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Holy Father quotes St. Teresa's commentary on Our Father

Benedict XVI refers to St. Teresa during recital of Angelus

Rome (Italy), 25 July 2010 (Communicationes). Last Sunday Pope Benedict alluded to St. Teresa during his recital of the Angelus at his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo. He was speaking to the faithful in the Clement XIV courtyard during his customary Sunday address. The meaning and importance of the Our Father was the central theme of his meditation.

He said this prayer was "among the first words that we learned as children from Holy Scripture. It was implanted in our memories and affected all our lives right up to our last breath". It expressed the material and spiritual needs of human beings and "was not a request to satisfy our whims but, rather, to keep alive our friendship with God". This has been the experience of the Desert Fathers and of contemplatives through the ages who, through their prayer, became "friends of God", continued the Holy Father.

In this context, the Pope quoted St. Teresa explicitly with a text from her commentary on the Our Father in *'The Way of Perfection'*. The Pope's quotation is from Ch. 42, 4, where Teresa invites her sisters to beseech God "to free us from these dangers forever and draw us at last away from every evil. Even though our desire may not be perfect, let us force ourselves to make the request. What does it cost us to ask for a great deal? We are asking it of one who is All-Powerful."

Benedict XVI and St. Teresa

This recent reference to St. Teresa was by no means an isolated one in the talks and writings of Pope Benedict. On numerous occasions His Holiness has alluded to the Carmelite mystic in various messages to young people, married couples and the sick, proposing her as a model of the spiritual life, of a search for the truth or of fidelity to God.

During the World Day for Youth in Cologne in 2005, the Pope proposed Sts. Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Dominic and Teresa as "models of life". At his Christmas Eve Mass of the same year, he referred to Teresa as an ambassador "of the current of goodness".

When speaking of spiritual communion in no. 55 of his Postsynodal Apostolic Exhortation "Sacramentum Caritatis" (2007), the Pope mentions both St. Teresa and St. Thomas Aquinas.

On numerous occasions during General Audiences or the Sunday Angelus he makes reference to Teresa, often recalling her thoughts. He specifically quoted “All things pass away, God alone does not change” at the Angelus on 19th November 2006.

Last year at the General Audience of October 14 he said that St. Teresa was a model “for the young, for the sick and for those recently married”. “May this great Saint be a witness to you, dear young people, that true love cannot be separated from truth. May she help those of you who are sick to understand that the Cross of Christ is a mystery of love that redeems human suffering. And for those of you who are recently married, may she be a model of fidelity to God, who entrusts a special mission to each one of us”.

“Life that transforms lives”

A practical guide to reading St. Teresa’s ‘Life’

Mexico, 25 July 2010 (Communicationes).- What is the hidden message of every chapter of St. Teresa’s ‘Life’? What does it teach us? How to pray with Teresa’s book? These are but some of the questions that a new publication, ‘*Vida que transforma vidas*’ (Life that transforms lives) from the Editorial Santa Teresa de Mexico, seeks to answer.

It is an interesting initiative arising from the last General Chapter’s decision to study St. Teresa’s ‘Life’ in depth and to familiarise a wider public with the writings of the Saint, as a long-term preparation for the celebration of the 5th centenary of her birth.

A collection of files, like signposts for a journey, indicate clearly what we should look for in each stage of Teresa’s life, in each chapter of her autobiography, in every single anecdote. Each file has a key-note concept with a corresponding reflection. The principal theme of each chapter leads to the proposal of various practical suggestions for daily living.

Obviously the most important lesson of Teresa’s teaching, the fundamental element in our spiritual journey, is prayer. As an aid to this, each file has a suggestion for weekly prayer, inviting the readers to enter into dialogue with God and to base their daily lives on this friendly relationship.

In this way, the new publication could prove to be a simple and practical support for the personal experience of prayer as St. Teresa would have wished it.

Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini writes for www.iwasbornforyou.com

Cardinal Martini: “The writings of St. Teresa have a marked influence on our lives and on the history of the Church”

Rome (Italy), 23 July 2010 (Communicationes).- “A Centenary that interests the whole Church” is the title of Cardinal Martini’s article on the [iwasbornforyou.com](http://www.iwasbornforyou.com) website.

The Archbishop Emeritus of Milan highlights the opportunity that the coming Teresian celebration provides for a “return to the study of some of the Saint’s writings which have had a marked influence on our life and on the history of the Church”. Among her writings, the Cardinal describes her ‘Life’ as “a fascinating book that can say so much to our own times”. The Saint, he writes, “describes in a down to earth way the vicissitudes of an existence in which the search for the Lord is carried out gradually and not without lapses and moments of darkness”. He is particularly impressed at the way in which Teresa was able to relate her

experiences of prayer and her intense spiritual life in the midst of her numerous daily occupations and of how nothing “could diminish in the least her interior treasures”.

The website www.iwasbornforyou.com has been set up by the International Commission for the Teresian Centenary. In it, authors from various nationalities and backgrounds publish a ‘weekly letter’ reflecting on what St. Teresa and her writings or teachings have meant to them personally.