

26 February 2021

Dearest friend,

Finding ourselves still in the midst of a situation none of us imagined could be so considerable or full of consequences, we wish to shine a light on the experiences gathered over the recent months, to prepare for the GS Triduum: discoveries, questions, intuitions, struggles.

Many of our daily habits have changed: remote learning, family relationships, spending time with friends, the regularity of GS events (the Triduum, the holidays), sporting activities. Perhaps it is more accurate to say that it has not been certain aspects of life which have changed, but the idea of “life” itself that we have in mind.

Though it is true that we have not been spared important sacrifices—which we would have wished to avoid—, it is also true that in this “reshuffling of the cards”, we have found space to explore new avenues and to make unprecedented moves: among these, we can call to mind the testimonies offered digitally from Italy and all around the world (Spain, Uganda, Cameroon) from friends in different communities, or young men and women who, faced with the challenge of remote learning, came up with ways in which to share their work with their classmates (be they in GS or not).

Aside from stimulating our creativity, this situation has brought up the fundamental questions of life, and continues to do so: why am I here? Why is it worthwhile to expend one’s energy? These very concrete questions constitute the DNA of our greatest ally, our heart, with which we can face the adventure of life.

Yet as well as giving us our heart, the Mystery has also made itself present in our days through the gift of a companionship of friends—a dwelling place—with whom we can share each step in life, without being abandoned to the solitude of our thoughts. We can thus recognize His victory over death in our own experience.

In light of what we have experienced in recent months, and the journey undertaken with GS—the Beginning Day, School of Community, local initiatives—we would like to invite you to the GS Triduum, which will take place digitally this year, from April 1 to April 3, 2021, sharing with you the following questions:

What have you learnt about yourself this year?
Have you encountered a source of hope for your life?

You can send your contribution (personal testimonies, texts, songs, examples from television shows) through [this site](#), under the event "*Preparazione Triduo GS*" [*GS Triduum Preparation*], by Friday 19 March.

Kindest regards,

Fr. Andrea Mencarelli
Francesco Barberis