

THE FATHER SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN



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PREFACE

“God is my Father!” This cry is being heard ever more frequently in today’s world: people are coming to recognise that God is indeed their Father.

Consequently, we feel it our duty to publish a message, given to the world by God the Father through one of His creatures who loved Him so Much, Sister Eugenia Elisabetta Ravasio, and recognised as valid by the Church.

We consider it appropriate to introduce this work by quoting the testimony of a former Bishop of Grenoble, the Right Reverend Alexandre Caillot. In 1935 he set up a board of experts, drawn from various parts of France, to conduct a diocesan enquiry, which lasted ten years.

Its members included the Bishop of Grenoble’s Vicar General, Mgr Guerry, theologian; the Jesuit brothers, Fathers Albert and Auguste Valencin-Amons, who ranked among the foremost authorities in the field of philosophy and theology and were expert in evaluating such cases; and two doctors of medicine, one of whom was a psychiatrist.

We are sure that this message will help people to understand the deep tenderness the Father has for each one of us, and we hope that it will receive the widest possible circulation.

Father Andrea D’Ascanio
OFM Cap.

MOTHER EUGENIA ELISABETTA RAVASIO

Who is Mother Eugenia, whom God the Father called “My beloved daughter”, “My little plant”?

In our opinion, Mother Eugenia is one of the greatest lights of our times, the little prophet of a new Church, in which the Father is the centre and apex of all mankind, and in which unity is the highest ideal of spirituality. She is a light given by the Father to the world at this time of chaos and darkness, so that we may see the road that has to be followed.

She was born in San Gervasio d’Adda (now Capriato San Gervasio), a small town in the province of Bergamo, Italy, on 4 September 1907, in a family of peasant background.

She received only an elementary education. After a few years working in a factory, she entered the Congregation of Our Lady of the Apostles at the age of 20 years. It was here that her great charismatic personality developed, leading to her election as Mother General of the Congregation at the age of only 25.

Quite apart from her spiritual qualities, her work in the social field alone would suffice to ensure her a place in history. In twelve years of missionary activity she opened over 70 centres - each with infirmary, school and church in the remotest spots of Africa, Asia and Europe.

It was she who discovered the first medicine for the cure of leprosy, extracting it from the seed of a tropical plant. This medicine was later studied and developed further at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

She encouraged the apostolate of Raoul Follereau, who, following in her footsteps and building on the foundations laid by her, is regarded as the apostle of the lepers.

During the period 1939-41 she conceived, planned and brought to fruition the project for a “Lepers’ City” at Azopte (Ivory Coast). This was a vast centre, covering an area of 200,000 sq.m., for the care of leprosy sufferers. It remains even today one of Africa’s and the world’s leading centres of its kind.

In recognition of this achievement, France conferred the highest national honour for social work on the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles, of which Mother Eugenia was Superior General from 1935 to 1947. Mother Eugenia returned to the Father on 10 August 1990.

Her most important legacy to us is the Message of the Father (“The Father speaks to His children”), the only private revelation made personally by God the Father and recognised as authentic by the Church after ten years of the most rigorous examination. We reproduce at the beginning of the text the statement issued by Mgr Alexandre Caillot, Bishop of Grenoble, following the investigation.

It is noteworthy that the Father (in 1932) dictated the Message to Mother Eugenia in Latin, a language totally unknown to her.

In 1981 this Message came to our notice, and in 1982, its fiftieth anniversary, we published it in Italian.

The many miracles of grace worked by the Message have led us to disseminate it gratis, especially in prisons, barracks and hospitals. In addition to English, it is available in French, Italian, Spanish, German and other languages.

**TESTIMONY OF THE RIGHT REVEREND A. CAILLOT,
BISHOP OF GRENOBLE, FOLLOWING THE REPORT
PREPARED DURING THE CANONICAL ENQUIRY
INTO THE CASE OF MOTHER EUGENIA**

Ten years have passed since, as Bishop of Grenoble, I decided to open an enquiry into Mother Eugenia's case.

I now have enough information to bring my testimony as Bishop before the Church.

1) The first thing to emerge with certainty from the enquiry is that *Mother Eugenia's considerable virtues* are well established.

From the beginning of her religious life, the sister had attracted her superiors' attention because of her piety, her obedience and her humility.

Her superiors, perplexed by the extraordinary nature of the events which occurred during her novitiate, had not wanted to let her stay on in the convent. After some hesitation, they had to abandon their plan when faced with the nun's exemplary conduct.

During the enquiry, Sister Eugenia showed great patience and the utmost docility in submitting without complaint to all the medical tests, answering the theological and medical commissions' often long and distressing questioning, and accepting contradictions and trials. Her simplicity, in particular, was praised by all the investigators.

A number of circumstances also showed the nun to be capable of practising virtue to a heroic degree. According to the theologians, an especially striking feature was her obedience during Father Auguste Valencin's enquiry in June 1934, and her humility on the sad day of 20 December 1934.

I can attest that, while she was Superior General, I found her very devoted to her duty, dedicating herself to her task which must have seemed all the more difficult to her as she was not prepared for it - with great love for souls, her Congregation and the Church. Those close to her are struck, as I myself am, by her strength of spirit in facing difficulties.

I am impressed not only by her virtues but also by the qualities she displays in exercising her authority. Also striking is the fact that a relatively uneducated nun should come to fill her Congregation's highest office. In this there is already something extraordinary and, from this point of view, the enquiry conducted by my Vicar General, Mgr Guerry, on the day of her election, is very significant. The answers given by the Chapter members and by the superiors and delegates of the various missions showed that they were choosing Mother Eugenia as their Superior General - in spite of her youth and the canonical obstacles which would normally have caused the idea of her nomination to be rejected - because of her qualities of judgement, balanced temperament, energy and firmness. Reality would seem to have far surpassed the hopes that her electors placed in her.

What I especially noticed in her was her lucid, lively and penetrating intelligence. I said that her education had been inadequate, but this was for external reasons

over which she had no control: her mother's long illness had compelled her, at a very early age, to look after the house and be absent from school very often. Then, before she entered the convent, there were the hard years she worked in industry as a weaver. Notwithstanding these basic gaps, the consequences of which are evidenced in her style and spelling, Mother Eugenia gives many lectures in her community. It is worth noting that she herself compiles her Congregation's circulars and the contracts with municipal authorities or administrative councils regarding the hospital institutes of Our Lady of the Apostles. She has also compiled a long directory.

She sees every situation clearly and correctly, as if it were a matter of conscience. Her instructions are straightforward, precise and very practical. She knows each of her 1400 daughters personally, and also their attitudes and their virtues; hence she is able to select those who are most qualified to perform various tasks. She also has an accurate personal knowledge of her Congregation's needs and resources. She knows the situation in every house and has visited all her missions.

We wish to emphasise also her spirit of far-sightedness. She has taken all the necessary measures for every hospital or school to have qualified nuns and whatever they need to live and develop. I find it particularly interesting to note that Mother Eugenia seems to possess a spirit of decisiveness, a sense of reality and a creative will. In six years she has founded 67 institutes and has been able to introduce very useful improvements in her Congregation.

If I single out her qualities of intelligence, judgement and will, and her powers of administration, it is because they

seem to me to rule out definitively all the hypotheses about hallucinations, illusions, spiritism, hysteria or delirium. These were examined during the enquiry but proved incapable of giving a satisfactory explanation of the facts.

Mother Eugenia's life is a constant demonstration of her mental and general equilibrium, which, to the observer, seems to be the dominant feature of her personality. Other hypotheses, about suggestibility and manageability, led the investigators to wonder whether they might be dealing with a very impressionable temperament, like a multi-faceted mirror which reflects all influences and suggestions. These hypotheses were also rejected for reasons of everyday reality. Although Mother Eugenia is gifted with a sensitive nature and an emotional disposition, she has shown that she has never favoured anyone and, far from letting herself be influenced by human considerations, she has always been able to determine her own projects and activities and to gain the acceptance of others through her personal insight.

2) *The object of the mission* which would appear to have been entrusted to Mother Eugenia is precise and, from the doctrinal point of view, I see it as legitimate and timely.

Its precise object is to make God the Father known and honoured, mainly by the institution of a special feast which has been requested of the Church. The enquiry established that a liturgical feast in honour of the Father would be quite in keeping with Catholic practice as a whole. It would accord with the traditional thrust of Catholic prayer, which ascends to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit, as shown by the prayers of the Mass and the liturgical

oblation to the Father during the Holy Sacrifice. However, it is strange that there is no special feast in honour of the Father. The Trinity is honoured as such, the Word and the Holy Spirit are honoured by their mission and external manifestations. Only the Father has no feast of His own which would draw the attention of the Christian people to His Person. This is the reason why a fairly extensive survey of the faithful has shown that, in the various social classes and even among many priests and religious, “the Father is unknown, no one prays to Him, no one thinks of Him”. The survey reveals, rather surprisingly, that a large number of Christians remain distant from the Father because they see Him as a terrifying judge. They prefer to turn to Christ’s humanity. And how many ask Jesus to protect them from the Father’s anger!

A special feast would thus have the effect firstly of re-establishing order in the spirituality of many Christians and, secondly, of leading them back to the Divine Saviour’s instruction: “Everything you ask the Father in My name...” and again “You will pray like this: ‘Our Father...’

A liturgical feast dedicated to God the Father would also have the effect of raising our eyes towards the One Whom the apostle St. James called “the Father of light, from Whom every gift comes...” It would accustom souls to consider God’s goodness and His fatherly providence. They would realise that this providence is truly that of God the Holy Trinity, and that it is because of His divine nature, common to all three Persons, that God spreads through the world the ineffable treasures of His infinite mercy.

It would seem, at first sight, as if there were no special reason to honour the Father in particular. But was it not the

Father Who sent His Son into the world? If it is supremely right to show devotion to the Son and the Holy Spirit because of their external manifestations, would it not be right and proper to give thanks to God the Father, as the Prefaces of the Mass require, for the gift He sent us, His Son?

The real object of this special feast thus becomes plain: to honour the Father, to thank Him, to praise Him for having given us His Son; in a word, as the message states, as the Author of our Redemption; to thank Him Who loved the world so much that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that all men might be brought together in the Mystical Body of Christ and, together with this Son, become His children.

