

Pope Francis

‘Evangelii Gaudium’

‘The Joy of the Gospel’

Apostolic Exhortation

24th November 2013,

Feast of Christ the King.

Including a presentation

of the results of the

Synod on Evangelisation

held in Rome in 2012 (see

n.16, 73).

The Old Testament

The New Testament

Catechism

1. Christian Belief

2. Christian Liturgy

3. Christian Living

4. Christian Prayer

Church / Mission

[Priesthood](#)

Religious Life

Education

RCIA/Cursillo

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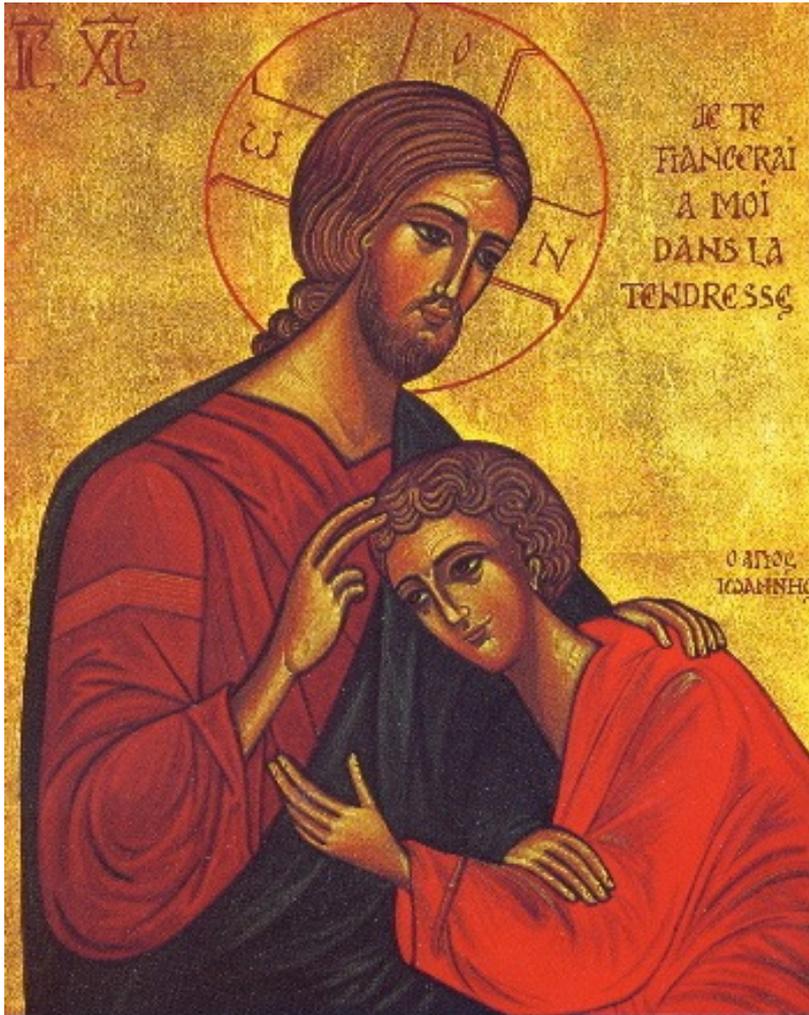
Books Audio Homilies

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Pope Francis

‘Evangelii Gaudium’

‘The Joy of the Gospel’

‘I have said these things to you so that **my joy** may be in you, and that **your joy** may be complete’ (John 15:11; quoted n.5).

The opening paragraph

‘The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.

In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.’

The Joy of the Gospel (nn. 2-18)

The Importance of 'knowing' the real Jesus

'A dignified and fulfilled life' : 'the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ'^(n.2)

'I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction"'("God is love', 1; quoted n.7).

‘All of us need to grow in Christ. Evangelization should stimulate a desire for this growth, so that each of us can say wholeheartedly: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (*Galatians 2:20*) (n. 160).

