

Julián Carrón's Message at the
Beginning of the GS Easter Triduum
Rimini, March 24, 2016

“I have called you friends”

(*Jn 15:15*)

Dear friends,

How moving that Jesus calls us friends.

What does this mean?

A friend is someone who loves my life, my fulfillment, the fullness of my life.

It's this fullness that I want, that I've secretly awaited for from the moment the desire for happiness first sparked within me.

However, even though this is such a burning desire—cried out by every fiber of our being—it's such a struggle to be true to it in daily life! In fact, sometimes it even feels like it's against us, because it's so piercing. Other times we ask ourselves if we wouldn't be better off if it were less insistent.

We all know from experience that it's not easy to find someone who lives at the height of his or her desire.

In the same way, we know that without the presence of a great friend, we'd quickly give in to life's pressing challenges.

This is where the meaning of friendship with Jesus becomes clear.

Without a friend like Jesus, who accompanies and sustains us, it would be almost impossible not to throw in the towel. So then, we can understand the truth of His words, “Without me you can do nothing” (*Jn 15:5*), and so say to Him, “Without You, we can do nothing.”

It's His embrace that saves us. With Him beside us, life is different, more full.

Think of how the disciples must have felt He was a friend, to be able to respond to Him, as Peter did, “Master, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life” (*Jn 6:68*); You alone have the words that fill our lives.

In this Holy Year of Mercy, and in these days of His passion, death and resurrection, I hope that the question that rose in the hearts of those touched by His friendly gaze will become ever more *yours*: Who are you, Christ; who are you without Whom we cannot live, once we have encountered You?

Happy Easter!

Your friend Julián