At a time when the world is troubled by secular doctrines, atheism and modern philosophies and no longer recognises God, the true God, would not this feast make known to many the living Father, the Father of mercy and goodness, Whom Jesus has revealed to us? Would it not contribute to an increase in the number of those who worship the Father “in spirit and in truth”, to whom Jesus referred? Now, when the world is being torn apart by deadly wars, when it feels the need to seek a solid principle of union to bring the peoples closer together, this feast would bring a great light. It would teach men that they all have the same Father in heaven: the One Who gave them Jesus, towards Whom He draws them as members of His Mystical Body in the unity of the same Spirit of Love! When so many souls are weary and tired of the tribulations of war, they may well be hungering for a deep spiritual life. Might not such a feast call them, then, “from within”, to worship the Father Who hides Himself, and to offer themselves in a filial and generous oblation to the Father, the only source of the life of the Holy Trinity in them? Would it not preserve that

fine movement of supernatural life which naturally draws souls towards spiritual childhood and - through confidence - towards filial life with the Father, towards abandonment to the divine will, towards the spirit of faith?

On the other hand, a problem of doctrine arises, quite apart from the question of a special feast and regardless of what the Church may decide on this matter. Some eminent theologians believe that the doctrine of the soul's relationship with the Trinity needs to be examined more deeply, and that it could be for souls a source of enlightenment on the life of union with the Father and the Son, about which St. John speaks, and on the sharing in the life of Jesus, Son of the Father, especially in His filial love for the Father.

But, apart from these theological reasons, what I wish to underline here is this: a poor young woman, unversed in theology, declares that she is receiving messages from God, and these may be very rich in doctrine.

The works of an imaginary visionary are poor, barren and inconsistent. However, the message that Mother Eugenia says the Father entrusted to her is fertile. There is a harmonious interaction of two different characters which tends to confirm its authenticity. On the one hand, it is presented as something traditionally held by the Church, without any suspicious innovations, for it incessantly repeats that everything has already been said in Christ's revelation about His Father, and that everything is in the Gospel. But on the other hand, it declares that this great truth, concerning knowledge of the Father, needs to be reconsidered, studied deeply and experienced.

Does not the disproportion between the weakness of the instrument, incapable of discovering a doctrine of

this nature by itself, and the depth of the message being conveyed, reveal that a superior, supernatural, divine cause has intervened to entrust the sister with this message?

I cannot see how, humanly speaking, one could explain the nun's discovery of an idea, the originality and fecundity of which the theologians conducting the enquiry were able to perceive only gradually.

Another fact seems to me equally significant: when Sister Eugenia made it known that she had been receiving apparitions of the Father, the investigating theologians replied that apparitions of the Father were in themselves impossible and that they had never occurred before in history. The sister held out against these objections, declaring simply: "The Father told me to describe what I saw. He asks His sons, the theologians, to search." The nun never changed her testimony in any way. She maintained her statements over many months. It was not until January 1934 that the theologians discovered in St. Thomas Aquinas himself the answer to their objection.

The answer given by the great doctor of the Church about the distinction between apparition and mission was enlightening. It removed the obstacle which was paralysing the whole enquiry. Challenged by wise theologians, the uneducated little nun proved to be right. How, humanly speaking, could we explain, in this case too, the nun's insight, wisdom and perseverance? A false visionary would have tried to adapt herself to the theologians' explanations. The nun, however, held her ground. These are the additional reasons why her testimony seems trustworthy to us.

In any case, what I find worthy of note is her reserved attitude towards the miraculous aspects of the case. While false visionaries give pride of place to extraordinary phenomena and even see nothing but these, Mother Eugenia, on the contrary, puts them second, as proofs, as means. There is no state of exaltation, but there is a balance of values which makes a favourable impression.

I will refer only briefly to the theologians' enquiry.

The Reverend Fathers Albert and Auguste Valencin are highly esteemed for their philosophical and theological authority, and for their deep knowledge of the spiritual life. Their intervention was required in other, similar enquiries. We know that they acted with great circumspection, and that is why we selected them for this work.

We are grateful for their devoted and conscientious collaboration. Their testimony in favour of the sister and of a supernatural explanation of the facts as a whole is all the more remarkable as they delayed their judgement for a long time, being at first hostile and sceptical, and then hesitant. Little by little, they became convinced, after raising all kinds of objections and imposing hard tests on the nun.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the dictates of my soul and my conscience, and with the keenest sense of my responsibility to the Church, I declare that supernatural and divine intervention seems to me the only logical and satisfactory explanation of the facts.

Isolated from all the surrounding features of the case, this essential fact seems to me to be noble, lofty and supernaturally rich: that a humble nun has called souls to true devotion to the Father, such as Jesus taught and the Church has enshrined in its liturgy. There is nothing alarming in this, only something that is very simple and in accordance with solid doctrine.

The miraculous facts which accompany this message could be separated from the main event and its value would still be preserved in its entirety. For doctrinal reasons, the Church will declare whether the idea of a special feast can be considered separately from this particular case involving the sister.

I believe that the fundamental proof of the authenticity of the nun's mission is shown by the way in which she puts into practice in her life the beautiful doctrine which she was apparently destined to remind us of.

I deem it proper to let her continue her work. I believe that the hand of God is in all this. After ten years of research, reflection and prayer, I bless the Father for having deigned to choose my diocese as the place for such touching manifestations of His love.

† Alexandre Caillot
Bishop of Grenoble

THE FATHER'S MESSAGE

Part I

July 1, 1932

Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Here, finally, is the day, blessed for ever, the day the celestial Father promised!

Today the long days of preparation are over, and I feel close, so close, to the coming of my Father and the Father of all men.

A few minutes of prayer, and then what spiritual joys! I was overwhelmed by the desire to see Him and hear Him!

My heart, burning with love, opened up with such great confidence that I realised that, until then, I had never been so trusting with anyone.

The thought of my Father made me, as it were, madly happy.

Finally I began to hear singing. Angels came to announce this glad arrival! Their songs were so beautiful that I decided to note them down as soon as possible.

This harmony ceased and then came a procession of the elect, the cherubim and seraphim, with God, our Creator and our Father.

Prostrate, with my face to the ground, sunk in my own nothingness, I said the Magnificat. Immediately afterwards, the Father told me to sit close to Him and write what He had decided to say to men.

The entire heavenly court who had accompanied Him vanished. Only the Father remained with me and, before sitting, He said:

“I have already told you and now I say it again: I cannot give My beloved Son another time to prove My love for men! I am now coming among them in order to love them and to make them know this love, assuming their image, their poverty. Look, now I am putting aside My crown and all My glory to take on the appearance of an ordinary man!”

Having assumed the appearance of an ordinary man by placing His crown and His glory at His Feet, He took the globe of the world and held it to His Heart, supporting it with His left Hand. He then sat next to me.

I can say but a few words about His arrival and about the appearance He deigned to assume, and about His love! In my ignorance I do not have words to express what He revealed to me.

“Peace and salvation,” He said, “to this house and to the whole world! May My power, My love and My Holy Spirit touch men’s hearts, so that all mankind may turn to salvation and come to its Father, Who seeks it, to love and to save it!

Let My Vicar Pius XI understand that these are days of salvation and blessing. Let him not fail to take this opportunity to call the attention of the children to their Father, Who is coming to help them in this life and to prepare their everlasting happiness.

I have chosen this day to begin My work among men because today is the feast of the Precious Blood of My Son Jesus. I intend to bathe in this Blood the work I am beginning, so that it may bear great fruit among all mankind.

This is the real purpose of My coming:

1. I am coming to banish the excessive fear that My creatures have of Me, and to show them that My joy lies in being known and loved by My children, that is, by all mankind, present and future.

2. I am coming to bring hope to men and nations. How many have long since lost it! This hope will make them live in peace and security, working for their salvation.

3. I am coming to make Myself known just as I am, so that men's trust may increase together with their love for Me, their Father. I have but one concern: to watch over all men and love them as My children.

The painter delights in contemplating the picture he has painted. In the same way, it is My pleasure and delight to come among men, the masterpiece of My creation!

Time presses. I wish men to know as soon as possible that I love them and that I feel the greatest happiness in being with them and talking with them, like a father with his children.

I am the Eternal One, and when I was alone, I had already thought of using all My power to create beings in My image. But material creation had to come first, so that these beings could find their means of sustenance; it was then that I created the world. I filled it with all the things I knew would be necessary to men: air, sun and rain, and many other things that I knew to be necessary for their life.

In the end, man was created! I was pleased with My handiwork. Man sins, but it is precisely then that My infinite generosity shows itself.

In the Old Testament, I created and chose prophets to live among men. To them I told My desires, My sorrows and My joys, so that they could communicate them to everyone.

The more evil grew, the more My goodness urged Me to communicate with just souls so that they could transmit My commands to those who were creating disorder. Thus, I was sometimes obliged to be strict in order to reprove them; not to punish them - that would only have done harm - but to take them away from vice and lead them to their Father and their Creator, Whom they had forgotten and ignored in their ingratitude. Later, evil overwhelmed men's hearts to such an extent that I was compelled to send calamities upon the world to purify men through suffering, the destruction of their possessions, or even their death. These were the Flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, man's wars against man, etc.

I have always wished to remain in this world among men. So, during the Flood, I was close to Noah, the only just man then. In the other calamities, also, I always found a just man with whom I could stay and, through him, I lived among the men of that time, and it has always been thus.

The world has often been purified of its corruption because of My infinite goodness towards humanity. I continued to choose certain souls in whom I was pleased, because through them I could be happy with My creatures, men.

I promised the world a Messiah. I did all I could to prepare His coming, showing Myself in the figures that represented Him, even thousands of years before His coming!

For who is this Messiah? Whence does He come? What will He do on earth? Whom does He represent?

The Messiah is God.

Who is God? God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Whence does He come? Or rather, who ordered Him to come among men? It was I, His Father, God.

Whom is He to represent on earth? His Father, God.

What is He to do on earth? He will make the Father, God, known and loved.

Did He not say:

“Do you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”

(“Nesciebatis quia in his quae Patris mei sunt oportet me esse?” St. Luke, ch. 2, v. 49).

“I have come only to do the will of My Father.”

“Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.”

“You will pray to Him like this: ‘Our Father, Who art in heaven...’, and elsewhere, since He came to glorify the Father and to make Him known to men, He says:

“Whoever sees Me, sees the Father.”

“I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.”

“No one comes to the Father except through Me” (“Nemo venit ad Patrem nisi per me” St. John, ch. 14, v. 6)

“Whoever is with Me is also with My Father”, etc.?

Realise then, O men, that for all eternity I have had but one desire, to make Myself known to men and be loved by them. I wish to stay for ever with them.