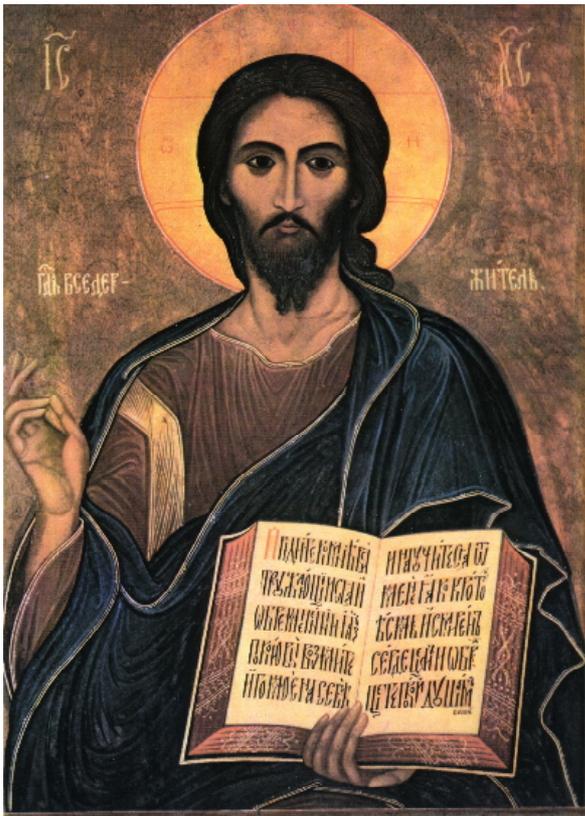
‘A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise. Unless we see him present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigour and passion. A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince nobody’(n. 266).

1John 1:1-3

‘We declare to you what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with
our hands, concerning the word of life —
this life was revealed, and we have seen it
and testify to it, and declare to you the
eternal life that was with the Father and
was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and
heard so that you may have communion
with us;

and truly our communion is with the
Father and with his Son Jesus the Messiah.’



Portrait of Jesus given us by Paul

Portraits in the Four Gospels.

Presentation of Jesus' words and actions

plus an interpretive commentary.

The fact that the four Gospels were treasured, copied, and read in the Christian assemblies in the East, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, in Greece and in Rome, is the source of our confidence that in each of the Gospels and in the four together we are seeing and hearing the real Jesus.

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

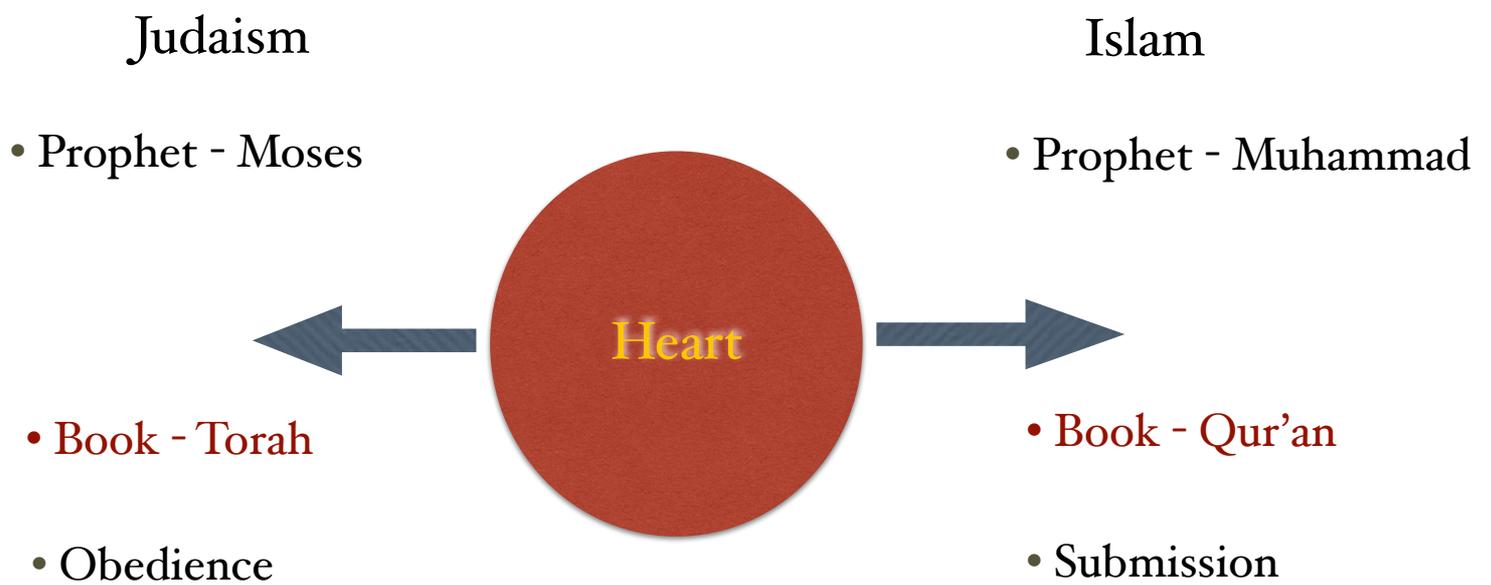
They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness of the transcendent & mysterious God

