**Adapted version for video**

**To become saints as Church**

 The style of sanctity for today’s Christian goes beyond that of perfection sought individually, and they often express it like this: we want to become saints together.

 So here and there we see committed Christians forming groups who, in unity, go towards God.

 The face of the Church, with its lights and shadows, ought to be in every Christian, in every group of Christians. This means that we must feel as our own not only the Church’s joys, but above all we must feel as our own all of her sorrows.

 The suffering Church appears as the Crucified Christ of today who cries out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”.

 Not long ago I was at Mount La Verna. There I meditated on the exceptional gift of the stigmata that God gave Francis as a seal of his imitation of Christ, of his discipleship.

 I was thinking that all true Christians should be stigmatics, not in an extraordinary, outward sense but spiritually.

 I seemed to understand that the stigmata of today’s Christians are the mysterious but real sufferings of the contemporary Church.

 In these times, only an individual sanctity is not enough, nor one that is communitarian but closed. We must feel within ourselves the sorrow and also joy that Christ experiences today in his Bride.

 We need to become saints as Church.

*New City, Chiara Lubich, Essential Writings Ed 2007 p117*

*Written by Chiara Lubich on September 25, 1970*