

Easter message

By Angela Grassi

A glance, a helping hand, the certainty of not being alone, of being accompanied. This is the message of this reinterpretation of « Christ and the Cyrenian », painted by Titian Vecelio in 1560.

As part of the «Divine Creatures» exhibition, this vivid painting on display at the Diocesan Museum in Milan features people with intellectual disabilities, their families and carers. A magnificent exhibition that brings famous paintings to life, highlighting people with disabilities, capable of guessing the mystery, expressing with their eyes and expressions what the painters had in their hearts centuries ago.

In this painting, Gabriele portrays Jesus, while his father Angiolino interprets Simon of Cyrene (photograph by Adamo Antonacci, author of the works presented in this exhibition, and which he has allowed me to use in this message).

As Tania, says, a young girl with Down's syndrome, in the video accompanying the painting, *«Jesus turns to Simon. Their eyes meet, so when we contemplate this scene, time stops for a few moments.»*

Tania continues: *«The cross should not be carried by Jesus alone, we should be helped. Simon turns to Jesus and whispers, "I'm here". Sometimes parents ask themselves why they had a child with disabilities. In this exchange of glances, gentleness and love emerge.»*

Also, *«Jesus' hand on the stone reminds us of Golgotha, but also the firmness of the soul. The rays of light around Jesus' head represent the presence of God.»*



Interpretation of "Christ and the Cyrenian" - Titian Vecelio in 1560

I have chosen this painting for my Easter message because, over the past few months, my life has been on a rollercoaster, with unexpected joys but also heavy sorrows. Feeling supported gives me strength and serenity to face new trials. «The Lord gives, the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord», says the Bible.

Job is with me during this time. Beyond tiredness, the light of Easter gives courage and hope. Faith and Light offers us opportunities to look to the future with confidence, organizing formation sessions for young people from different countries, and working on numerous other projects.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, He fills us with unexpected graces, He always knows how to surprise us and helps us to grasp beauty, even where we only see suffering.

Let us trust in the sign of his immense love and pray to become daily messengers of peace. If only the world would listen to the most fragile ones, then Love would be victorious. So let us be builders of peace in our homes, in our communities and in our towns.

With all my friendship,
Angela Grassi