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced in

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures



Dangers in Institutionalised Religion



Fundamentalist 'Christianity'

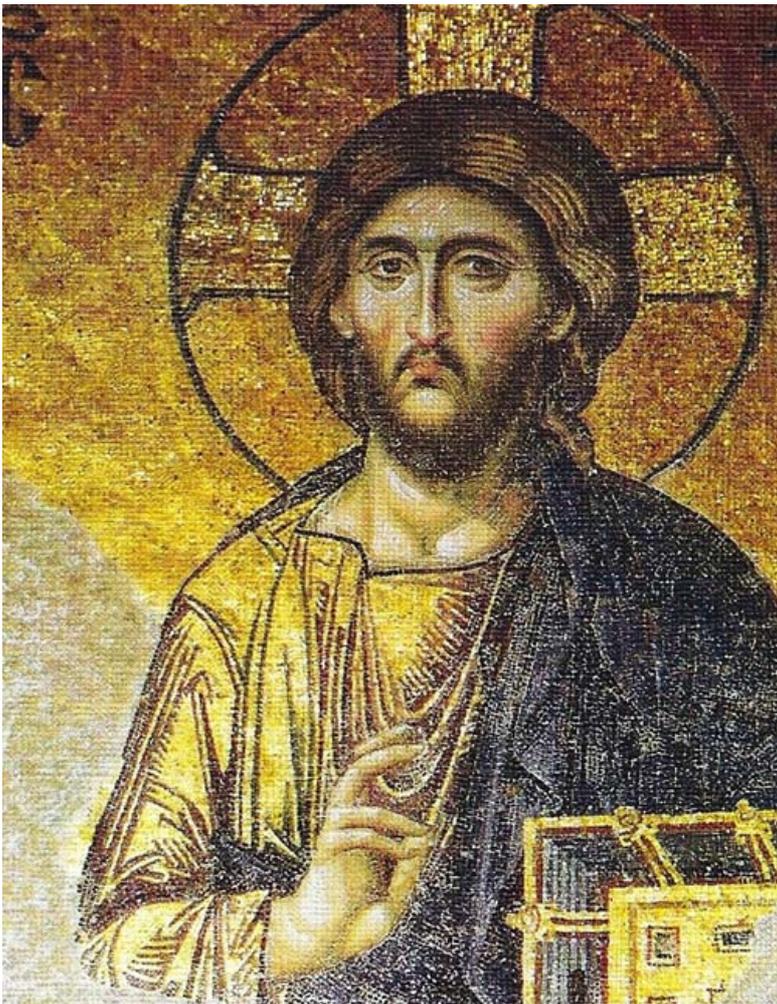
- Book - New Testament
- Book - Catechism
- Obedience / Submission

The *Mystical* Dimension of Religious Experience

Buddhism points us to the heart



God's Word-made-flesh



John 3:34

‘He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.’

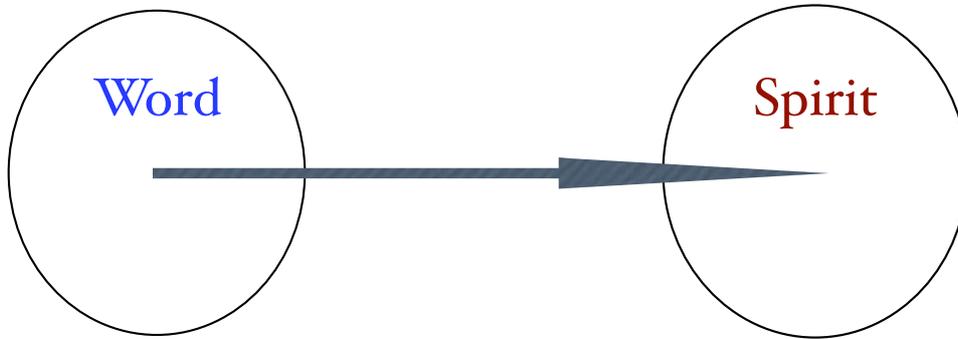
Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.’

