

Our everyday existential experience reminds us that what is important in life is our ability to read the signs of the time (*signa temporis nostrae hodiernae historiae*). Those signs lead us toward living in peace, and call, at the same time, for an indefatigable discovery of ourselves and the world around us, always anew. *Aggiornamento* is, after all, nothing else than the reciprocal opening toward each other. Apparently, it is nothing really extraordinary, but is, in fact, a new way of living, a different way, ἔτερος ὁδός, which sensitizes us to the reality that if we want to understand at all, we need to open ourselves tirelessly to the infinite constellations of otherness.

Young Solomon, when asked about God's coronation gift, answered with a humble petition: A discerning heart able to distinguish between right and wrong. (1 Kings 3: 9) This discerning heart is a sensitive, kind, and gentle heart, a heart open toward others, a listening, i.e., an obedient heart (*obedire=ob-audire*). The main purpose of education is to accompany all of us on the path toward such a sensitive heart, to perceiving ourselves as *existentia hermeneutica*, an existence seeking understanding, a self-understanding existence. The responsibility for reading the signs of the time (*signa temporis perscrutandi*) leads us toward understanding that we are a sign of contradiction (*signum contradictionis*). We have to be a sign of resistance to evil, mediocrity, stupidity, dishonesty, and mere shortcuts. This sign of contradiction is, at the same time, a loud Yes to patience, forbearance, sympathy, and compassion.

When we wish one another a Happy Easter, we think of the Night, the truly blessed Night (*vere beata nox*), the event of the Resurrection. I wish everyone and each one of us a permanent awakening from the dead toward the sensitivity of heart, which opens us to ourselves and others. The art of interpreting the signs of the time is the art of living. It is wisdom (*sapientia*), so much needed and desired, and also so much invoked for us.

Once more, I return to the Tradition of which we are, the Tradition that we are. We discover in it that "Those who put their trust in God regain strength, get wings like eagles, and run without fatigue." (Is 40: 31)

Let the experience of Easter be a true celebration of Passover, a genuine transition, a recovery of strength, and the experience of a love which never ceases, and which, even when killed, rises from the dead.

*Omnia gaudia paschalia,*

Andre