

SECOND READING

From the Writings of St. Teresa of Calcutta, virgin

(Letter to Fr. Joseph Neuner, sent circa 1960:
B. Kolodiejchuk, *Mother Teresa. Come be my light*, p. 209-212)

If my darkness is light to some soul I am perfectly happy

...In Loreto Father I was very happy – I think the happiest nun. Then the call came. Our Lord asked direct - the voice was clear & full of conviction. Again & again He asked in 1946. I knew it was He. Fear & terrible feelings – fear lest I was deceived. But as I have always lived in obedience, I put the whole thing before my spiritual Father hoping the whole time that He will say it was all the devil's deception. But no – like the voice, he said it is Jesus who is asking you. And then you know how it all worked out. My Superiors sent me to Asansol 1947 and there as if Our Lord just gave Himself to me to the full. The sweetness & consolation & union of those 6 months passed but too soon. And then the work started in Dec. 1948. ...

Now Father, since 1949 or 50 this terrible sense of loss, this untold darkness, this loneliness, this continual longing for God which gives me that pain deep down in my heart. The darkness is such that I really do not see – neither with my mind nor with my reason. The place of God in my soul is blank. There is no God in me. When the pain of longing is so great I just long & long for God. And then it is that I feel He does not want me. He is not there. Heaven, souls – why these are just words which mean nothing to me. My very life seems so contradictory. I help souls to go where? Why all this? Where is the soul in my very being? God does not want me. Sometimes I just hear my own heart cry out, 'My God' and nothing else comes. The torture and pain I can't explain. From my childhood I have had a most tender love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, but this too has gone. I feel nothing before Jesus and yet I would not miss Holy Communion for anything.

You see, Father, the contradiction in my life. I long for God – I want to love Him – to love Him much – to live only for Love of Him – to love only – and yet there is but pain – longing and no love. Years back – about 17 years now – I wanted to give God something very beautiful. I bound myself under pain of mortal sin not to refuse Him anything. Since then I have kept this promise. And sometimes when the darkness is very dark & I am on the verge of saying 'No' to God, the thought of that promise pulls me up.

I want only God in my life. "The work" is real and solely His. He asked – He told me what to do – He guided every step – directs every movement I take – puts the words in my mouth, makes me teach the Sisters the way. All that & everything in me is He. This is why when the world praises me it really does not touch – not even the surface – of my soul. About the Work I am convinced it is all His.

Before I could spend hours before Our Lord, loving Him, talking to Him, and now not even meditation goes properly – nothing but 'My God' – even that sometimes does not come. Yet deep down somewhere in my heart that longing for God keeps breaking through the darkness. When outside, in the work or meeting people, there is a presence of somebody living very close – in very me. I don't know what this is, but very often, even every day, that love in me for God grows more real. I find myself telling Jesus unconsciously most strong tokens of love.

Father, I have opened my heart to you – teach me to love God – teach me to love Him much. I am not learned – I don't know many things about the things of God – I want to love God as and what He is to me 'My Father.'

... My heart & soul & body belongs only to God – that He has thrown away as unwanted, the child of His Love. And to this, Father, I have made that resolution in this retreat, to be at His disposal. Let Him do with me whatever He wants, as He wants, for as long as He wants. If my darkness is light to some soul – even if it be nothing to nobody – I am perfectly happy to be God's flower of the Field.

Responsory

Cf. Cant 3,1,2; 5,6; Ps 37,5.

R/. I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer

***** Commit your life to the Lord; trust in him and he will act.

V/. I sought him whom my soul loves; in the streets and in the squares I will seek him whom my soul loves.

***** Commit your life to the Lord; trust in him and he will act.