



Stabat. In Her Faith We Stand.

Words from Father Kentenich, Milwaukee, June 18, 1956

I believe that she brought the greatest sacrifice under the cross. She had to remember “His kingdom will have no end”. And now she faces his death. He is to be killed - (and) his kingdom will have no end! Look at the size of his kingdom! There *she* stood under his cross, not even a handful of women are below, and one single man is at his side, John¹ - and his kingdom shall have no end. Do you see the contrast? Were you ever aware of it?

Beata, quia credidisti - blessed, because you have believed! We find a wonderful word in Sacred Scripture: *Stabat* - she stood. (She) did not only exteriorly stand; she was also interiorly at his side, completely on his side. And if you murder him - this is God, and he will redeem his people. I don't know whether we can imagine greater faith.

For my part, think of Abraham and Isaac. You remember what Abraham should (be), the father of many peoples.² And now finally in his old age he has a son.³ You must consider, the loving God is sometimes a “strange man,” a very “strange man”. How many contrasts? And what does the loving God now demand of him? You shall kill him! (And Abraham shall) believe in spite of it that he will become the father of many peoples. The Lord God is sometimes “strange.” And what did Abraham do? Now just think about it. He is ready to do it - and he believes. He believes that it will be realized in spite of what the Lord God demands of him and said (to him).⁴ I think that now I may say one more time: *Beata quia credidisti* - blessed because you have believed! (...)

¹ Cf. Jn 19:25-27.

² Cf. Gen 17:5.

³ Isaac. Cf. Gen 21:1-3.

⁴ Cf. Gen 22:1-19.

Naturally, you are justified in saying that this is a gift from above that it is something you cannot acquire on your own. You see, (that) is the root of the present-day (problems) of our time. Very few people possess a deep faith. It is much easier to believe - for all I care - in Stalin⁵ who had many more great successes than in the Savior who hangs on the cross. To have a crucified God, to adore him and to believe in him, (that is more difficult).

Perhaps you can now understand the whole depth of our covenant of love better under the viewpoint of the stem. We have said that the covenant includes a mutual exchange of goods. What treasure do we see with the dear Mother of God? It is her heroic, living faith. What does exchange of goods mean? ...Her deep spirit of faith. And what do I give her in return? (...) You see, then we can also ask: Lord - Mother of God, help my unbelief; make me also a hero of faith and the spirit of faith!

I think, now I drew the line for you for the whole month, the concern (about) the growth and deepening of the spirit of faith. But you may not overlook that faith is a gift from above. That means that through holy Baptism faith was, as it were, implanted into our innermost being like a new eye...

We must guard ourselves that we do not only know something about the loving God and the questions of our mind. You must open your hearts for him and then be ready to go through all darkness of faith... If the loving God notices that we are detached from self and seek him alone, then you will see how much fervor will enter our heart!

⁵ Josif Wissarionowitsch Dschughaschwili, 1879-1953, Soviet dictator and politician; since 1905 called “Stalin” (= the steel one).