

MAKE OUR LIFE A GIFT FOR OTHERS

"Come to me."
(Mt 11:28)

Jesus invites us to come close to him. In fact, he is the visible presence of God who is Love. He tells us that God loves us immensely just as we are, with our talents and our shortcomings, our aspirations and our failures! And he invites us to trust in *his* "law" — which is not a burden that crushes us, but a yoke that is easy to carry. Those who live this law of love find their hearts full of joy.

However, his law requires that we never turn in on ourselves, but rather make our lives a gift to others, each and every day.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28)

Jesus also makes a promise: "I will give you rest."

How does he do that? First of all, through his presence with us, which becomes strong and deep if we choose him as the core and center of our life. Next, he gives us rest because he enlightens us, shedding light on all that we do each day, helping us to discover the true meaning of life, even when things around us get tough.

And then, if we start loving as Jesus did, we will find both the strength to carry on and the fullness of freedom, because the life of God will grow within us.

"Come to me"
(Mt 11:28).

So, let's accept Jesus' invitation and go to him, knowing he is the source of our hope and our peace.

Let's accept his commandment to love as he did, and take advantage of the endless opportunities offered to us throughout the day — in our families, in the parish, at work — **responding to offenses with forgiveness,**

building bridges rather than walls and putting ourselves at the service of anyone weighed down by difficulties.

Far from being a burden, we will discover that this law of love gives us wings to soar on high.

WINGS THAT MAKE US FLY

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28)

I started to tell Jesus how bad I am, listing all the things I had done wrong lately and how bad I feel about myself. Even though I felt miserable, I realized that I could tell him anything and he would listen to me.

I told him, **"I know that you are Love and I want to keep believing that, even if it's hard for me right now."**

I sat there in silence in front of him and began to feel much better. I noticed that it was almost time for Mass to start and someone came to sit in the same pew with me. I looked up and was surprised to see it was my parents! We hugged and knew that we had forgiven one another. Jesus had won out once again! I just sat there, thanking him for that special moment. My parents and I walked home together and on the way they treated me to ice cream!

FRANCESCO

"That's enough! I can't stand it anymore! Is it possible that every time I say I need something, no one bothers to listen to me?" I got very upset and stormed out of the house, which has happened a lot lately.

I walked round town by myself, because all my friends were on a school trip. I hadn't gone because I had other plans for the summer.

While trying to figure out how to get rid of my bad mood, I decided, almost out of habit, to go into a nearby church. As soon as I went in, I felt an amazing sense of peace, so much so that I started to cry... Why do I get so mad lately? And so often?