



# What is your experience of Jesus?

---

We are journeying through Lent, a time when the Church invites us to go inside ourselves and get in touch with what is fundamental for our faith and our lives: OUR LOVE FOR JESUS. Lent for me has always been a time of renewal and falling in love again with Jesus. It is an exciting time for it moves me to touch God's greatness and my own misery; it makes me realize in my mind and my heart that I always want to strive for something better than where I am right now. I can see that I fall short of many of the invitations that God is making me to be better and live closer to him. I am almost positive something similar happens to you as well, my brother or sister in the Spirituality.

Our Statutes read in #13: *"We respond to Jesus' invitation: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). This requires that we live with Jesus, imitate Him, adopt His ideals, and assume His mission, until we are transformed in Him."*

The invitation in this number is clear: be transformed. Lent is the perfect time to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our spiritual life. It is the time to live profoundly the experience of being loved and saved by Jesus. It is the time to feel full of His love and heed the constant call to follow Him and to let ourselves be molded by Him. It is about longing to be holy the way Conchita and Felix and so many others were. In order to do that, we need to get in touch with our own experience of Jesus. I invite you to recall the moments when Jesus has touched your life. Bring to mind the moments when He enkindled your heart and pulled it towards the Father's loving fire.

I would like to get to know individually each and every one of you, so that in conversations among friends I could motivate you to belong COMPLETELY to JESUS and to live the Spirituality of the Cross deeply.

Being an Apostle of the Cross is a great commitment. I believe that in order to expand to all the corners of this country we need to first fall in love with the Spirituality and allow the fire of love for Jesus burn in us. Let's start by committing to deepen our knowledge of who we are and who we are called to become. Don't be discouraged by not being who who'd like to be. We are sinners in search of the savior; but that Savior is capable of transforming us into other Christs for those around us. Let's allow the grace of God to move in us, and let us start working on the virtues (like the experience of Stavros and Chain of Love teach us).

I'm deeply grateful that you allow me to enter your heart through these words, simple but full of love.

Fr. Mario Rodríguez-García M.Sp.S.