Revelation

Numinous

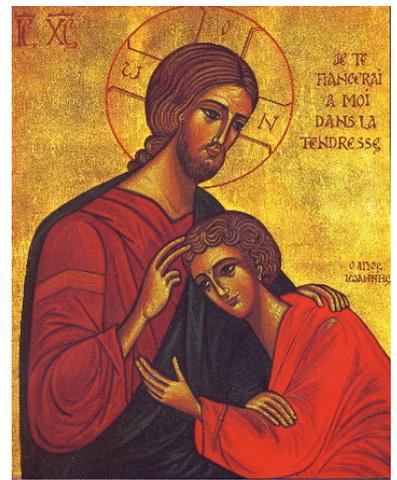
Mystical

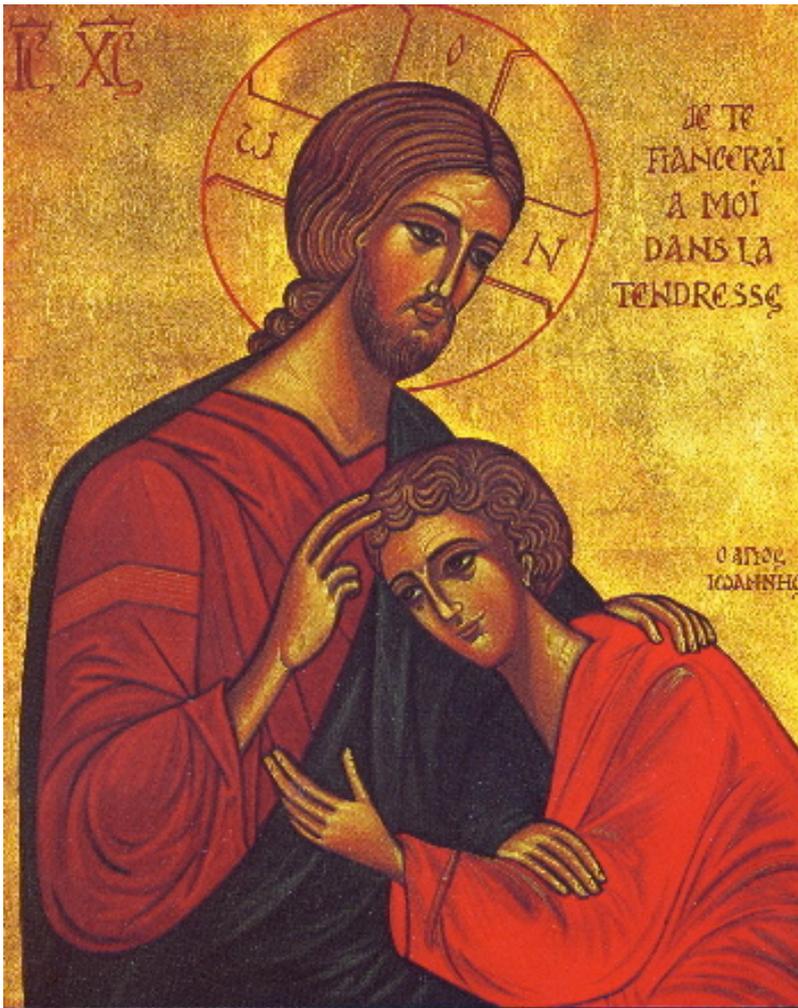


Heart

speaks to

Heart





- ‘I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you’ (John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me’ (John 17:21).



