Let's live like this! «For you, Jesus!»

JULIANA – Holy Land

We live close to a wall that has been built in my country to divide the Jews and the Arabs. I see it every day when I open the window of my room. Along the street we have roadblocks where the soldiers stop everyone who passes by because they want to check our IDs. This is what we ha<mark>ve to do on</mark> our way to school in the morning or when we go to visit our relatives or friends. It can make life very difficult!

I get very agitated every time the soldiers stop me, but then I remember that I can offer my fear to Jesus and that the soldier is a person like me, and so I have to love him.

In this way I feel that Jesus becomes everything for me and he gives me the strength to start over again every day. He makes the burden of these difficulties feel light!



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«Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.» (Mk 1:3)

These words are spoken to me. The Lord is coming and I must be ready to welcome him. He stands at the door and knocks. He asks to come in. I cannot leave him outside! I have to let him in.

When Jesus came on earth, he was a carpenter. Today he presents himself as an immigrant, or someone without a job, or a schoolmate or a relative who is alone.

John the Baptist said these words to the Jewish people of his time. He asked them to confess their sins and change their ways. He knew that the Messiah was coming and he wanted them to be ready!

I have to get ready too, and remove any obstacles that stop me from loving. I need to get rid of judgments that make me condemn someone, or stop talking to them, or speak about them behind their back. I can even put up with being unjustly treated and offer it to Jesus.

"I ask myself: How would Jesus act in this situation?" If we live this Word of Life together, we can give birth to Jesus in our midst, in our community, in our family, in our group of friends.

Let's help one another to straighten out our attitudes toward other people, and be merciful toward others, as Pope Francis has asked us to do in this upcoming Year of Mercy.

In this way Jesus will find an open road to come and stay in our midst. We will be his home, his family.

"I will offer Jesus everything I do by saying, «This is for you!»"