

(English translation)

Rocca di Papa, 2 December 1982

To God through our neighbour

Dearest everyone,

We are now in the month of December and the Word of Life, which will illuminate our Holy Journey this month, is: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight (Lk 3:4).

The fact is that the Lord is about to come: Christmas is almost here, and the liturgy invites us to prepare the way.

He, who entered into history 2000 years ago, wants to enter into our lives, but the road is beset with obstacles. We need to level out the mounds, remove the rocks. What are the obstacles that block the way to Jesus?

All those desires that come from our souls that are not in line with the will of God; the attachments that cling to us.

Small desires, to speak or to be silent when we should do otherwise; the desire to assert oneself, for respect, for affection. Desires for things, our health, life... when God does not want it.

Then terrible desires, of rebellion, of judgement, of revenge...

These arise in our souls and invade our whole being. We must decisively extinguish these desires, remove these obstacles, and put ourselves back into the will of God and in so doing prepare the way of the Lord.

We must – as the Word says – straighten his paths.

Straighten: exactly like this. The desires deviate our way. Extinguishing them, we put ourselves back onto the ray of God's will and we find our way.

But there is a way typically ours that assures us that we are on the straight path, that will most certainly lead us to our aim: to God.

There is a way that we are obliged to take: that is our neighbour. During this month, let's throw ourselves into loving every neighbour that we meet during the day.

Let's lighten up our hearts with the most ardent and praiseworthy desire that God surely wants: the desire to love each neighbour, making ourselves one with them in everything, with unselfish love and without limits. ...

Love will rekindle relationships and people and will not allow egoistic desires to arise, on the contrary – it will be the best antidote.

In this way, for Christmas, we can prepare the best gift for Jesus who comes - our rich and luscious fruit, and our hearts burnt and consumed in love.

The motto that will help us to remember this proposal could be: to God through our neighbour!

Chiara Lubich