‘I have come to cast fire upon the earth
and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49)

Teilhard de Chardin 1934

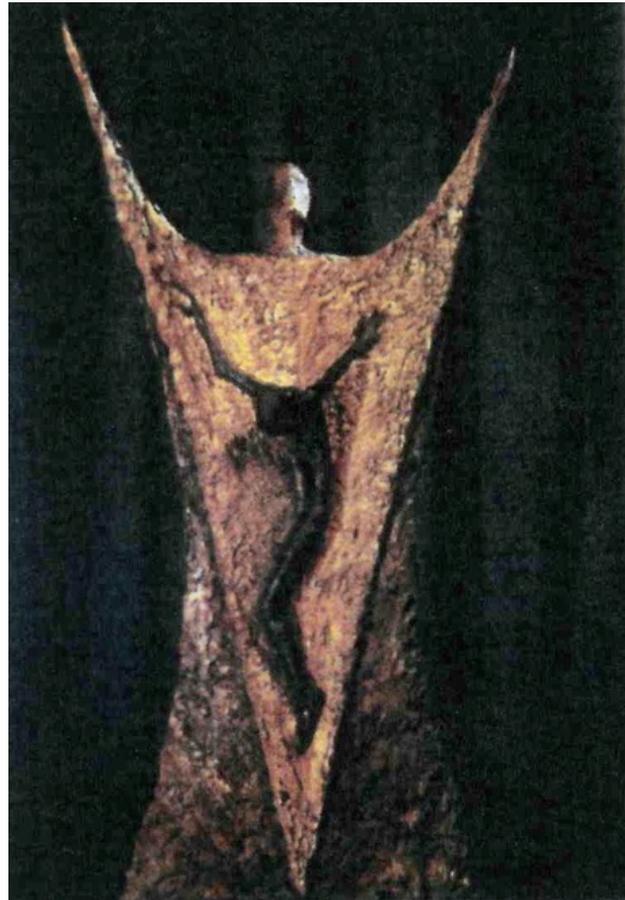
‘Some day,
after harnessing space,
the winds,
the tides
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God
the energies of Love.

And then,
for the second time in the history of the
world,
we shall have discovered fire.’

It was Jesus' communion with God that was the source of his life.

At the Last Supper, with a broken heart, he said: 'You will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone'(John 16:32). He went straight on to add: 'Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.'



At the heart of Jesus' disciples attraction to him was their experience of his special relationship to God. Again and again the Gospels speak of Jesus' prayer.

Jesus' Baptism Experience



A voice came from heaven,
“You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.”

Perugino

Having described a busy day in Jesus' ministry,
Mark writes that Jesus left the house to find a secluded place
where he could be alone in prayer.

Mark 1:35-38

In the morning, while it was still very dark,
Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place,
and there he prayed.

And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

When they found him, they said to him,
“Everyone is searching for you.”

He answered, “Let us go on to the neighbouring towns,
so that I may proclaim the message there also;
for that is what I came out to do.”

Luke tells us that ‘many crowds would gather to hear Jesus and to be cured of their diseases. but he would withdraw to deserted places and pray’(Luke 5:16).

Before selecting his twelve disciples, ‘Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and spent the whole night in prayer to God’(Luke 6:12).

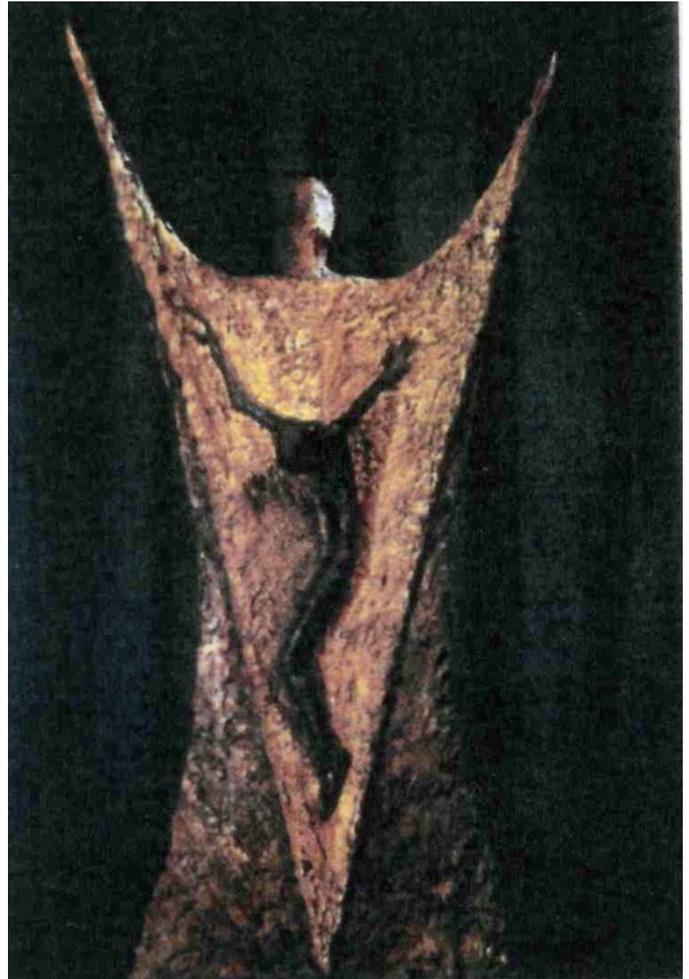




Raphael

Everything Jesus said or did came from this special communion. John writes: 'The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands'(John 3:35).

