

The Mercy of the Lord

Dear Luis,

I finally send you this letter. I agree with you in what you tell me, it is hard to think of a God who is Love but who also punishes. I also think that to coexist with others peacefully and without ever argue is not an easy task; it even gets out of our control. Concerning what you say about the devil, I concur with you.

I will tell you some thoughts related to punishment, prayer, the evil, and also these times we are living in.

I also mention some interesting texts about the Mystical Body of Christ, which will help us to discern these things.

I have chosen a text written by Father Loring, which says:

In The Church there is a supernatural life, which is called grace. The Church founded by Christ is not only a visible family. There is an inner life in it, invisible, supernatural, divine, that is transmitted by the very Jesus Christ.

The Lord our God created man in His own image. He gave him a spiritual and immortal soul, which enables him to know God and love Him, and also to reach a level of happiness according to his nature. God has an infinite love, and He has wanted to call us to higher destinies. He wanted us to be children of God, and to be participants of His own happiness in the glory. For this, He unites us to Him in the divine person of His Son Jesus Christ. We are living members of his Mystical Body, and this divine life is grace, which sanctifies us. Because of this, Christ lives in us, and we live in Him.

This is why we call The Church the Mystical Body of Christ. Christ is the Head, and we all are the members of the body. Or, as he said: «I am the vine and you are the branches».

As the branches receive the sap from the vine, and thanks to this they produce the grapes, we receive the grace from Christ. It is the sap that makes us live a supernatural life, in the same way as our soul vivifies our body and gives it a natural life. Everyone of us is a cell of the Mystical Body of Christ. With our virtue we collaborate with its vitality. With our sins, we become dead cells, and also hinder the life of other cells, our brothers. We become cancer cells. The grace of God is a personal, supernatural and free gift, which makes us be true children of God, and true heirs of Heaven.

It is a quality that lifts man to a higher category, as it gives him the chance to participate with the second nature of Christ, the nature of God. It is like a seed of God. The comparison is from Saint John. As it develops inside our soul, it produces life, in some sense divine, as if we got an injection of divine blood in our veins. The grace of God is the supernatural life of the soul.

It lets us participate with the divine nature of Christ, but it does not makes us be Godmen as Christ is, because His human nature participated with the divine personality, which does not happen with us. God, when He made us children of God

and participants of His divinity, he set us above all the other creatures in the World. These are also creatures of God, but they do not participate with His divinity. It would be similar to the difference that there is between the sculpture made by a sculptor, and his own son, to whom the sculptor transmits his own nature.

I have selected some texts of John Paul II and Pius XII:

John Paul II, in the papal document "Salvific Suffering": "When a person unites a suffering to the Passion of the Christ, this suffering transforms into a particle of infinite value".

Pius XII, in the encyclical "The Mystical Body of Christ", reminds us of the words of Leo the Great: "When we unite our sufferings to the Passion of the Christ, our bodies, through Baptism, are transformed into the flesh of Jesus Crucified, which saves souls for having an infinite value". Pius XII says: "We must always unite our sufferings to those of Jesus at the Cross in order to save souls." ... "For His death at the cross, Jesus deserved an infinite treasure of graces. For the Divine Providence disposition, all these graces are not granted to us at the same time" ... "God wants that all the Christians, members of His Mystical Body, take part in the distribution of these graces at the unity of their sufferings to the sufferings of His Passion, in order to save souls".

Luis, I have showed you these texts because I have thought they are very interesting. I think that the concept of grace is life in Christ.

If we go to the gospel of Saint John 8,12: "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.'"

Here the Lord says He is The Light of the world and that he who follows Him will receive something from Him, or that is to say will receive something from The Light. But, what is it? It is life, and we call it grace.

God already thought of you and loved you since the beginning of time. He has created us to be immensely happy, but He also has given us freedom to choose between good and evil. And for this He has paid a high price, with His death at the cross. Saint Augustine said: "God, who has created us without us, will not save us without our cooperation". Well, let's then try that we and our families go to Heaven. Prayer will help us to accomplish this. It is interesting that Saint Augustine has turned out to be a famous saint, but actually his mother played a very important role in his spiritual life, as she prayed so much for him, because he was not such a saint at the beginning. I mean that prayer has a great spiritual power.

I believe that prayer consists of communication with God. But do we receive life through prayer? The Lord says that He will give His Light to those who follow Him. This is related to what you told me, saying that there is a more difficult kind of prayer in the daily life, coexisting with others and having to turn the other cheek. That, I think, is to follow the Lord, to be charitable.

But I wonder, are we able to follow the Lord on our own? I don't think so, I think we

need prayer. In spite of this, there are good people who don't pray, and bad people who pray. How can we understand this?

Good people who don't pray: There are people with a very sensitive heart, in a way that it opens up with the slightest touch, so that a very small ray of Light can come in. I think that these people are like this because they desire to love (which is a way of unconscious prayer). Anyway, every family, and every human being has their own situation, each one with different details. What I mean is that to think these things of a particular family or person could be a temptation, which could be: "Just look at these people, they don't pray and they have a good and easy life". But, as the Lord said, "the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!"

