens; even more, the sun I created for the benefit of humanity is nothing other than the shadow of the true Sun; it is My Ray which I communicate to the creature. The sun of the atmosphere does not form the plants, nor does it give

them water so as not to let them wither, nor does it provide all those aids which are necessary so that the plants may grow beautiful and strong; and men, even if blind, can in part enjoy its light. It only does its office of illuminating and warming, and it moves on. And if the plants are not watered, it can do nothing to communicate its effects to them; rather, it withers them even more. On the other hand, I, who am the true Sun of the souls, do not leave them, either at night or at daytime. **I Myself form the souls; I give them the water of My Grace so as not to let them wither; I nourish them with the Light of My Truths; I strengthen them with My Examples; I give them the zephyr of My Caresses to purify them, the Dew of My Charisms to embellish them, the Arrows of My Love to warm them. In sum, there is nothing I do not do for them: I AM Everything for them, and I place My whole Life at the creature's disposal, for her own Good.**

But how much ingratitude on the part of creatures! They seem to be attached like branches to my vine, not out of love, but by force, because they cannot do without Me; and so they grow like those branches which, not receiving all the good humors that the vine contains, grow thin, without ever forming mature grapes, but unripe, such as to embitter my divine taste.

**Ah, if all reflected on how I Love their souls, they would all be taken by the Power and the Attractiveness of My Love, and they would love Me! Therefore, love Me, and may your love expand so much as to Love Me for all."**

### **Volume 4 - January 9, 1901**

**Jesus wants her united with Him, like a Sun's ray which receives from It life, heat and splendor.**

This morning I felt all oppressed and crushed, so much so, that I went in search of relief. My only Good made me wait a long time for His coming. Then, on coming, He told me: "My daughter, did I not take your passions, miseries and weaknesses upon Myself for Love of you? **Would you not want to take those of others upon yourself for love of Me?"**

Then He added: **"What I want is that you be always united with Me, like a sun's ray which remains always fixed in the center of the sun, and which receives from it life, heat and splendor.** Suppose that a ray could depart from the center of the sun – what would become of it? Immediately after leaving, it would lose life,

light and heat, and would return to darkness, reducing itself to nothing. **Such is the soul: as long as she remains United with Me, in My Center, it can be said that she is like a Sun's Ray which Lives, receives Life from the Sun, and goes wherever the Sun wants. In sum, it remains at the complete disposal and at the Will of the Sun; if then she distracts herself and disunites from Me, there she is - all darkness, cold, and without feeling within herself that Supernal Spur of Divine Life.**"

### **Volume 4 - November 5, 1902**

#### ***The Tree of Life, rooted in the Heart of Jesus.***

This morning my adorable Jesus made Himself seen in my interior, and He seemed to have **a tree planted in His Heart, and so rooted into It, that its roots arose from the Center of His Heart.** In sum, it seemed to be born together with It, with the same nature. I was amazed at seeing its beauty, strikingness and height, which seemed to touch the heavens; and its branches extended out to the farthest ends of the world. Now, on seeing me so amazed, blessed Jesus told me: "My daughter, this Tree was conceived together with Me, in the Center of My Heart, and from that moment I felt in My inmost Heart all the good and the evil that man would do with this Tree of Redemption, called 'Tree of Life'. **In fact, all those souls who remain united to this Tree will receive the Life of Grace in time, and when the Tree has raised them well, It will administer to them the Life of Glory in Eternity.** Yet, what is not my sorrow? Even though they cannot root out the Tree, nor can they touch the trunk, many try to cut some branches so that souls may not receive life, and to take away from Me all the Glory and the pleasure that this Tree of Life would have produced for Me."

### **Volume 11 - September 29, 1912**

***The Divine Will in Jesus is the center, the life and the origin of everything in Him. Jesus is the One who disposes the intentions of one who lives in His Will, in whatever he does. Only Jesus is enough for him, while earthly things do not attract his will; so, if he eats, it is only according to the Will of God.***

"My daughter, do you know who has been most favored by Me? The soul to whom I manifested the prodigies and the power of my Most Holy Will. **All other things are parts of Me, while My Will is the Center, the Life and the Holder of everything.** My Will directed My Passion, gave Life to My Heart, and exalted the

Cross. My Will understands everything, catches everything, and activates everything - My Will is greater than anything. As a consequence, the one (Luisa) to whom I spoke about My Will has been the most favored, above everyone and everything.