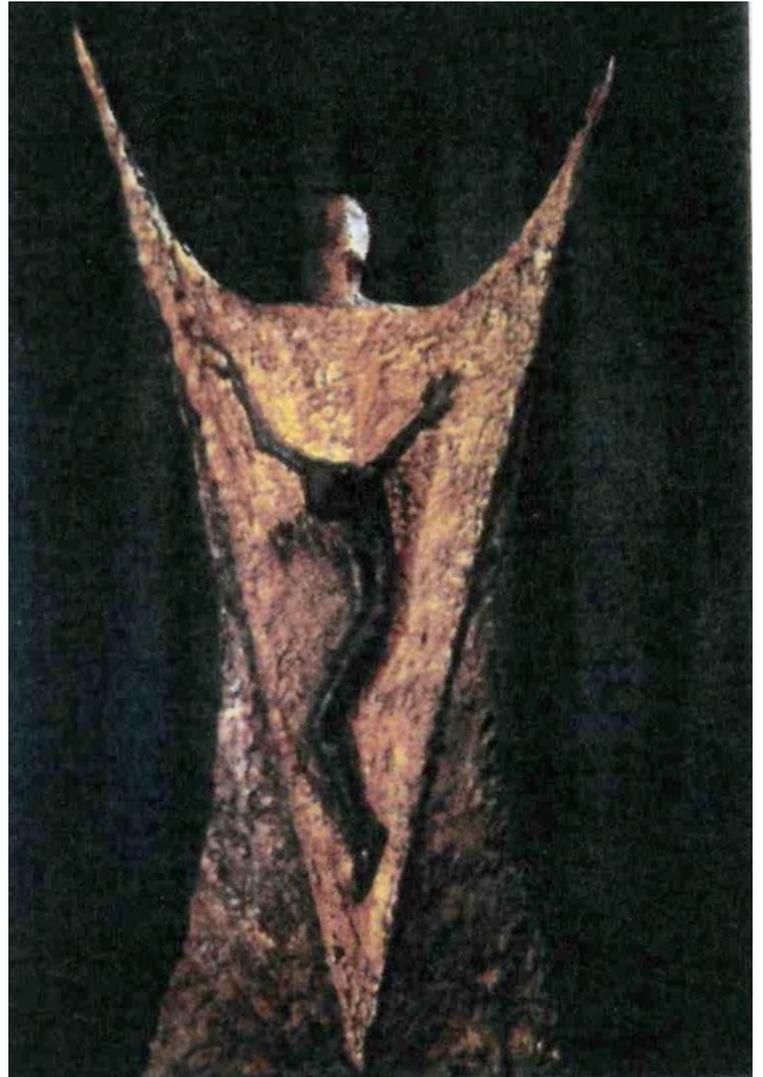
His special communion did not protect him from the suffering that is part of the human experience, but it sustained him, and the fruit of this communion was a loving that his disciples had never previously experienced: a love for them, indeed for the world, that flowed from his loving communion with God.





Jesus' humanity, but also his faith in God are, perhaps, nowhere shown more poignantly than in his cry from the cross: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).

