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Back Cover: His Spirit-filled Outreach

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How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?

I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.

The church with which we should be thinking is the home of all, not a small chapel that can hold only a small group of selected people.

The ministers of the Gospel must be people who can warm hearts, walk through the dark night with them, know how to dialogue and to descend themselves into their people's night, into the darkness, but without getting lost. The people of God want pastors, not clergy acting like bureaucrats or government officials.

Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless, we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervor dies out. The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer.

Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. A committed missionary knows the joy of being a spring which spills over and refreshes others. Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary.



His Spirit-filled Outreach

A Spirit-filled evangelization is one guided by the Holy Spirit, for he is the soul of the church called to proclaim the Gospel.

An authentic faith . . . always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave the earth somehow better than we found it.

If I can help at least one other person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life.

We achieve fulfillment when we break down walls and our heart is filled with faces and names.

I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful. It needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle.

How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence! How much good it does us when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share his new life!

I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if a person's life has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else . . . God is in this person's life. You can and must try to seek God in every human life.