

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS - "WHO ARE YOU, THAT YOU FILL MY HEART WITH YOUR ABSENCE?"

Father Carrón wrote to all those who participated in the Triduum: "The ability to perceive this absence, this 'mystery of our being', is the most important resource that you've received, a gift made to your human nature: the detector for discovering what truly responds to your expectations." (GS Triduum - Greeting at the conclusion of the Easter Triduum of Gioventù Studentesca).

Stefano, after having gone for the first time to the Triduum, writes: "After that happiness [at the Triduum], the emptiness will still be there. But after coming here, I can experience the void as a resource and no longer like a sentence, because I feel close to me people who until a few days ago were far away."

And you, how do you live this emptiness, which invariably returns, even after having experienced something beautiful?

Hello, I am 16 years old and I live in France.

This was my first time coming to the Triduum, and even my first GS event. A friend who lives in Brianza invited me. I was surprised that he invited me, but then, after what you, Father Pigi, said, I understand why he invited me. He invited me and not somebody else. God invited me through my friend and I understood this at the Triduum. I quickly said yes because, without knowing it, I felt preferred. The "absurd" thing, and what struck me the most, is that what you said at the Triduum is what I have been living for the last two years.

I am a shy kid. I am often afraid of messing up and tend to isolate myself; what is more, I've had problems at school and I hadn't gone for a year. I had problems with some classmates in middle school and no longer trusted the people I knew.

Then there was the Triduum, where there were so many people I didn't know. I thought I knew how it would go, that I would isolate myself and get sad. Instead, I had a great time, I could talk freely with others, and the same steps I had been making for two years were brought up.

I was really struck by what you said: "You are all equal," because I always thought I was alone with my problems and I pretended that everything was going well. Instead even those who seem strong want to cry sometimes, like the girl who wrote you said.

I was moved—even if I didn't show it—during the Way of the Cross, because I have never experienced a moment of silence like that.

During the return trip, my friend was not there, because he went with his family on vacation for Easter; without fear, I put aside my shyness and started talking with a girl and a teacher whom I didn't know and felt free while we were speaking. I can say that a weight has been lifted. I am always ashamed of my problems—I don't speak frequently about them—and instead in that moment I was free and I felt heard, preferred by someone I didn't even know. I was happy, which is something that doesn't happen to me many times.

The question from the Triduum still does not have an answer, but I, who already thought I knew the answer, am surprised by the fact that my few certainties have crumbled. Other things that were said and experienced at the Triduum, though, are becoming certainties that are even more solid. »

» I will try to be myself more often, even if I remain the lonely guy, or rather the one who isolates himself and doesn't have a lot of friends. But I will have something more, a strength and a certainty of being loved by someone. I asked the teacher with whom I spoke on the way home if I could do School of Community with them, and I am happy because I can make new friends, but also because I can keep growing like I grew during this Triduum.

Probably, like you said, after this initial happiness, the emptiness will still be there. But after coming here, I can experience the void as a resource and no longer like a sentence, because I feel close to me people who until few days ago were far away.

Stefano