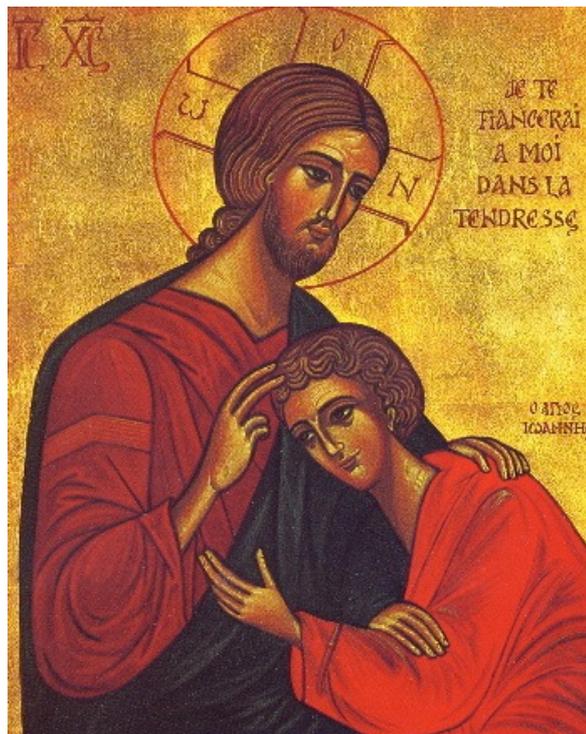
It is his faith in God that Luke highlights when he records Jesus' prayer from the cross: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit' (23:46).



It is God who initiates communion. We call this communion 'prayer'.

Christian prayer is communion in the prayer of Jesus

God's perfect
human Word,
symbol of the
Divine Word
of the Self-giving
always Transcendent
God



Communion in the
Love-Spirit that
unites Jesus and God,
symbol of the
Divine Love-communion
of the
always Transcendent
God

‘We can well repeat the words of Saint Paul: “I live, now not I; it is Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20’, John of the Cross, Flame 2.34).

‘The Bridegroom takes her tenderly in His arms
and there gives her His love.

And when they were thus one,

He tenderly lifts her to the Father’ (John of the Cross, Romance 4, 15).

‘My God, you will not take from me what you once gave me in your only Son Jesus Christ, in whom you gave me all I long for. So I shall rejoice: you will not delay, if I do not fail to hope.’

(John of the Cross, Sayings 26).

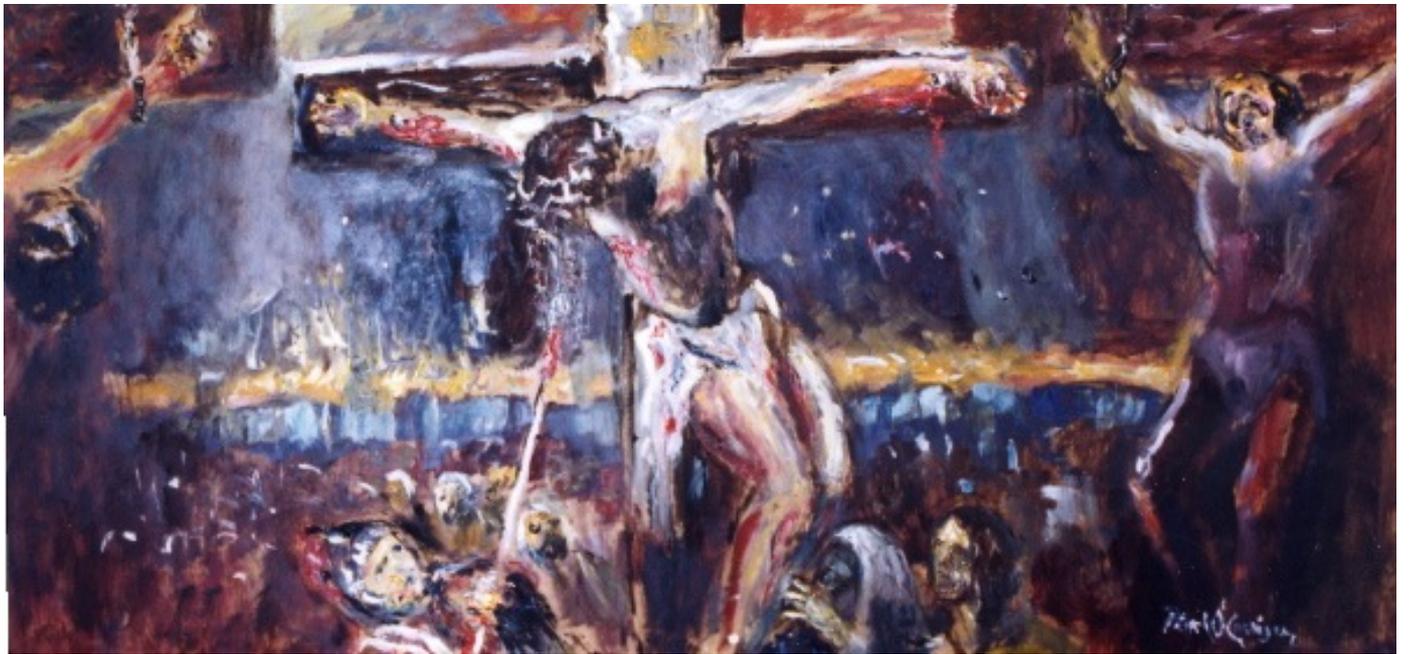
‘Up to the caverns, set deep into the rock
– almost out of sight – we’ll find a way to enter,
there to taste the pomegranate wine.’