Bad people who pray: I guess that these are not really interested in prayer, they don't desire to love, they see prayer as a compulsory thing. These are a minority, because that who does not have a real interest usually ends up leaving prayer aside. The truth is that we should pray well, with tenderness, looking our Lord in the eyes, with an openness that leads us to do His will, asking for humbleness so that our eyes open, etc.

There is a type of prayer that consists of "pulling from the cloak of Our Lord" or let's say a cry of desperation to Heaven, like saying "Oh God I want to do your will, but it is so hard for me, I can't, help me..". This kind of prayer is always heard by Jesus, though it is not very frequent.

The Lord told us to pray not to fall into temptation, that is to say, to turn the other cheek. But I think that the main thing we get through prayer is this:

Each person has their own weaknesses. The devil knows them and attacks us through them; well, if you pray every day the Rosary to Our Lady, with tenderness, She will not let him touch these weaknesses, and if you pray for your family, the same thing applies to them. Besides, you would be opening your heart to Her so that she comes in, and She gives you very slowly the Light of Her Son and transforms you a little bit day after day.

One thing that is clear is that if you pray every day, you will have temptations that will try to make you leave it.

The Light of Life of God is something hard for us to understand. In one of the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje, she says that when we pray, we should ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

God does not punish without trying to get good from it, He does not want illnesses, nor death, nor war, nor earthquakes, nor catastrophes. Our Lady of Medjugorje says that some events will occur in the world due to the fact that men think of power, money, and the pleasures of the world in the first place.

We are used to see it as if it was a normal trial, where if there is a fair judge, the guilty will be condemned and the innocent will not. However, it is not the same with God.

Saint Paul says that the justice of God is His forgiveness. Saint John says that the judgement is the death of Jesus, where He redeems us and obtains for us the forgiveness and justification of God the Father.

It also says how we will be redeemed ("I will draw all people to myself", John 12, 31:32).

Let's remember when we were talking about this, we considered that Jesus at the cross, as He trespassed the dimension of time, drew us all to His body so that we all formed a single body with Him. And, that in the same way, our hour of death would be at His hour of death, and the same thing with the resurrection, because He trespassed the dimension of time. This is how I understand the concept of redemption.

Some theologians also consider that Jesus redeemed us during all His life, and that the key part of it was His Passion, especially His death, when He draws us to Him.

That is to say that we form the Mystical Body of Christ and He redeems us, but the key moment is when He dies, or when we die (here we do not consider the dimension of time as we have said) and He draws us to Him.

I think that when somebody dies, he/she gets out of the dimension of time and is able to watch in some way the works of their life. And if that person (here we consider two opposite cases) has lived as a saint, then they go instantly to Christ to show Him their works. On the contrary, if that person has lived a life full of sin away from God, then they hide because they fear a punishment.

Christ forgives in both cases if the person regrets their sins and receives them with His arms open. He we consider what we said before, He would be dying for that particular person. (John 12, 31:32 → Jesus died and forgave). But to summarize, whoever regrets their sins and desires to be with Jesus will go to Heaven. But then, what is the meaning of Holy Confession? Well, with Confession our bad works disappear, since God does not consider them anymore.

But if we think of a God who gives His life for men, it is hard to think that He could punish as well. Let us consider the wrath of God.

All humankind is attacked by evil through their life: hatred, vengeance, crimes... And humankind forms the Mystical Body of Christ, where He is the Head of it. The history of humankind could be represented in the Passion of the Christ. The end of the world (the hardest moment) could be represented in the death of Jesus.

I would like you to read the book of Sainte Faustine. She was canonized by John Paul II. In the book the Lord says that this is the last period of the history, though we obviously do not know the amount of years remaining. He also says that in this period the mercy of God is shed. Well, this phase of mercy and forgiveness, from my point of view, matches with the moment of The Passion, when He said: "Forgive them Father for they know not what they do".

I will try to explain it with an example:

The crimes and bad works occurred during World War 2 could be the nails at the cross, or the crown of thorns.

The thing is that the openness of the Hearts of men to Our Lord has influenced in the happening of the facts of history, and as we just said, for example WW2. That is to say, if we relate these ideas to those we have explained before, the acts of kindness and the sins of every person of humankind intervenes in some way in the Passion.

Well, we are living in times where the devil has gained power to enter the heart of men. Here we consider the wrath of God. As far as I am concerned, the wrath of God has its roots in His Love to men. It is anger for the evil inside the hearts of men, so that He in some way addresses it and could say: 'You enter the heart of men, and I accept the cross and redeem men'. It could also be illustrated with, in a hypothetical case: 'You enter the heart of men, there comes World War 3, and I accept the nails at the cross and redeem men. This would not happen if men would pray so much, next to Our

Lady, that evil is “expelled” from the hearts of men. In this case, men would let God come in their hearts, and there would not be that “punishment”, which would be WW3.