Do you want an authentic proof of this desire that I have just expressed?

Why did I command Moses to build a tabernacle and the ark of the covenant, if not to come and dwell, as a Father, a brother, a close friend, with My creatures, men? This was My ardent desire. In spite of this, they have forgotten Me and offended Me with countless sins. I gave Moses My commandments to remind them, in spite of everything, of God, their Father, and of His sole wish, to save them. They were supposed to observe the commandments and thereby

remember their infinitely good Father, always intent upon their present and eternal salvation.

All this was forgotten and men sank into error and fear, considering that the observance of the commandments as I had transmitted them to Moses was too taxing. They made up other laws in accordance with their whims, in order to observe them more easily. Little by little, in the exaggerated fear they had of Me, they forgot Me more and more and heaped outrages upon Me.

Yet My love for these men, My children, never quite ceased. When I realised that neither the patriarchs nor the prophets had been able to make Me known and loved by men, I decided to come Myself.

But how could I come among them? There was no other way than to come Myself, in the second Person of My divinity.

Would men know Me? Would they listen to Me?

Nothing in the future was hidden from Me; I Myself answered these two questions:

“They will ignore My presence, even though they will be near Me. In My Son they will treat Me cruelly, notwithstanding all the good He will do for them. In My Son they will speak ill of Me, they will crucify Me to bring about My death.”

Shall I stop because of this? No, My love for My children, men, is too great.

I did not stop there. Understand well that I loved you, as it were, more than My beloved Son, or rather, more than Myself.

What I am telling you is so true that, if one of My creatures had been enough to atone for the sins of other men through a life and death similar to those of My Son, I would have hesitated. Why? Because I would have betrayed My love by making a beloved creature suffer, rather than suffering Myself, in My Son. I would never have wished My children to suffer.

This, then, in brief, is the story of My love until My coming among men through My Son.

Most men know of all these events, but they fail to grasp the essential thing: that love was the guiding principle in it all!

Yes, it is love. This is what I want to impress upon you. Now this love has been forgotten. I want to remind you of it, so that you can learn to know Me as I am, so that you will not be, like slaves, afraid of a Father Who loves you so much.

You see, in this story we are only at the first day of the first century, and I would like to bring it up to the present time, the twentieth century.

Oh, how My paternal love has been forgotten by Men! Yet. I love you so tenderly! In My Son, that is to say, in the Person of My Son made man, what have I not done! Divinity is veiled in this humanity, it is shrunk, impoverished, humiliated. With My Son Jesus I led a life of sacrifice and

work. I received His prayers, that man might have a clearly indicated path along which to walk always in justice, so as to reach Me safely!

Of course, I can understand My children's weaknesses! Because of this, I asked My Son to give them the means to get up again after they have fallen. These means will help them to purify themselves from their sins, so that they may still be the children of My love. They are, chiefly, the seven Sacraments. And the greatest means of securing your salvation, despite your falls, is the Cross, My Son's Blood poured out upon you every moment, if you so wish, both in the Sacrament of Penance and in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

My dear children, I have lavished these gifts upon you with special graces for twenty centuries, but with what miserable results!

How many of My creatures, who become children of My love through My Son, have quickly thrown themselves into the eternal abyss! Truly, they have not known My infinite goodness; I love you so very much!

You, at least, who know that I Myself am coming to talk to you, to make you aware of My love, for your own sake, do not throw yourselves over the precipice. I am your Father!

Is it possible that, having called Me your Father and having shown your love for Me, you could find in Me such a hard and insensitive heart as to let you perish? No, no, do not believe it! I am the best of Fathers! I know My creatures' weaknesses! Come to Me, come with confidence and love! I will forgive you after you have repented. Even if your sins were as repulsive as mud, your confidence and your love

will make Me forget them, so you will not be judged! I, am just, it is true, but love pays for everything!

Listen, My children, let us make a comparison, and you will be assured of My love. For Me, your sins are like iron, and your acts of love like gold. If you gave Me a thousand pounds of iron, it would not be like giving Me just ten pounds of gold! In other words, with just a little love, great iniquities can be expiated.

This, then, is one very light-hearted way of looking at My judgement of My children, men, all of them, without exception. You must come to Me. I am so close to you! You must love Me and honour Me so that you will not be judged, or rather, that you will be judged with infinitely merciful love.

Have no doubt! If My Heart were not like this, I would have already destroyed the world every time it committed sin! But as you have seen, at every moment My protection manifests itself through graces and benefits. You can conclude from this that there is a Father Who is above all fathers, Who loves you and will never cease to love you, if you so desire.

I come among you in two ways: the Cross and the Eucharist!

The Cross is My way of coming down among My children, since it is through it that I caused My Son to redeem you. And for you, the Cross is the way to ascend to My Son, and from My Son to Me. Without it you could never come to Me, because man, by sinning, brought on himself the punishment of separation from God.

In the Eucharist I live among you as a Father with His family. I wished My Son to institute the Eucharist so as to make every tabernacle the vessel of My favours, My riches and My love, to give them to men, My children.

It is always by these two means that I cause both My power and My infinite mercy to come down ceaselessly.

... Now that I have shown you that My Son Jesus represents Me among men, and that, through Him, I live constantly among them, I also want to show you that I come among you through My Holy Spirit.

The work of this third Person of My divinity is carried out silently and often man is not aware of it. But for Me it is a very fitting way of living, not just in the tabernacle, but also in the souls of all those in a state of grace, to establish My throne in them and to live there always, like the true Father Who loves, protects and helps His children. No one has yet understood the infinite desire of My divine, paternal Heart to be known, loved and honoured by all men, the just and the sinful. These are the three gifts that I wish to receive in homage from man, so that I may always be merciful and good even towards the most hardened sinners.

What have I not done for My people, from Adam to Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus, and from the time of Joseph up to the present day, so that man should give Me the special honour due to Me as his Father, Creator and Saviour! However, I have not yet received this special veneration which I have so much hoped for and which I desire so much!

In the book of Exodus you read that God must be held in special veneration. The psalms of David, especially, contain this teaching. In the commandments which I Myself gave to Moses, I emphasised: “You will worship and love perfectly only one God.”

Well then, loving and honouring are two things that go together. As I have lavished so many benefits on you, I must be honoured by you in a very special way!

Giving you life, I wished to create you in My image! Your heart is therefore as sensitive as Mine, and Mine as yours!

What would you not do if one of your neighbours did you a small favour to please you? The most insensitive man would be grateful to such a person for ever. Anyone would try to find something that would give the greatest pleasure, in recompense for the service performed. Well, I will be much more grateful to you, assuring you of eternal life, if you will do Me the small favour of honouring Me as I request.

I recognise that you honour Me in My Son and that there are those who are able to offer everything to Me through My Son, but they are few indeed! Do not believe, though, that in honouring My Son you are not honouring Me! You do, certainly, honour Me, as I live in My Son! Thus, everything that is to His glory is also to My glory!

But I would like to see man honouring his Father and Creator with a special devotion. The more you honour Me, the more you will honour My Son, since, according to My will, He became the Word Incarnate and came among you to make known to you the One Who sent Him.

If you come to know Me, you will love Me and My beloved Son more than you do now. See how many of My creatures, who became My children through the mystery of the Redemption, are not in the pastures which I have prepared for all men through My Son. And how many others, and you know it, are still unaware of the existence of these pastures. And how many creatures of My Hands, whose existence I know of but of which you are ignorant, do not even know the Hand Which shaped them!

Oh, how I would like to let you know what an almighty Father I am for you and would also be for those creatures, through My benefits! I would like their lives to be made sweeter through My law. I would like you to go to them in My name and speak to them of Me. Yes, tell them that they have a Father who, having created them, wants to give them the treasures He possesses. Above all, tell them that I think of them, I love them and want to give them eternal happiness. Oh, I promise you, men's conversion will come sooner.

Believe Me, if you had begun to honour Me with a special devotion from the times of the early Church, after twenty centuries few men would remain living in idolatry, in paganism and in so many false and evil sects, in which man is running blindly towards the abyss of eternal fire! And see how much work remains to be done!

My hour has come! I must be known, loved and honoured by men, so that, having created them, I can be their Father, then their Saviour and finally the object of their eternal delight.

Until now I have talked about things that you already knew. I wished to remind you of them so that you would

be more and more convinced that I am a very good Father, not a fearsome one, as you believe; and also that I am the Father of all those living now and of those whom I shall create until the end of the world.

Know, also, that I wish to be known, loved and, above all, honoured. May everyone recognise My infinite goodness towards all men, and especially towards sinners, the sick, the dying, and all those who suffer. Let them know that I want only one thing: to love them all, to give them My grace, to forgive them when they repent and, most of all, to judge them not with My justice but with My mercy, so that all may be saved and numbered among My elect.

To conclude this brief account, I make you a promise which will have an eternal effect. It is this: call Me by the name of Father, with confidence and love, and you will receive everything from this Father, with love and mercy.

I wish My son, your spiritual father, to be able to work for My glory and to set down, sentence by sentence, what I have dictated to you, so that men may find it pleasing and easy to read an account of what I wish them to know, without any additions.

Day by day I will talk to you about My wishes for men, about My joys, My sorrows, and most of all, I will show men My infinite goodness and My tender and compassionate love.

I would also like your superiors to allow you to spend your free time with Me, so that you can console Me and love Me for half an hour each day. You will thereby ensure that men's hearts, My children's hearts, are well disposed

to work for the spread of this devotion which I have just revealed to you, so that you may achieve great confidence in this Father who wants to be loved by His children.

So as to permit this work to be extended among all nations as quickly as possible, without allowing those entrusted with its propagation to commit the slightest imprudent act, I ask you to spend your days in a spirit of recollection. You will be happy not to talk much to others. In your heart, even when you are among them, you will talk to Me and listen to Me.

This is what I want you to do also: when sometimes I talk to you, you will write My confidences in a special little diary. But through it I intend to talk to everyone: I live with them more intimately than a mother with her children.

Since man's creation, I have never for one moment stopped living beside him. As his Creator and Father, I feel the need to love him. It is not that I need him, but My love, as Father and Creator, makes Me feel this need to love man. Thus I live close to man, I follow him everywhere, I help him in all things, I supply everything.

I can see his needs, his toils, all his desires, and My greatest happiness lies in helping him and saving him.

Men believe Me to be a terrifying God Who is going to cast all mankind into hell. What a great surprise it will be when, at the end of time, they see so many souls they believed lost, enjoying eternal bliss among the elect!

