

TOGETHER pilgrims on the way towards MADRID 2011

Spiritual journey in the company of CA young saints

First stage (May – June) ♦ from Pentecost 23 May 2010
May 20th 1990 -2010 / 20th Anniversary of the Beatification of Pier Giorgio Frassati

TIME TO MEDITATE

John 14,15-16; 23b-26 • OUR FRIEND AND LORD JESUS CHRIST, HOW GREAT YOU ARE!

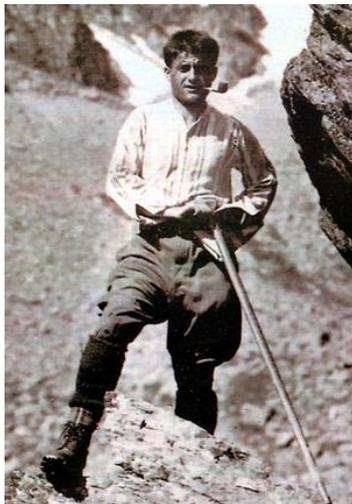
“At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: «If you love me, you will keep my commandments; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name - he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you»”.

Friends and those who love one another have a constant desire to be together and to spend time (and live) together. To do what? This does not matter! - great or small things, extraordinary and ordinary things, the important thing is that they are together. But as we know, this entails a strange balance, between being together and respecting each other's freedom, between being close to one another and opening themselves to the world. Only time and effort can teach us how to find the right balance ...

Jesus teaches us the limit of true and adult love. In His visible form as the Risen Christ, he went so far as to give us His Spirit so that we may learn to live in freedom “with Him within us”, with an Advocate who is always with us, so that, as in every love, we may learn to do that which our beloved one desires, even before he says it; so that we may get to know Him so intimately to the extent that we can predict what he wants. Only thus can our freedom grow.

The world cannot see Jesus but it can see the fruit of our love: in us, in our free and faithful lives and in our lives lived in union with Christ. Anyone can make out a life which is distinguished by love and filled with love, without the need of many words. And in this we will never be alone.

IN THE COMPANY OF SAINTLY YOUNG PEOPLE



BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Short Biography

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born in Turin on the 5th April 1901 from a noble and well to do family. His father, Alfred, was the founder and director of the daily newspaper “La Stampa”. He was also the senator of the region. His mother was a distinguished artist. The family environment was marked by clashes due to disagreements between the parents. As a result of this Pier Giorgio and his sister Luciana grew up in a very tense atmosphere. In 1918, in spite of difficulties he encountered in Latin, he matriculated from the “liceo-ginnasio Massimo D’Azeglio”. Soon after, he enrolled in an engineering course specializing in mining. Through this profession, he wished to be able to help miners, a group of workers who were very badly off at that time. He was deeply in love with mountains and in 1924 he set up the “Società dei tipi loschi” with the aim of organizing, together with friends, mountain trips for young people.

There are two fundamental traits in Pier Giorgio's life, the first being his faith in Christ, which during his university days, lead him to join a number of Catholic Associations. The Fuci and on the 14th May 1922 he enrolled as a member of the “Milites Mariae” of the Catholic Youth Society (the Catholic Action male branch) in his parish. The second was solidarity. Without letting his family know, Pier Giorgio helped an indefinite number of poor people by giving them money, clothes and other belongings. He died suddenly on the 4th July 1925 of a stroke of poliomyelitis, maybe caught while visiting some poor people's homes. At his funeral, besides his friends and distinguished persons, there was also a large crowd of poor people. It was then that the family realized who Pier Giorgio really was.

Pier Giorgio's words

«Every day I grow to love the mountains all the more and wish, if my studies permit, to pass whole days there, so that, in that fresh air, I may be able to contemplate the Greatness of the Creator ».

Letter to Marco Beltramo, 4 March 1923

«You have said well that there is always an undestroyable bond which links us with that bond, which we retain, is Faith. This faith has brought us together to undertake beautiful outings and has led us to set up our Society , [la "Società dei Tipi Loschi" NdR] on solid ground».

Letter to Marco Beltramo, August 1924

«You have asked me whether I am happy; how can I possible not be? It is faith which gives me the strength to be always happy! A Catholic should be always happy. Sadness should never find a place in Catholic souls. Suffering is not sadness. Sadness is the worst disease».

Letter to his sister Luciana, 14 February 1925

«(...) I wish that we enter into an agreement which has neither earthly borders nor temporal limits: our union in prayer».

Letter to Isidoro Bonini, 15 January 1925

A young person like us

«At a glance, in Pier Giorgio Frassati's way of life, a modern lively young man, there is nothing which is extraordinary. But this is precisely the originality of his virtue and what calls for reflection and imitation. Faith and everyday events blend so harmoniously that his faithfulness to the Gospel is translated into a loving attention to the poor and needy. This love kept on intensifying right up to the last days of the illness which brought him to his death. His love for beauty and the arts, his passion for sports and mountaineering and his concern about social problems never obstructed his constant relation with the Absolute.

His life was immersed in the mystery of God and was all dedicated to the constant service of his neighbour. This is how one can describe his earthly days! He lived his vocation as a lay Christian in the many associative and political commitments in a confused society which was indifferent and sometimes even hostile to the Church. With this spirit, as an enthusiastic member, Pier Giorgio was an inspiration to the different Catholic Movements especially to Catholic Action and the FUCI. In these Associations he found the right training ground for his Christian formation and the favourable place for his apostolate. In Catholic Action, he lived his Christian vocation with joy and pride and he committed himself to love Jesus and to discover Him in His neighbour. He saw Him in the people he met and looked for Him in those who were suffering, emarginated and abandoned so that he could make them feel the warmth of his human solidarity and the spiritual comfort of faith in Christ».

John Paul II, Homily held on the occasion of Pier Giorgio Frassati Beatification, 20 May 1990

«This evening I cannot fail to point out to you as a model a young man of your City Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, the 20th anniversary of whose Beatification falls this year. His life was completely enveloped by God's grace and love and was spent with serenity and joy in the enthusiastic service of Christ and of his brothers and sisters. Young like you, he experienced his Christian formation with deep commitment and gave his testimony of faith, simply and effectively. A young man who was drawn by the beauty of the Gospel of the Beatitudes, who experienced to the full the joy of being a friend of Christ, of following him, of feeling that he himself was a living part of the Church. Dear young people, have the courage to choose what is essential in life! "Living, and not just managing to get by!", Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati often used to say. Like him, you will discover that it is worth committing yourself to God and with God, to answer his call in your fundamental and your daily decisions, even at a cost!»

Benedict XVI, Speech to young people during the pastoral visit to Turin for the veneration of the Holy Shroud, 2 May 2010