Then the word punishment would be related to redemption and justice to forgiveness.

Luis, today is Holy Friday, we have gone to mass, and the priest has wondered why the death of Jesus had to be so cruel. I think that in the times of Jesus, a battle between good and evil occurred. Each one fought with their own arms. The Lord fought with the arms of Love, Mercy and Forgiveness. And the devil fought with hatred, cruelty, death... The Lord won that battle, and he proved it with His Resurrection. If He had come in these days He would have had a death equally cruel. The priest has also asked why the Lord came to the World. I think He came to pick us up, and gather us as He drew us to Him so that we could resurrect with Him. He draws us to Him at the same time that He forgives and justifies us.

As you see, Luis, this letter is focused on Christ Crucified. Our Lady of Medjugorje says that “something big” is coming. We also have the economic crisis, etc. Nonetheless, Christ resurrected and told us to trust Him and believe in Him, as He has overcome the world.

In order to know this infinitely merciful God who wants us to trust Him, I recommend you again the book I mentioned the other day: The Divine Mercy (St. Faustine).

Today is Easter Sunday. The Gospel says that when they went to look for His body, an angel appeared and told them He had resurrected, that they should go to Galilee to find Him. But why there?

Galilee is the region where it all began, a poor zone with people with many necessities. Judea was a wealthier region. The Lord is always with us, but He is closer to us when we need Him most. That is why I deduct that if we want to be with Him, we can find Him in the needy.

Big hugs

Brief meditation on the mysteries:

Joyful mysteries:

- Don not be afraid, Mary.... God does not want us to ever be afraid. He wants us to trust Him, because He is our best friend.
- That child who will be born, will someday give his life for you and give you his mother.
- Our Lady must have been very kind, so that God would choose her as a Mother!
- Because Our Lady said YES to God, from that moment Baby Jesus is among us.
- What a great expectation there must have been in Heaven, waiting for the Yes of Mary!
- Elisabeth, Mary's cousin, should have been very afraid, because she was pregnant and she was very old. Our Lady must have realized and went to visit her.
- That tenderness that Our Lady had with Baby Jesus when He was born, is the same tenderness that She has with everyone of us, because you are as well her child!
- What a great joy there must have been in Heaven when Baby Jesus was born!
- With the birth of Baby Jesus, your best friend was born. Tell Him your problems and joys.
- Every time I receive Communion, I receive Baby Jesus.

Light mysteries:

- Jesus shows us His humility in the fact of going to the Jordan to be baptized.
- Here, God the Father manifests that Jesus is His Son: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

- As well, the Holy Spirit manifests it when descending on Jesus.
- In the wedding of Cana, how kind is Our Lady! She took care of the situation when She saw there was no more wine.
- Our Lady and the Lord are always paying attention to everything that happens to us.
- We should invite Jesus and Mary to all of our events.
- "Do whatever He tells you". Mary always guides us to Him, and She invites us to obey Him.
- If we want to follow Jesus, the one who will guide us best is Mary.
- In the Transfiguration there was a voice of God the Father that said: "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him!" To listen to Jesus, we should do it internally and reading the Gospel.
- In the Holy Communion you will find the person who loves you the most.
- You have the opportunity to accompany and comfort Jesus in the communion. He gave His life for you.
- When you visit the Holy Sacrament, you are visiting the Lord, and our Lady is with Him.
- It must have been incredible when Our Lady went to Communion, because She would have Her Son again inside of Her.
- In the Holy Communion, we receive from Jesus according to the openness of our heart.

Sorrowful mysteries:

- **The Lord accepted the will of the Father till His death.**

- In the Garden of Olives, Jesus teaches us again to pray: Shall your will be done (to God the Father).
- How much time Our Lady must have suffered!
- Jesus, when He was in the Garden in His agony, He was alone! I would have liked so much to be with Him.
- From now on, in the communion, I will be with Him, so that He will never again be alone.
- As well as Jesus prayed, we should pray, asking the will of God the Father to be done.
- Our Lady once said that the Rosary is like a rope of knots which Heaven throws to us.
- Oh my Jesus! I will try to heal your wounds caused by the whip with good works.
- They put a crown of thorns upon the head of Jesus. Jesus is the King of Love and His Kingdom is eternal.
- The Lord teaches us to forgive justifying the other, and in the cross He said: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."
- Jesus gives us in the cross all He had: His Mother. "Woman, behold your son". And to the disciple: "Behold your mother".
- Christ said at the hour of death: I am thirsty. Thirst of everybody to be saved.

Glorious mysteries:

- With the Resurrection, we see that Christ has conquered death.

- As Christ resurrected and went to Heaven, we will be resurrected and will go to Heaven with the Lord.
- After the Resurrection, he would probably have appeared to His Mother in many times.
- How amazing it would be to watch Our Lady pray, as She was filled with the Holy Spirit!
- I can imagine Our Lady being assumed to Heaven, surrounded by angels.
- Mary is in Heaven, our mother, who takes care of us.