I wish all My creatures to be convinced that there is a
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Father Who watches over them and Who would like them to enjoy, on earth, a foretaste of eternal happiness.

A mother never forgets the little creature she has brought into the world. Is it not even more wonderful that I remember all My creatures?

So if a mother loves the little being I gave her, I love him more than she does, because I created him. Even if it happens that a mother loves her child less because of some defect, I, on the contrary, will love him still more. She may later on forget him or think of him rarely, especially when because of his age he is no longer in her care, but I will never forget him. I will always love him, and even if he no longer remembers Me, His Father and Creator, I will still remember him and love him.

I have already told you that I want you to enjoy eternal happiness even here, on earth, but you still have not understood the real meaning of what I said. It is this:

If you love Me and call Me by the sweet name of Father, you will begin to live, here and now, in the love and the trust which will make you happy in eternity and which you will sing in heaven in the company of the elect. Is this not a foretaste of the happiness of heaven, which will last for ever?

I therefore desire man to remember often that I am right there, where he is, that he could not live if I were not with him, living just as he is. In spite of his unbelief, I always remain close to him.

Oh, how I wish to see this plan of mine realised! Until now man has never thought of giving God, his Father, the

pleasure I am about to speak of. I would like to see great trust established between man and his heavenly Father, a true spirit of familiarity and delicacy at the same time, so as not to take advantage of My great goodness.

I know your needs, your desires, and everything in your hearts. But how happy and grateful I would be if I saw you coming to Me and confiding in Me your needs, like a son who has total trust in his father. How could I refuse you the smallest or biggest thing if you asked Me? Even if you do not see Me, do you not feel Me very close to you in the things that happen to you and around you? How you will be rewarded, one day, for having believed in Me, even without having seen Me!

Even now that I am here, in person, among you all, talking to you, repeating ceaselessly, in every way, that I love you and want to be known, loved and honoured with a special devotion, you cannot see Me, apart from a single person, the one to whom I am dictating this message! Only one among all of humanity! Yet I am talking to you, and in her whom I see and to whom I am talking I see you all and am speaking to each and every one of you, and I love you as if you could see Me!

I want men to be able to know Me and to feel that I am close to each one of them. Remember, O men, that I wish to be the hope of humanity. Am I not already? Man would be lost if I were not his hope. But it is necessary for Me to be recognised as such, so that peace, confidence and love may enter men's hearts and put them in contact with their Father in heaven and on earth!

Do not think of Me as that frightening old man whom men depict in their pictures and books! No, no, I am neither

younger nor older than My Son and My Holy Spirit. Because of this I would like everybody, from the youngest to the oldest, to call Me by the familiar name of Father and Friend. For I am always with you, I am making Myself similar to you so as to make you similar to Me. How great would be My joy to see parents teaching their children to address Me often by the name of Father, as indeed I am! How I would like to see infused into these young souls a trust and a filial love for Me! I have done everything for you; will you not do this for Me?

I would like to make My home in every family, as in My domain, so that all can say with absolute assurance: ‘We have a Father Who is infinitely good, infinitely rich and greatly merciful. He thinks about us and is close to us. He looks after us, supports us. He will give us everything we need if we ask Him. All his riches are ours, we will have everything we need.’ I am there precisely in order that you should ask Me for what you need. “Ask and you will receive.” In My fatherly goodness I will give you everything, provided that all regard Me as a true Father, living among His family, as I indeed do.

I also desire that every family prominently display the picture I will later show to My “little daughter”. I wish every family to be able to place itself under My special protection in this way, so that they can honour Me more easily. There, every day, the family will share with Me its needs, its work, its sorrows, its sufferings, its desires, and also its joys, because a Father must know everything that concerns His children. I do know it, of course, because I am there, but I love simplicity. I know how to adapt Myself to your condition. I make Myself little with the little ones, I make Myself an adult with adults, and the same with the

elderly, so that all may comprehend what I wish to tell them for their sanctification and My glory.

Do you not have the proof of what I am saying in My Son, Who made Himself small and weak like you? Do you not still have it now, seeing Me talking to you here? And have I not chosen a poor creature, like you yourselves, so that I can talk to you and make you understand what I wish to tell you? And now, am I not making Myself like you?

See, I have laid My crown at My Feet and held the world to My Heart. I have left My glory in heaven and come here, becoming all things to all men, becoming poor with the poor and rich with the rich. I want to protect the young people as a tender Father. There is so much evil in the world! These poor, inexperienced souls are letting themselves be seduced by the attraction of vice which, little by little, leads to total ruin. You who especially need someone to take care of you in life, so that you can avoid evil, come to Me! I am the Father Who loves you more than any other creature will ever be able to do! Take refuge close, very close to Me, confide in Me your thoughts and your desires. I will love you tenderly. I will give you graces for the present and bless your future. You can be sure I will not forget you after fifteen or twenty-five or thirty years, having created you. Come! I see that you greatly need a sweet and infinitely good Father like Me.

Without going into many other relevant matters which I can speak about later on, I wish to talk now particularly to those souls whom I have chosen, priests and religious, to you, dear children of My love. I have great plans for you!

TO THE POPE

I turn to you, My beloved son, My Vicar, before all others, to place this work in your hands. It should rank first among all your tasks and, because of the fear inspired in men by the devil, it will be accomplished only at this time.

Oh, how I would like you to know the range of this enterprise, its greatness, its breadth, its depth, its height. I would like you to understand the immense wishes that I have for mankind, now and in the future!

If only you knew how much I desire to be known, loved and honoured by men with a special devotion! I have had this desire for all eternity and since the creation of the first man. I have expressed this desire to men at various times, especially in the Old Testament. But man has never understood it. Now this desire makes Me forget all the past, if only it can become a reality now, in My creatures all over the world.

I am stooping down to the poorest of My creatures to talk to her, and through her, to all men, even though she cannot realise the grandeur of the work I wish to accomplish among them.

I cannot talk of theology with her, I would be sure to fail, for she would not understand Me. I am doing this in order to realise My plan through simplicity and innocence. But now it is your turn to examine this work and bring it to a speedy fulfilment.

To be known, loved and honoured with a special devotion, I do not ask for anything extraordinary. I desire only this:

1. I desire that one day, or at least a Sunday, be dedicated to honouring Me in a special way under the title of Father of all Mankind.

For this feast, I would like a special Mass and Office. It is not difficult to find the texts in the Holy Scriptures.

If you prefer to offer Me this special devotion on a Sunday, I choose the first Sunday of August. If you prefer a weekday, I would like it to be always the seventh day of that same month.

2. I desire that all the clergy should undertake to promote this devotion and, most of all, to make Me known to men as I am and as I will always be for them, that is to say, the most tender and the most lovable of all fathers.

3. I desire them to bring Me into all families, hospitals, laboratories, workshops, barracks, conference halls of the ministers of nations - in short, wherever My creatures are, even if there were only one of them!

I desire that the tangible sign of My invisible presence be a picture to show that I am really present. Thus, all men will carry out all their actions under their Father's gaze and I Myself will have before Me the creature that I have not only created but adopted. In this way, My children will be, as it were, under their tender Father's gaze. Even now I am everywhere, certainly, but I would like to be represented in a tangible way!

4. I desire that during the year the clergy and the faithful should perform some acts of piety in My honour, without detriment to their usual occupations.

Let My priests go fearlessly everywhere, among all nations, to bring the flame of My fatherly love to men. Then souls will be enlightened and conquered, not only among unbelievers, but in all those sects which are not of the true Church.

Yes, I want these men also, who are My children, to see this flame shining before them, to know the truth, to embrace it and to put all the Christian virtues into practice.

5. I would like to be honoured in a very special way in seminaries, in novitiates, in schools and homes for the elderly. May everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, be able to know and love Me as their Father, Creator and Saviour.

6. Let priests set about seeking in the Holy Scriptures what I said in former times and what has remained unknown up to now concerning the worship I wish to receive from men. May they work to make My desires and My will known to all men, specifying what I wish to say to people in general and to priests, monks and nuns in particular. Those souls are the ones I choose, more than others in the world, to pay Me great homage.

Of course, it will take time to realise completely these desires that I have for mankind and which I have revealed to you! But one day, through the prayers and sacrifices of generous souls who will give themselves for this work of My love, yes, one day I will be satisfied. I will bless you, My beloved son, and I will reward you a hundredfold for all that you will do for My glory.

TO THE BISHOP

I also want to say a word to you, My son Alexander, so that My desires may be realised in the world.

You must join with the father confessor of this “little plant” of My Son Jesus, in promoting this work, that is, the special devotion I expect from men. To you, My sons, I entrust this work and its future, which is so important.

Talk, persist, make My words known, so that I may be known, loved and honoured by all My creatures. If you do this, you will have done what I expect of you, that is, My will, and you will have fulfilled the wishes that I have so long cherished in silence.

For everything that you do for My glory, I will do twice as much for your salvation and sanctification. In the end, in heaven, and only in heaven, you will see the great reward that I will give you in a very special way, together with all those who have worked to this end.

I created man for Myself and it is right that I should be ALL for him. Man will not enjoy true happiness except with his Father and Creator, because his heart is made for Me alone.

For My part, My love for My creatures is so great that I have no greater joy than that of being among them.

My glory in heaven is infinitely great, but My glory is still greater when I am among My children, men all over the world. Your heaven, My creatures, is in paradise,

together with My chosen ones, because it is there that you will contemplate Me in an everlasting vision and will enjoy eternal glory. My heaven is on earth with you all, O men! Yes, it is on earth and in your souls that I look for My happiness and My joy. You can provide Me with this joy and it is also your duty towards your Creator and Father, Who desires and expects this of you.

The joy I feel in being with you is no less great than that which I felt when I was with My Son Jesus during His mortal life. My Son - it was I Who sent Him. He was conceived by My Holy Spirit, Who I Myself am; in a word, I was always I.

Loving you as I loved My Son, Who am I Myself, I say to you, My creatures, as I said to Him: you are My beloved children and in you I am well pleased. Because of this I rejoice in your company and I desire to stay with you. My presence among you is like the sun on the earth. If you are well disposed to receive Me, I will come very close to you, enter into you, light you up and warm you with My infinite love.

As for you, souls in a state of sin, or who are ignorant of religious truth, I will not be able to enter you; however, I will be close to you, because I never stop calling you, inviting you to desire to receive the benefits I bring you, so that you may see the light and be healed of sin.

