

## SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS - 2. "TRACES OF THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE"

*In the latest passage from Father Giussani we read: "One who truly discovers and lives the experience of powerlessness and solitude does not remain alone. [...] She feels her cry at one with the cries of others, her anxiety and expectations at one with the anxieties and expectations of all others." (Traces of the Christian Experience—Worksheet 2).*

*A few days ago, Carlo, the father of our friend Carolina, passed away. Here, we share testimonies from her and her friend. They tell us how, in front of the sense of powerlessness that the experience of losing a loved one can generate, one can discover and rediscover those who are true friends: those who don't try to distract you, but accompany you to be truly yourself, without fear of who you are.*

*And for you, who is a true friend?*

Hello, I am Carolina from Cremona.

I would like to tell you what is happening to me in these days, because it is a miracle.

Friday night, my father died, and when I speak about a miracle, I am not referring to this, but to everything that started to be born from there. I found my house full of people, people who have helped me and are helping me now to be in front of death in a way that for me is completely new, that I thought was impossible.

The most beautiful episode was certainly this: Saturday afternoon, my friends from GS did School of Community and they had known that I wanted to record the songs from the assembly, because I really wanted to hear them and sing them together. That afternoon, I met all of them outside my house, with a guitar and some cookies, ready to sing again for me and with me. It was amazing. Amazing because they didn't try to distract me, or take away my pain and suffering. It was enough for them to accompany me.

It was a little bit like living the need that Andrea spoke about: the need to have a dialogue with Someone, when you feel an abyss within you.

I am more and more convinced that I am not alone, that I have someone to whom I can entrust myself, thanks to this companionship.

**Carolina**

Yesterday Carlo, the father of our friend Caro, passed away. We had done the assembly, the *raggio*, it was beautiful, we were almost all moved to tears. After *raggio* we went to look for Caro, we sang a few songs and stayed there for a little while.

Around 5:30 we went to get a snack and then went to Mass at 6:30. After a wonderful dinner, we went to the rosary for Carlo at 9:00.

That night, when I was already in bed, I thought about that day, 4 November 2017: wow!

Like all those who were there, I thought that yesterday was beautiful; finally I understood what GS really is. GS is us, it is our relationship, not a place, a name, or a group.

What struck me profoundly was that our companionship is truly different than others' »

» and it does not depend on the people that are a part of it, but depends on the desire of the people that are a part of it.

I finally found the place where I belong.

Starting this year, my certainty about going to the encounters with GS, the assemblies, etc... had diminished so much, maybe because I was not okay there? Maybe because I didn't know what I had to do with GS. I didn't find any obvious reason to be there. But once I said: "For me, one need to look for the green light if I do not see it." Now that I have seen it in you all, it is worth it for me to keep coming and being with you.

Thanks to what happened to us yesterday, I relived the experience of GS as it really is.

**Elena**