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Be VIGILANT IN THE PRESENT Moment



«Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming» (Mt 24:42).

Jesus reveals a to us a big secret, which is to **live the present moment well**, because he will come when we are at school or at work or occupied with normal daily activities. We might be worried about the future and don't even think about God. And so he tells us to be vigilant.

The person who loves also keeps watch. Being vigilant is part of loving.

«When you love someone, you always wait for them to come back, and every moment away from them, you do everything for them.

A person who loves God does the same. They do everything for him. They meet him in all the ordinary things that are his will for them in the present moment. Then they are ready to meet him when he comes in a very solemn way at the end of their life.»



«A WHILE ago I made UP THIS PRAYER TO GOD and I THOUGHT I COULD SHARE IT WITH YOU:

“Jesus, help me to always speak as if it were the last word I will ever say. Help me to always act as if it were the last thing I would do on earth. Help me to always offer every suffering as if it were the last thing I can give to you. Help me to always pray as if it were the last chance I have on earth to talk with you.”

¹C. Lubich (Diary, Jan 11, 1974), 'Every moment is a gift', CN Rome, 2001.

VIGILANT IN LOVING

Let's try to meet the needs of the people around us. They might need food or material help, or just someone to keep them company or be their friend. Let's love each and every person in concrete ways.

During this month, let's give witness that the world can be like a family if we love others around us.

Why don't we put together all the things we really don't use or are extra. There might only be a few things, but we all have something we can give – a book, a toy, a pen, a backpack that we are not using anymore, or some clothes. Let's find something extra, something we don't need, or even something that we like a lot, but can be given to someone else. Let's make a nice present of these things and give them to someone in need.

Experiences

Around the world:

Vittorio

“Excuse me, is this the stop for Child Jesus?” («Child Jesus» is the name of the children's hospital in my city.). **I was asking directions, but it also reflected who I was going to see!**

It was Christmas Eve and I was on my way to find a certain hospital, just like the shepherds went to look for the Saviour.

The name of my «Child Jesus» is Elbo and he is 9 years old. For the past few years, he has come to the meetings of the Teens4Unity in my city.

His parents abandoned him but he often has to go to the hospital for complicated operations.

Visiting him is my CHRISTMAS!!!

We were so happy to see one another again, and like the poor shepherds, I gave him my gift – a T-shirt of the national soccer league! He put it on immediately...

We ran through the halls of the residence with his wheelchair, as if we were participating in the Grand Prix. As we passed the rooms, I saw many Christmas cribs set up, and a mom and dad sitting next to their child who was sick. This would be their Christmas, too.

I gave each one a big smile and stopped to say hello...

On the way home I had a special sense of joy in my heart and felt like telling everyone that spending Christmas like this is SO BEAUTIFUL!!