Sometimes I look at you and feel compassion for your unhappy state. I sometimes look at you with love, to dispose you to yield to the charms of grace. I spend days, sometimes years, close to some souls to be able to ensure their eternal happiness. They do not know that I am there waiting for

them, calling them every moment of the day. However, I never become weary and I still feel joy in remaining close to you, always hoping that you will return to your Father some day and that you will at least offer Me some act of love before you die.

I will give you an example of a soul who is facing sudden death; this soul has always been for me like the Prodigal Son. (*Note by Mother Eugenia: "I saw this example as fact, exactly as our Father dictates it and I write it."*)

I lavished benefits on this soul, but he wasted all these benefits, all these gifts that his most loving Father provided for him. More than this, he offended Me gravely. I waited for him, I followed him everywhere, I gave him more favours: health and wealth, that I caused to result from his work, to the point of superfluity. At times My providence granted him further gifts. He therefore had plenty of everything, but he saw it all in the sad light of his vices, and his whole life was a fabric of errors because of habitual mortal sin. But My love never tired. I followed him all the same. I loved him and, most of all, in spite of his rebuffs, I was happy to live patiently close to him, in the hope that maybe one day he would respond to My love and return to Me, His Father and Saviour.

At last his final day is approaching: I have sent him an illness in order to make him come to his senses and return to Me, his Father. Time passes and My poor son, who is 74, is at his last hour. I am still there, as always: I talk to him with even more kindness than usual. I persevere, I call My chosen ones and ask them to pray for him, so that he may ask for the forgiveness I am offering him... And now, before breathing his last, he opens his eyes, admits his errors and

understands how far he has strayed from the true path that leads to Me. He recovers his senses and in a weak voice, which none of those around him can hear, he says: "My God, I can now see how great Your love for me has been and I have offended You continually with such a bad life. I never thought about You, my Father and Saviour. Now You see everything and I beg forgiveness for all this evil which You see in me and which I now discern in my confusion. I love You, my Father and my Saviour!"

He died at that very moment and now here he is, before Me. I judge him with a paternal love: he called Me Father and he is saved. He will spend a period of time in the place of expiation, and after this he will be happy for all eternity. Having taken pleasure during his life in the hope of saving him when he repented, I now rejoice even more, together with My celestial court, at having realised MY desire to be his Father for ever.

As for the souls who live in justice and sanctifying grace, I show My happiness by living in them. I give them Myself. I transmit to them the use of My power and through My love they find a foretaste of heaven in Me, their Father and their Saviour!"

Thus ends the first part of the Message.

THE FATHER'S MESSAGE

Part II

The second part begins on 12 August 1932. One day the devil took it and slashed its cover with a pair of scissors.

“I have just opened up a fountain of living water which will never dry up from now until the end of time. I am coming to you, My creatures, to open My paternal Breast, filled with love for you, My children. I want you to be witnesses of My infinite and merciful love. It is not enough for Me to have shown you My love; I also want to open up My Heart to you, whence a refreshing spring will issue and where all men will quench their thirst. They will then experience joys they have never known until now through being so weighed down by the exaggerated fear they had of Me, their tender Father.

Since the time when I promised men a Saviour, I have let this spring gush forth. (*Mother Eugenia's note: "I have been able to see this spring every day since He first talked about it."*) I made it pass through My Son's Heart to reach you. But My immense love for you makes Me do even more, opening My Breast from Which this water of salvation will gush for My children, and I permit them to draw freely whatever they need for time and for eternity.

If you wish to test the power of this spring about which I am talking, first learn to know Me better and to love Me to

the extent that I desire, that is, not only as a Father, but as your Friend and Confidant.

Why are you so surprised by what I am saying? Did I not create you in My image? I did this so that you should find nothing strange when you talk on familiar terms with your Father, your Creator and your God. For you have become the children of My fatherly and divine love through My merciful goodness.

My Son Jesus is in Me and I am in Him, in our interchanging love which is the Holy Spirit, Who keeps us united in this bond of love so as to make us ONE.

My Son is the vessel of this fountain, that men may go and draw from His Heart, Which is always full to overflowing with the water of salvation! But you have to assure yourselves of the existence of this fountain which My Son opens up for you, so that you can convince yourselves that it is fresh and pleasing! So come to Me through My Son and, once you are close to Me, confide your desires to Me. I will show you this fountain, making Myself known to you as I really am. When you know Me, your thirst will be quenched, you will be revived, your ills will be cured, your fears will vanish. Your joy will be great and your love will feel securer than it has ever been before.

But, you will say to Me, how can we come to You? Oh, come by the path of confidence, call Me your Father, love Me in spirit and truth, and this will be enough to make this refreshing and powerful water quench your thirst.

But if you really want this water to give you all, you need to know and love Me, and if you feel cold and indifferent,

call Me by the sweet name of Father and I will come to you. My spring will give you love, confidence and everything you need to be loved for ever by your Father and Creator.

As I desire most to be known by all of you, so that you can all enjoy, even here on earth, My goodness and My tenderness, make yourselves apostles to those who still do not know Me and I will bless your toil and efforts, preparing great glory for you with Me in eternity!

I am the ocean of charity, My children, and this is another proof of the paternal love I feel for all of you, without exception, regardless of your age, your status or your country. Nor do I exclude different societies, sects, believers, unbelievers, the indifferent. I enfold in this love all the rational creatures who make up humanity.

Here is the proof of this: I am the ocean of charity. I showed you the spring which pours from My Breast to quench your thirst, and now, in order to let you see My goodness towards everyone, I am going to show you the ocean of My universal charity, that you may dive into it blindly. Why? So that, diving into this ocean, souls rendered bitter by faults and sins may lose that bitterness in this bath of love. They will emerge from this ocean better, happy at having learned how to be good and charitable. If, because of ignorance or weakness, you yourselves happen to fall again into this state of bitterness, I shall still be an ocean of charity, ready to receive this bitter drop, transform it into charity and goodness and make you holy as I, your Father, am.

My children, do you want to live your life on earth peacefully and joyfully? Come and cast yourselves into this immense ocean and remain in it for ever. As you work and

live your normal life, this life will be sanctified through charity.

As for My children who do not follow the truth, I wish all the more to enfold them in My fatherly predilection, so that they may open their eyes to the light which now shines more clearly than ever.

This is the time of graces, foreseen and awaited since the beginning of time! I am here personally to talk to you. I come as the most tender and loving of fathers. I stoop down, forgetful of Myself, to raise you up to Me and ensure your salvation. All of you who are now living and you, too, who are in the void, but who will live century after century until the end of the world, remember that you are not alone: a Father thinks of you and offers you a share in the unfathomable privileges of His love. Approach the spring which will gush for ever from My fatherly Breast. Taste the sweetness of this health-giving water, and when you have felt all its delicious power in your souls satisfying all your needs, come and cast yourselves into the ocean of My charity, so as to live only in Me, to die to yourselves and to live eternally in Me.

(Mother Eugenia's note: "Our Father told me in an intimate dialogue: 'The spring is the symbol of My knowledge; the ocean is that of My charity and of your trust. When you wish to drink from this spring, study Me in order to know Me and, when you know Me, dive into the ocean of My charity, trusting in Me with a confidence so deep as to transform yourselves: this I shall be unable to resist. I shall then forgive your errors and lavish the greatest favours upon you.'")

I am among you. Happy are those who believe this truth and who take advantage of this time about which the Scriptures have spoken thus: “There will come a time when God must be honoured and loved by men as He desires.”

The Scriptures then go on to ask: “Why?” and answer: “Because He alone is worthy of honour, love and praise for ever!”

Moses received from Me as the first of the ten commandments, this command to be communicated to men: “Love and worship God!”

Those who are already Christians may say: “We have loved you since we were born or since our conversion, as we often say in the Lord’s Prayer: ‘Our Father, Who art in heaven!... Yes, My children, it is true, you do love Me and honour Me when you say the first part of the ‘Our Father’, but continue with the other requests and you will see:

“Hallowed be Thy name!” Is My name being blessed?

Continue:

“Thy kingdom come!” Has My kingdom come?

You honour very fervently the Kingship of My Son Jesus, it is true, and in Him you are honouring Me! But will you deny your Father this great glory of proclaiming Him ‘King’, or at least, of letting Me reign until all men can know and love Me?

I desire you to celebrate this feast of the Kingship of My Son in reparation for the insults He received before Pilate

and from the soldiers who scourged His holy and innocent humanity. I ask you not to suspend this feast, but, on the contrary, to celebrate it enthusiastically and fervently; but in order that everyone may really know this King, they must know His kingdom as well. Now, to achieve this dual knowledge perfectly, it is also necessary to know the Father of this King, the Maker of this kingdom.

Truly, My children, the Church - this society I entrusted My Son to found - will complete its work by honouring Him Who is its Author: your Father and Creator.

Some of you, My children, may reply: "The Church has grown continuously. Christians are more and more numerous: this is sufficient proof that our Church is complete!" Know, My children, that your Father has always kept watch over the Church since its birth and that, along with My Son and the Holy Spirit, I wanted it to be infallible through My Vicar, the Holy Father. However, is it not true that if Christians knew Me as I am, the tender and merciful, good and liberal Father, they would practice this holy religion more fervently and sincerely?

My children, is it not perhaps true that, if you knew you had a Father Who thinks of you and loves you infinitely, you would in your turn make an effort to be more faithful to your Christian duties, as well as to your duties as citizens, to be just and to render justice to God and to men?

Is it not true that, if you knew this Father Who loves you all without distinction and Who, without distinction, calls you all by the sweet name of children, you would love Me as affectionate children, and that this love, under My impulse, would become an active love, extending itself to the rest of

humanity who still do not know this Christian society and who know even less Him Who created them and is their Father?

If somebody went and talked to these souls, abandoned to their superstitions, or to so many others who call Me God because they know I exist but not that I am close to them; if somebody said to them that their Maker is their Father as well, and that He thinks of them and is concerned with them, that He surrounds them with intimate affection in their sorrows and dejection, this would obtain the conversion of the most stubborn ones, and these conversions would be more numerous and firm, that is, more persevering.

Some of you, examining this work of love I am carrying out among men, will find cause for criticism and will say: “But don’t the missionaries, after arriving in those distant countries, talk to the non-believers about God, His goodness and His mercy? What more could they say about God, since they speak of Him all the time?”

The missionaries have spoken and still speak of God as far as they know Him, but I assure you, you do not know Me as I am, because I am coming to proclaim Myself the Father of all and the most tender of fathers, in order to transform your love, which has become distorted by fear.