How much you should thank Me for having admitted you (Luisa) to the Secrets of My Volition! Even more, the one (Luisa) who is in My Will is also in My Passion; she is My Heart; she is all the beauty of My Cross and she is My very Redemption. Nothing dissimilar exists between us. Therefore, I want you (Luisa and all souls linked to Luisa) completely in My Will, if you want to take part in My Goods."

*"...I want My children to take part in the things that I created for Love of them - **but according to My Will, not to theirs. It is only for Love of these children that I AM forced to feed the others. Further, since many use natural goods with attachment and not according to My Will, it is for Me the most beautiful reparation to see these souls who, like Celestial Children, take the necessary things with sacrifice, detachment, and according to My Will.***

### **Volume 6 - March 4, 1904**

**The soul must live up high. One who lives up high cannot be harmed.**

As I was very afflicted and in suffering because of the loss of my good Jesus, I saw Him for just a little, and He told me: "My daughter (Luisa), your soul must try to maintain the flight of an eagle - **that is, to dwell up high, above all the low things of this earth; and so high that no enemy may harm it.** In fact, one who lives up high can harm the enemies, but cannot be harmed. And she must not only live up high, but must try to have purity and sharpness of eye, similar to those of an eagle. **Though living up high, through the sharpness of her sight, she penetrates the Divine Things** - not in passing, but by chewing them to the point of making of them her favorite food, despising any other thing. **And she also penetrates the necessities of her neighbor, nor is she afraid to descend into their midst and do good to them; and if needed, she lays down her life. Through the purity of her sight, she makes the love of God and the love of neighbor from two to one, rectifying everything for God. So must the soul be if she wants to please Me.**"

### **Volume 8 - February 12, 1908**

**In one day a courageous soul does more than a timid one does in one year.**

As I was in my usual state, blessed Jesus came for just a little and told me: "My daughter, timidity represses Grace and hampers the soul. A timid soul will never be good at operating great things, either for God, or for her neighbor, or for herself. When a soul is timid, it is as if she had her legs tied: unable to walk freely, she always has her eyes fixed on herself, and on the effort she makes in order to walk. Timidity makes her keep her eyes low, never high. In operating, she draws her strength not from God, but from herself, and therefore, instead of becoming stronger, she becomes weaker. If Grace sows, it happens to It as to a poor farmer who, having sown and worked his little field, harvests little or nothing. On the other hand, in one day a courageous soul does more than a timid one does in one year."

### **Volume 26 – May 4, 1929**

*"My daughter (Luisa), one (Lusia) who Lives in My Divine Volition feels within herself the continuous and constant act of the Divine operating of My Divine Fiat. This continuous act, generated by Its Power in the creature, has such strength, such empire over all, that it captivates all with its sweet enchantment, in such a way that all turn around her—the Angels, the Saints, the Sacrosanct Trinity, the spheres and all Creation. All want to be spectators, to enjoy a scene so sweet, enchanting and beautiful of the continuous act of the creature in the Divine Fiat.*

*"She enters into the Bank of the Supreme Being, and unifying herself in the continuous Act of her Creator, she does nothing but put out, with her continuous act, the innumerable beauties, the sweetest sounds, the insuperable rarities of the qualities of her Creator. And what enraptures the most is to see her littleness that, all daring and courageous, without fearing anything, as if she wanted to lord over her very Creator, to give Him pleasure, to captivate Him to herself, to ask Him for the Kingdom of His Will upon earth, takes and puts out, from within the Divine Bank, all Our Joys and Happinesses, as if she wanted to exhaust them.*

### **Volume 29 – April 16, 1931**

*"Courage, My daughter (Luisa)—courage is of souls resolute to do good. They are imperturbable under any storm; and while they hear the roaring of the thunders and lightnings to the point of trembling, and remain under the pouring rain that pours over them, they use the water to be washed and come out more beautiful; and heedless of the storm, they are*

more than ever resolute and courageous in not moving from the good they have started. Discouragement is of irresolute souls, who never arrive at accomplishing a good. Courage sets the way; courage puts to flight any storm; courage is the bread of the strong; courage is the warlike one that knows how to win any battle. Therefore, Good daughter (Luisa), courage; do not fear.

**Volume 34 - April 8, 1937**

“My blessed daughter, Courage. Courage knocks down the strongest fortresses, it conquers the most trained armies, it weakens Our Power. Rather, if she appropriates it, and Courageous she conquers what she wants, then We, seeing that she does not have the least doubt of obtaining what she wants, because doubt diminishes Courage, We give even more than what she wants. My daughter, Courage, trust, insistence without ever stopping, Love, in Our Will they are the weapons that wound Us, that weakening Us, We let her take what she wants.