

**“A man seized by Christ”**  
**Julián Carrón**

The news of the death of Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran filled me with pain for the loss of a father, and with gratitude to God for the gift of his life.

The joy that we always saw on his face was the clearest sign of a man who had been seized by Christ, who went forward with a positive attitude in every situation. He always gave witness to the certainty that faith allows us to go out to meet our fellow man, as happened in his last voyage to Saudi Arabia, where he generated wonder and admiration in many Muslims with his gestures and disarming words: “In front of a cultural crisis that has transformed the word and where there are fewer points of reference, meeting with each other, talking together, getting to know each other, to build something together, is an invitation to an encounter with the other, which also means to discover ourselves.” In every circumstance, his judgment was sustained by the certainty that only Christ saves man and brings about an otherwise impossible unity among people, in an embrace that knows how to recognize and value everything that is true, beautiful, and good in anyone.

Truly, his service to the Holy See allowed him to initiate processes and build bridges, in faithfulness to the magisterium of Pope Francis, for which he willingly spent his life in order to gain life eternal. May the God of mercy reward this unique service which he gave to the Popes and to the Church, granting him that peace that is found only in the embrace of Christ.

In these years, the whole movement of Communion and Liberation has enjoyed his friendship, his speeches, and his precious advice, which have accompanied our presence in the world with intelligence and realism. In particular, I have always found in my dialogues with Cardinal Tauran a confirmation that faith generates a new protagonist in the world, that it can make an original contribution even in a liquid society like ours, thanks to the unique resource faith has at its disposal: a witness, offered to everyone, excluding no one.

I remember what he said during one of our meetings: “Like Pope Francis said, without a basis in something essential, we cannot avoid being fearful in front of new challenges. And for us, this essential is nothing other than Christ.” Christ is the true protagonist of history, and we are truly grateful to Cardinal Tauran for having constantly reminded us of this.

Thank you.