I come to make Myself similar to My creatures, to correct the idea you have of a terrifyingly just God, as I see men spending their whole lives without confiding in their only Father, Whose only wish is to make their earthly life easier and then give them a divine life, in heaven.

This is a proof that souls do not know Me any more than you do, not having overcome the idea you have about Me.

But now I am giving you this light. Remain in the light and bring it to everybody, and it will be a powerful means both to obtain conversions and to shut, if possible, the gates of hell, for I now repeat My promise, which will last for ever:

ALL THOSE WHO CALL ME BY THE NAME OF FATHER, EVEN IF ONLY ONCE, WILL NOT PERISH, BUT WILL BE SURE OF THEIR ETERNAL LIFE AMONG THE CHOSEN ONES.

And to you who will work for My glory and commit yourselves to making Me known, honoured and loved, I give the assurance that your reward will be great, because I will count everything, even the smallest effort you make, and I will reward you a hundredfold in eternity.

As I have told you, it is necessary to bring to fulfilment in the holy Church the devotion which honours in a very special way this society's Author, the One Who came to found it, and the One Who is its soul, God in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Until the three Persons are honoured by a special devotion in the Church and the whole of mankind, there will be something lacking in this society. I have already made some souls aware of this lack, but most of them, too timid, have not responded to My call. Others have had the courage to speak about it to the appropriate people, but, in the face of their failure, they have not persisted.

Now My hour has come. I Myself am coming to make men, My children, know what, until today, they have not understood completely. I Myself am coming to bring the flame of the law of love so that, by this means, the enormous

layer of ice that surrounds mankind can be melted and destroyed.

Oh, beloved humanity, oh, men who are My children, set yourselves free from the bonds in which the devil has chained you until now, inspiring in you fear of a Father Who is pure love! Come, come closer to Me, you have every right to approach your Father; open up your hearts, pray to My Son that He may help you to know even better My goodness towards you.

You who are prisoners of superstition and the laws of the devil, leave this tyrannical slavery and come to the truth of truths. Recognise the One Who made you and is your Father. Do not try to claim your rights, paying worship and homage to those who have led you to spend your life uselessly until now, but come to Me, I am waiting for you all because you are all My children.

And you who are in the true light, tell them how sweet it is to live in the truth! Say also to those Christians, to those dear creatures, My children, how sweet it is to think that there is a Father Who sees everything, knows everything, provides for everything, Who is infinitely good, Who forgives easily and Who punishes only reluctantly and slowly. Tell them to come to Me: I will help them, I will lighten their burden and sweeten their hard life. I will inebriate them with My fatherly love, to make them happy in time and eternity.

And you, My children, who have lost the faith and live in the darkness, raise your eyes, you will see shining rays coming to illuminate you. I am the sun that shines, warms and re-warms. Look, and recognise that I am your Creator,

your Father, your one and only God. It is because I love you that I come to make you love Me, so that you may all be saved.

I am speaking to all men, the world over, making this appeal of My fatherly love ring out, this infinite love that I want you to know is a permanent reality.

Love, love, love always, but also show others how to love the Father, so that from today on I will be able to show you all the Father Who loves you so passionately.

And you, My beloved sons, priests and monks, I exhort you to make known this fatherly love that I have for men, and for you in particular. You must work so that My will may be accomplished in all men and in you. It is that I should be known, honoured and loved. Do not leave My love inactive for a long time, because I am thirsty in My desire to be loved!

This century is privileged above all others. Do not let this privilege pass, for fear that it might be withdrawn! Souls need a certain divine touch, and time presses; do not be afraid of anything, I am your Father; I will help you in your efforts and your work. I will sustain you always and make you enjoy, already here below, peace and joy of soul, making your ministry and your zealous works bear fruit. This is an inestimable gift, since the soul which is peaceful and joyful already has a foretaste of heaven while awaiting its eternal reward.

I communicated to My Vicar, the Supreme Pontiff, My Representative on earth, a very special predilection for the missionary apostolate in distant countries and, most of all,

a great zeal to spread throughout the world the devotion to the Sacred Heart of My Son Jesus. Now I am entrusting him with the work that this same Jesus came on earth to accomplish: to glorify Me by making Me known as I am, just as I am telling all men, My creatures and children.

If men could penetrate the Heart of Jesus in all Its desires and Its glory, they would realise that Its most ardent desire is to glorify the Father, the One Who sent Him, and, most of all, not to let His glory be diminished as it has been until now. He desires the complete glory that men can and must give Me, as their Father and Maker, and still more as the Author of their Redemption!

I am asking of man what he is able to give Me: his confidence, his love and his gratitude. It is not because I need My creature and his adoration that I desire to be known, honoured and loved; the only reason why I am stooping down to him is to save him and give him a share in My glory. Further, in My goodness and My love I realise that the beings I have drawn from nothing and adopted as My true children are falling in great numbers into eternal unhappiness with the devils. They are thus failing to fulfil the purpose of their creation and are losing their time and their eternity!

If there is something that I desire, above all now, it is simply to see more fervour on the part of the just, a smooth path for the conversion of sinners, sincere and persevering conversion, and the return of the prodigal sons to their Father's house. I am referring in particular to the Jews and to all others who are My creatures and children, such as the schismatics, the heretics, the freemasons, the poor infidels, the sacrilegious, and the various secret sects. I want this

whole world to know that there is a God and a Creator. This God, Who will address their ignorance twice over, is unknown to them; they do not know that I am their Father.

Believe Me, you who are listening to Me as you read these words: if all men who are far from our Catholic Church heard people talking about this Father Who loves them, Who is their Creator and their God, about this Father Who desires to give them eternal life, then many of these men, even the most obstinate ones, would come to this Father of Whom you had spoken to them.

If you cannot go to them and talk to them directly, look for other means: thousands of direct and indirect ways. Put them into effect with the true spirit of disciples and with great fervour. I promise you that your efforts will soon be crowned with success by a special grace. Make yourselves apostles of My fatherly goodness and, because of the zeal I will give you all, you will be strong and powerful in your work among souls.

I will always be close to you and in you: if there are two of you talking, I will be with you; if there are more, I will be among you; thus you will say what I inspire you to say and I will put your listeners in the right frame of mind to hear you. In this way, men will be conquered by love and saved for all eternity.

With regard to the means of honouring Me as I desire, all I ask of you is great confidence. Do not think I want austerities or mortifications; I do not want you to walk barefoot or to lay your faces in the dust, or to cover yourselves with ashes. No, no! My dearest wish is that you behave as My children, simply and trusting in Me!

With you I will become everything for everyone, the most tender and loving Father. I will be on intimate terms with you, giving Myself to you all, making Myself small so as to make you great for eternity.

Most of the unbelievers, the impious and various communities remain in their iniquity and unbelief because they think that I am asking the impossible of them, that they have to submit to My commands like slaves of a tyrannical lord, whose power and pride keep him distant from his subjects, to oblige them to show Him respect and devotion. No, no, My children! I know how to make Myself small, far smaller than you can imagine.

However, what I do require is the faithful observance of the commandments I gave the Church, so that you will be rational creatures and will not be like animals because of your lack of discipline and your evil inclinations, so that you will preserve the treasure which is the soul I gave you, clothed in the fullness of its divine beauty!

Then, according to My desire, do what I have already instructed you to do: honour Me with a special devotion. May this make you know My will to give you many benefits and to let you share in large measure in My power and My glory, simply in order to make you happy and save you, and to show My sole desire: to love you and be loved in return by you.

If you love Me as faithful children, you will also have loving and obedient respect for My Church and My representatives. Not a respect such as you show now, which keeps you distant from Me because you are afraid of Me. This false respect that you have now is an injustice to justice, it is a wound

you cause to the most sensitive part of My Heart; you are forgetting, scorning, My fatherly love for you.

What most grieved Me about My people, Israel, and what most afflicts Me still about present-day humanity, is this ill-conceived respect you have of Me. Man's enemy has, in fact, used it to lead him to fall into idolatry and schisms. He is still using it and will continue to use it against you to keep you distant from the truth, from My Church and from Me. Oh, do not allow yourselves to be led any longer by the enemy; believe in the truth that is being revealed to you and walk in the light of this truth.

You, My children, who are outside the Catholic Church, should realise that you are not excluded from My fatherly love. I am making this tender appeal to you because you too are My children. If you have lived up to now in the devil's snares, acknowledge that he has cheated you. Come to Me, your Father, and I will receive you with joy and love!

And you, who only know the religion in which you have grown up, and that religion is not the true one, open your eyes. Here is your Father, He Who created you and Who wants to save you. I come to you to bring you the truth and salvation. I can see that you do not know Me and do not realise that all I want is for you to know Me as your Father, Creator and Saviour. It is because of this ignorance that you cannot love Me. Understand, therefore, that I am not as far from you as you think.

How could I leave you alone after having created you and adopted you through My love? I follow you everywhere, I protect you always, so that everything may become a confirmation of My great liberality towards you, in spite

of your forgetfulness about My infinite goodness. This forgetfulness makes you say: "Nature provides us with everything, it makes us live and die." This is the time of grace and light. Recognise, then, that I am the only true God!

In order to give you real happiness in this life and in the next, I want you to do what I am suggesting to you in this light.. The time is propitious, do not lose this love which is being offered to your hearts so tangibly. I ask everyone to take part in the Holy Mass according to the liturgy; this pleases Me greatly! Later on I will suggest some short prayers to you, but I do not want to overburden you! The most important thing will be to honour Me as I told you, by establishing a feast in My honour and serving Me with the simplicity of true children of your God, Father, Creator and Saviour of the human race.

Here is another proof of My fatherly love for men. My children, I will not speak to you about the whole greatness of My infinite love, because you have only to open the holy books, to look at the crucifix, the tabernacle and the Blessed Sacrament, to realise the extent to which I have loved you!

Nevertheless, in order to show you that you need to satisfy My will for you and to make Me better known and loved, I wish, before ending these words, which only set out the basis of My work of love among men, to point out to you some of the innumerable proofs of My love for you!

As long as man does not live in the truth, he cannot taste real freedom. You, My children, think you have joy and peace, you who are outside the true law, for obedience to which I created you. But deep in your hearts you feel that

you have neither true peace nor true joy and that you do not enjoy the true freedom of the One Who created you and is your God and Father!