(John of the Cross, Canticum stanza 32).

‘The caverns, the living space, are the mysteries of Jesus.
Entering means taking on the shape of Jesus’ life,
so as to meet Jesus’ heart’(Iain Matthew p. 126).

‘Thanking the Father, and loving the Father anew
with great delight and feeling, through his Son, Jesus Christ.
This you do, united with Christ, together with Christ.
The savour of this praise is so delicate as to be totally beyond words.’
(John of the Cross, Canticum 37.7).

‘Heaven will be that: a total entry into the caverns of Christ’s
heart, an infinite space for the Father’(Iain Matthew p. 127).

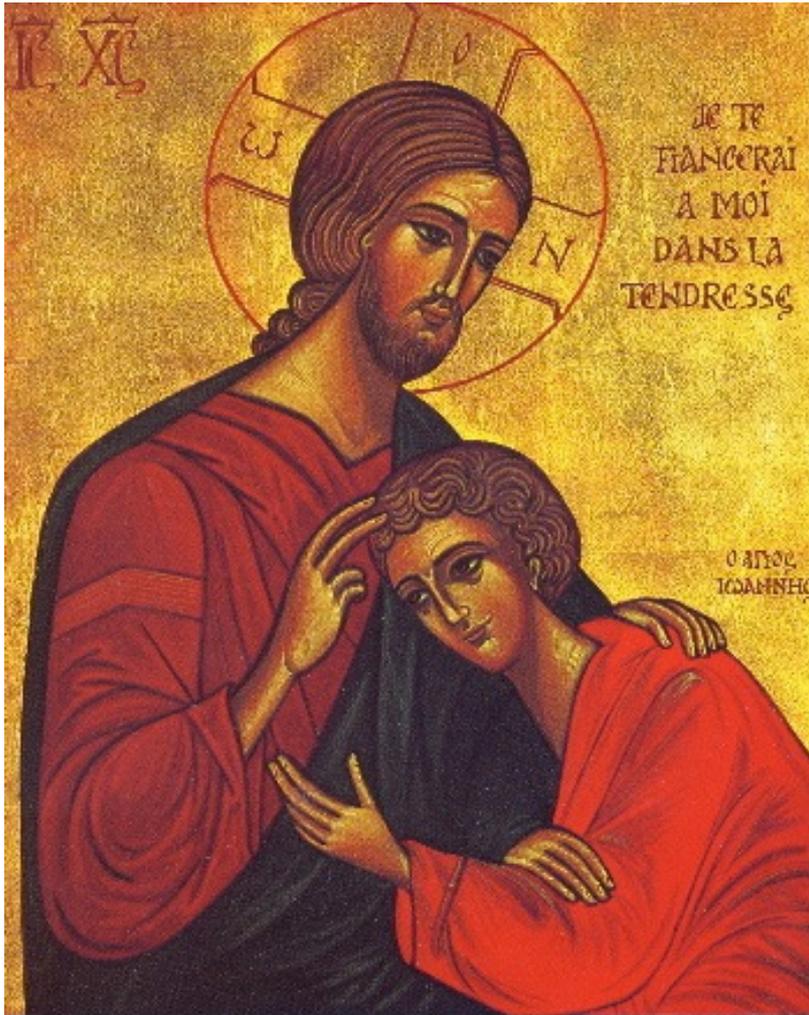




‘From the Heart of Jesus
pierced on Calvary,
I see a new world coming forth –
a great and life-giving world,
inspired by love and mercy:
a world which the Church must
perpetuate on the whole earth.’

(Jules Chevalier, Sacred Heart 1900)

Everyday God



‘I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete’(John 15:11).

Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.
Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love
and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.’



Open my eyes, Lord