But you, who abide in the true law, or rather, who have promised to follow the law that I gave you to ensure your salvation, have let vice lead you into evil. You have strayed from the law by behaving badly. Do you think you are happy? No. You feel that your hearts are not at ease. Do you suppose that, looking for pleasure and other human joys, your hearts will finally be satisfied? No. Let Me tell you, you will never feel truly free nor truly happy until you recognise Me as your Father and submit to My yoke, to be true children of God, your Father.

Why? Because I created you for a single purpose, to know Me, love Me and serve Me, as a simple and trusting child serves its father!

Once, in the Old Testament, men behaved like animals, they did not preserve any sign of their dignity as children of God, their Father. So to make them realise that I wanted to raise them to the great dignity of God's children, I sometimes had to show Myself as dreadfully severe. Later, when I saw some of them were endowed with sufficient reason to understand, eventually, that it was necessary to distance themselves from the animals, I then began to lavish benefits on them, to give them victory over those who were still unable to recognise and preserve their own dignity.

And as they were increasing in number, I sent My Son to them. He was adorned with all the divine perfections because He was the Son of a perfect God. It was He Who

showed them the ways to perfection. Through Him I adopted you in My infinite love, as real children. Since then I have never called you simply “creatures”, but “children”.

I clothed you in the true spirit of the new law which not only distinguishes you from animals, like the men of the old law, but raises you above those men of the Old Testament. I raised you all to the dignity of children of God. Yes, you are My children and you must tell Me that I am your Father. But trust in Me as children do, because without this trust you will never be truly free.

Everything I am saying to you is intended to make you realise that I come to carry out this work of love, to give you powerful help to cast off the tyrannical slavery which imprisons your souls, and to let you enjoy real freedom, whence real happiness comes. Compared with this freedom, all earthly joys are as nothing. Raise yourselves to the dignity of children of God and learn how to respect your own greatness. I will then be your Father more than ever, the most lovable and merciful of fathers.

I have come to bring peace with this work of love. I will let a ray of peace fall upon anyone who honours Me and trusts in Me, so that he will be relieved in all his troubles, all his worries, sufferings and afflictions, especially if he calls Me and loves Me as his Father. If families honour Me and love Me as their Father, I will give them MY peace together with My providence. If workers, businessmen and artisans invoke and honour Me, I will give them My peace and My strength, I will show Myself to be the good and merciful Father. If each Christian community invokes and honours Me, I will give it My peace, I will show Myself to be

a most loving Father, and through MY power I will ensure the eternal salvation of souls.

If all mankind invokes and honours Me, I will bring down upon it the spirit of peace like a benevolent dew.

If all nations, as such, invoke and honour Me, there will be no more discord, nor wars, because I am the God of peace and where I am, there no war can be.

Do you wish to gain victory over your enemy? Call upon Me and you will triumph over him.

Finally, you know that I can do everything because of MY power. Well, I am offering this power to all of you, to use now and for eternity. I will always show Myself to be your Father, provided that you show yourselves to be My children.

What do I desire to achieve with this work of love, if not to find hearts able to understand Me?

I am the holiness of which I possess the perfect and full expression; I offer you this holiness, of which I am the Author, through My Holy Spirit, and I instill it in your souls through My Son's merits. It is through My Son and the Holy Spirit that I am coming to you and into you, and it is in you that I seek My repose.

To some souls, the words "I am coming into you" will seem a mystery, but it is not a mystery! Because, having instructed My Son to institute the Holy Eucharist, I intended to come to you every time you receive the Sacred Host!

Of course, nothing prevented Me from coming to you even before the Eucharist, as nothing is impossible to Me! But receiving this Sacrament is an action that is easy to understand and it shows how I come to you!

When I am in you, I can more easily give you what I possess, provided that you ask Me for it. Through this Sacrament you are intimately united with Me. It is in this intimacy that the outpouring of My love makes My holiness spread into your souls.

I fill you with My love, then you have only to ask Me for the virtues and perfection you need and you can be sure that in those moments when God is reposing in His creatures, nothing will be refused you.

Since you know My favourite place of rest, are you not going to offer Me it? I am your Father and your God; will you dare refuse Me this? Oh, do not let Me suffer because of your cruelty towards a Father Who is asking you for this one favour for Himself.

Before ending this message, I want to express a wish to numerous souls who are consecrated to My service. You, priests and religious, are those souls. You are dedicated to My service, whether in the contemplative life or in charitable and apostolic works. For My part, this is a privilege granted through My goodness; for your part, it is faithfulness to your vocation, together with your good will.

This is My desire: you who find it easier to understand what I expect of mankind, pray to Me, so that I will be able to accomplish My work of love in all souls. You know all the difficulties that have to be overcome to win a soul! Well,

this is the effective means of helping you to bring a great number of them to Me: this means is that of making Me known, loved and honoured by men.

I want you to be the first ones to start doing this. What joy for Me to enter first the houses of priests and religious! What joy to find Myself, as Father, amid the children of My love! With you I will converse as with intimate friends! I will be for you the most discreet of confidants! I will be everything to you, I will satisfy all your needs! Most of all, I will be the Father Who receives your requests, Who lavishes His love, His benefits and His universal tenderness upon you.

Do not refuse Me this joy which I desire to enjoy with you! I will give it back to you a hundredfold and, since you will honour Me, I will honour you too, by preparing great glory for you in My kingdom!

I am the light of lights: where it penetrates there will be life, bread and happiness. This light will illumine the pilgrim, the sceptic, the ignorant. It will illumine you all, O men who live in this world of darkness and vice. If you did not have My light, you would fall into the abyss of eternal death!

Finally, this light will lighten the ways which lead to the true Catholic Church for its poor children who are still victims of superstition. I will show Myself as a Father to those who suffer most on earth, the poor lepers.

I will show Myself to be the Father of all those who are abandoned, the outcasts of every human society. I will show Myself as a Father to the afflicted, the sick, and above all, to those who are in agony. I will show Myself as a Father

to all families, to orphans, widows, prisoners, workers and the young. I will show Myself as the Father of kings, the Father of their nations. You will all feel My goodness and My protection, you will all see My power!

My fatherly and divine blessing on everyone. Amen!

Especially to My Son and Representative. Amen!

Especially to My son, the bishop. Amen!

Especially to My son, your spiritual father. Amen!

Especially to My daughters, your mothers. Amen!

To all the congregation of My love. Amen!

To all the Church and to all the clergy. Amen!

A very special blessing to the Church in purgatory.

Amen! Amen!

+

“Through Him, with Him and in Him”

God is my Father

My Father in Heaven, how sweet it is to know that You are my Father and that I am Your child!

Especially when the skies of my soul are cloudy and my cross weighs more heavily, I feel the need to repeat to You: Father, I believe in Your love for me!

Yes, I believe that You are a Father to me at every moment of my life, and that I am Your child!

I believe that You love me with an infinite love!

I believe that You are watching over me night and day and that not a hair falls from my head without Your permission!

I believe that, in Your infinite Wisdom, You know better than I what is good for me.

I believe that, in Your infinite power, You can bring good even out of evil.

I believe that, in Your infinite goodness, You make everything to the advantage of those who love You; even under the hands of those who strike me I kiss Your hand which heals!

I believe, but increase in me faith, hope and love!

Teach me always to see Your love as my guide in every event of my life.

Teach me to surrender myself to You like a baby in its mother's arms.

Father, You know everything, You see everything, you know me better than I know myself; You can do everything, and You love me!

My Father, since it is Your wish that we should always turn to You, I come with confidence to ask You, together with Jesus and Mary ... (here request the favour that you desire).

For this intention, and uniting myself to their Most Sacred Hearts, I offer You all my prayers, my sacrifices and mortifications, all my actions, and greater faithfulness to my duties (1).

Give me the light, the grace and the power of the Holy Spirit!

Strengthen me in this Spirit, that I may never lose Him, never sadden Him and never allow Him to become weaker in me.

My Father, I ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son! And You, Jesus, open Your Heart and place in it my own, and, together with Mary's, offer it to our divine Father! Obtain for me the grace that I need!

Divine Father, call all men to Yourself. Let all the world proclaim Your fatherly goodness and Your divine mercy!

Be a tender Father to me and protect me wherever I am, like the apple of Your eye. Make me always a worthy son/daughter; have mercy on me!

Divine Father, sweet hope of our souls, may You be known, honoured and loved by all men!

Divine Father, infinite goodness poured out on all peoples, may You be known, honoured and loved by all men!

Divine Father, beneficent dew of humanity, may You be known, honoured and loved by all men!

(Mother EUGENIA)

Partial indulgence

† GIRARD, Vicar Apostolic of Cairo

9 October 1935

† JEAN, Cardinal VERDIER, Archbishop of Paris

8 May 1936

(If this prayer is to be recited as a novena, add:

“I promise to be more generous, especially during these nine days, in a given circumstance, to such and such a person ...”)

THE FIRST ICON OF GOD THE FATHER

During a vigil of prayer in honour of God the Father on an estate in Sassone (Rome), during the evening between August 6th and 7th, Mr. Luigi Brazzale officially presented “The Icon of the Father,” the first in the world, created by the iconographer Lia Galdlolo of Padova.

We would like to include the two presentations that were made on that occasion. Padre Andrea D’Ascanio’s “Why This Icon?” and Mr. Luigi Brazzale’s “How to Read the Icon of the Father.”

Why this Icon? By Padre Andrea D’Ascanio

In the message given to Mother Eugenia Elisabetta Ravasio by the Father in 1932, “The Father Speaks to His Children,” we read:

I also desire that every family prominently display the picture I will later show to My “little daughter.” I wish every family to be able to place itself under My special protection in this way, so that they can honour Me more easily. There, every day, the family will share with Me its needs, its works, its sorrows, its sufferings, its desires, and also its joys, because a Father must know everything that concerns His children. I do know it, of course, because I am there, but I love simplicity. I know how to adapt Myself to your condition. I make Myself little with little ones; I make Myself an adult with adults: and the same with the elderly, so that all may comprehend what I wish to tell them for their sanctification and My glory. (32).

Therefore, through this Image, the Father wants to take possession of your world, the world of your children, the children that He loves.

Mother Eugenia saw to it that a painting of the Father was made, of which we have a very poor quality photo. To find the original, we have conducted a long search in Italy and France. But all we have been able to find out about the original is that perhaps it is in the Vatican files along with the dossier of Mother Eugenia. We have forwarded an official request for at least a good copy, but we have not had an answer.

In addition to this, the original picture did not correspond to the reality contemplated by Mother Eugenia, who, for instance, saw the Father “without a beard.” This detail caused innumerable objections, so in the painting, the beard was insisted on because it was inconceivable that the eternal Father did not have a beard.

The Providence of God allowed us to meet Lia Galdiolo of Padova, a creature of light and a noted iconographer, and we begged her to create a possible icon of God the Father.

Lia did much suffering to create her icon. She paid a heavy price, -- (all works of God have a price) -- finishing it just before entering the hospital for a delicate and difficult procedure; that’s the reason why we’re here tonight.

It is not just an icon. As I explained, by glancing at it one understands and is absorbed. Mr. Brazzale, the most qualified expert on icons in Italy, will do us the privilege of reading the Icon for us. As we read in the messages, Father, You wanted to establish a special feast day on August 7th.

It is appropriate that this Icon is presented on this day, it is a concrete sign of your arrival in the midst of us, to take back possession of your children.

To each of us is given the assignment of spreading this message to our brothers, as the Father has requested to have His Image exposed in all public places, in offices, in barracks, in schools, etc.

How to Read the Icon of the Father **By Luigi Brazzale**

Our almighty Father wants men to contemplate His face through a sensitive image, through an iconographic image.

Almighty God is patient and merciful in attracting the hearts of men, these hearts poisoned by the enemy in hell. Here is the Icon of God our Father!

Who is the Father? He is known by “Holy and Almighty God” and “Abba, Father” by Jesus of Nazareth and all His brothers. He is dad, my dad. Here is the title of the icon, “Abba, Almighty God our Father!”

Padre Andrea tells us that God our Father has wanted this Icon to communicate His goodness, force, and power. Also the theological content that Lia Galdiolo expresses is faithful to the traditional doctrine of the Church and to recent private revelations which are considered valued and authentic. When considered in this light, the Icon, when used in this manner, can have a notable spiritual benefit - an artistic and elevated form of contemplative prayer.

Lia Galdiolo, who currently lives in Padova, has in the spirit of prayer and penitence, “written” this icon - that is the correct term to use when dealing with icons.

After having studied, with love and passion, the classical traditional form of creating icons, she has developed her own personal style. Her wealth of knowledge is apparent and admired above all in her icons of “The Madonna Dressed in the Sun,” “Merciful Jesus,” “The Holy Family,” and “St John”.

As was mentioned before, we now have, after a long period of silence, fasting, prayer, and suffering, this icon of our Father. Lia Galdiolo is united to us spiritually this night in prayer.

The **plate** (field or shape of the icon) is a rectangle. The number of sides (four) refers to the four cardinal points. This means that the message God our Almighty Father wants to communicate is pointed in all directions. It is, therefore, a message for the whole world.

The rectangular shape symbolises a window on the Divine, which you can open from the earth. That window is represented by the inside gilded frame. The icon, therefore, is a window from which the divine can be contemplated. It is here that we can contemplate our Father!

You notice that there is a small **red border** that surrounds the outside of the plate. This points out Jesus Christ’s blood on earth. We can enjoy the benefits and effects of that blood through the gift of the Holy Spirit; none of the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity operates without the involvement of the other two. Therefore, the icon is of the Father, but we immediately notice that the Son and Holy Spirit are also present.

The **three kingdoms** of nature are represented in the materials used to illustrate the rectangular image. It is this detail that you shouldn't neglect in order to understand the wealth of meaning of the Icon: the **vegetable kingdom** is represented by the wood, while the **animal kingdom** is rendered by the shell dust and rabbit skin glue which are used to produce the plate varnish (finish), and from the egg with which they thicken the paint. The **mineral kingdom** is represented in the colours, which are oxides of metals, the ochre's.

The plate is like a crib, prepared to receive a mystery, like God prepared creation to receive its King, the man who should have been King of Creation.

Notice the background of the simple bench on which God Our Almighty Father is sitting. The colour is almost black, ashen, not uniform. It is also present on the upper background where there is writing. This colour tells about Eden, the garden of delights, where something like a fog settled down - resulting in a long winter caused by the attitude of men's hearts, men who must decide between what is good and what is evil. The space under the bench is darkened also by the fog of man's sin.

In His left hand the Father firmly holds and supports a **blue sphere** on His heart. Let us stop for a moment because this has a fundamental importance in this icon. It is not the world. It is not the globe. The meaning is very complex, but marvelous.

After the sin of Adam, the Father retired, convinced that, when set free, man would become convinced of his mistake and return to Him.

This is attested to over the long, harsh centuries and millennia; in the meantime our Father foresees and prepares a plan of redemption, predisposing us with His Merciful Heart.

This plan of salvation culminated with the arrival of the Incarnate Word, the Son made man, that with His passion and death allowed the Holy Spirit to be “accessible” again to man; after the “it is finished” of Jesus on the cross, Jesus was finally able to leave, completing the plan so dear to the heart of the Father; the “divinisation” of man - through man a new creation.

This He wants to express through the blue sphere. **The plan of love of the Father is that we lean against his heart and that He holds us firmly in His Hand.** The blue colour points out that this plan and His realisation and execution of this plan is all Divine: the alpha and the omega occupy the entire sphere and refer to the Word, the beginning and end of everything: in fact, “everything was made through Him and in view of Him.”

You will also notice that the sphere is topped by a cross of gold: the cross is the throne of the Lamb immolated for the salvation of all men; the gold points out eternity. The Fathers of the Church tells us that the cross was written into the Heart of God the Father from all eternity.

The figure of our Father is the central focal point of the entire icon: it is in a Perfectly frontal position to reveal His availability to all men who will want to know Him.

The figure is set in an **almond shaped golden design** around His shoulders. Through it you enter the pure open

heavens. The blue heavens are inhabited by the celestial spirits near the throne of the Most High.

In the **12 quivering flames** we glimpse the forms of seraphim, the burning fire, which are to the right and to the left, representing all the angelic powers. The seraphim contemplate the extraordinary and unpredictable action of God the Father which doesn't stop operating due to his inexhaustible Love and endless Mercy.

The number: 6 seraphim are on one side and 6 seraphim on the other. This means responsible authority, like the 12 apostles, the Patriarchs, and the stars that adorn the Madonna dressed in the sun. The 12 seraphim not only contemplate, but are also faithful messengers and execute the wishes of our Father.

Observe the **face** now. Philip told Jesus, "Lord show us the Father and this is enough." Jesus answered: "Philip, whoever sees me, sees the Father." Philip had understood that Jesus operated like the Father and followed in all the wishes of the Father. But how could He represent the face of Him who is not representable?

The traditional Western iconograph has always represented our Father like a large, old man - good, solemn, with a flowing white beard: this was the Eternal Father. But the beard is an attribute of a man of flesh, a sign of his virility. The white beard expresses the aging of the body, the withering of the flesh. This could not be applied to the figure of our Father who is pure spirit.

The holy monk and iconographer Andrei Rublev had a good intuition when in 1420 he constructed the famous

icon of the Holy Trinity. The Iconographer Lia Galdiolo has therefore been inspired by this icon for the details of omitting a beard and for the colours of the tunic and mantle.

Here then according to the Eastern iconographic tradition is a stately face that inspires peace, strength, and serenity. The head is surrounded by a **white halo** that means glory on which appears the three initials of the name revealed by God to Moses on Mt Horeb: the omicron, the omega and the eta: “I am who am!” I am the reason for existence!

The **hair** is black. It means the “divine darkness.” And this is an inaccessible deep mystery for the human mind. It is parted in the front, like a veil that opens to show the light.

The hair covers golden strands, a sign also present in the veil of the Holy of Holies in the temple of Jerusalem, which was torn asunder when the Heart of Christ had been pierced through with a lance while He was on the cross. Because of this, the barrier between God and man was removed, and man could again contemplate the face of God.

The small **lips** are in the action of blowing the Spirit that gives Life. This is also manifested in the bulging neck.

The **eyes** look at all with love and tenderness. They await a response from all of us. That is why the icon must be contemplated for a long time in silence and in prayer: the icon must be petitioned.

At the **shoulders** there is a glimpse of the third heaven where there are seraphim, the ‘blue’ to which our Father wants to lead us all.

The blue **tunic** and the red **mantle** point out who the Almighty God is for us. The blue tunic points out the Divinity, and the red mantle expresses His Divine wisdom; these colours are clear, transparent, almost fluorescent, like they are diffused with the light of the Transfiguration.

The mantle is very ample and imposing, it means, “welcome.” You notice that the edge on the left side touches the earth. He wants to point out to all people that if they want they can cling to His mantle to receive His Holy Spirit.

The **bench**, on which our Father sits is very simple: it is not a throne because He wants us, without hesitation or fear, to sit down close to Him. The motif for His Divine Presence is one of modest design, though covered with rays of gold.

The two **pillows** point out that God (blue pillow on the left) and man (red pillow on the right) can converse together, in the same place, as in the beginning of creation.

The **right hand** is lifted in benediction, in a broad gesture, because He is our good Father. He doesn't want to judge the world, but save it. At the same time, it is a gesture that is solemn but welcoming.

The **scepter** - symbol of judgement - is set on the earth at His feet. The Father wants only to use mercy. The regal crown, lying close to the scepter and to the right of His foot, is an invitation not to fear drawing near to meet Him, and to remove the uneasiness from each of us. He wants to attract us, to greet us on His fatherly knee. You see this mighty knee - that is where he wants to greet you as your Father.

Also, although the Father sits, His feet are in the position of someone who is about to depart. They are in movement. Our Father wants to come towards us and stay with us. The feet have a halo that surrounds them; they are pure from the **halo** of holiness.

The black that surrounds the feet does not represent sandals, or shoes, but is a sign of His divine Darkness, it is a sign of the immense wealth and wisdom of God, whose knowledge and wisdom never become exhausted.

What a wealth of theological contents and how beneficial for our devotion and our spiritual life!

The icon is not for study, but for contemplation. I have expressed the meanings of it but only they who contemplate and pray before the icon can really understand.

This icon was born in prayer. It must be used in prayer and for prayer. It is a powerful help for people to realise their intimate union with God.

This icon makes our Father's role alive and present with us.

In the East, icons are presented with celebration because this makes the Divine almost present to the believers.

I am sure this is a window of the Divine.

This icon helps us to meet the Almighty God, Abba, Father!

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THE FATHER SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

We feel it our duty to publish a message,
given to the world by God the Father
through one of His creatures who loved Him so much,
Sister Eugenia Elisabetta Ravasio,
and recognised as valid by the Church.

We are sure that this message
will help people to understand
the deep tenderness the Father has
for each of us, and we hope that
it will receive the widest possible circulation.