

# Why The Church Luigi Giussani

Why the Church? Christ, God's Companionship with Man Is It Possible To Live This Way? Communion and Liberation Movement To Give One's Life for the Work of Another Generative Thought The Life of Luigi Giussani Journey to Truth is an Experience Religious Freedom After the Sexual Revolution 1968 - Culture and Counterculture The Religious Sense At the Origin of the Christian Claim Disarming Beauty Sorting Out Catholicism The Hidden Face of Pope Francis 30 Days in the Church and in the World Living the Liturgy Where Is God? The Religious Sense, Second Edition Pre-Evangelization and Young Adult "Native Nones" Luigi Giussani Luigi Giussani Luigi Giussani Davide Rondoni Luigi Giussani Elisa Buzzi Alberto Savorana Luigi Giussani Helen Alvare Thomas V. Gourlay Luigi Giussani Julián Carrón Massimo Faggioli Paul Ariès Luigi Giussani Julián Carrón LUIGI. GIUSSANI Tamra Hull Fromm

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from its beginnings the church has presented itself as a human phenomenon that carries the divine within it as a social fact its reality given form by men and women the church has always affirmed that its existence surpasses the human reality of its components and that it stands as the continuation of the event of christ s entry into human history why the church the final volume in mcgill queen s university press s trilogy of luigi giussani s writings explores the church s definition of itself as both human and divine and evaluates the truth of this claim

this volume is a selection of the most significant writings by monsignor luigi giussani founder of the italian catholic lay movement communion and liberation which is practised in eighty countries around the world presented by julián carrón giussani s successor as head of communion and liberation christ god s companionship with man is the most succinct introduction to the breadth of giussani s thought including memorable passages from works such as the journey to truth is an experience at the origin of the christian claim why the church generating traces in the history of the world and is it possible to live this way many speak of giussani as a friendly presence a man who believed that it was possible to live in faith every day and in any circumstance as a writer and religious scholar who was deeply devoted to his work giussani s teachings and reflections have come to generate worldwide recognition and support revealing that spirituality and community can be found in ordinary ways christ god s companionship with man will inspire all who read it

a compilation of giussani s conversations with young people who have chosen the path of the consecrated life in the church

the communion and liberation movement began in milan italy in the 1950s as an attempt to communicate the awareness that christ is the one true response to the deepest needs of people at every moment of history the person who encounters and welcomes the presence of christ undergoes a conversion that affects not only the individual but also the surrounding environment the movement spread rapidly throughout italy and is now present in some seventy countries around the world including people of all ages and in every occupation at every level of society communion and liberation traces the history of the movement illuminating the main

characteristics of its structure and the experiences of its members the introduction by monsignor luigi giussani is a testament to his devotion to the church and to his followers the appendices include pope john paul ii s moving address to the ecclesiastic movements and the new communities within the church and monsignor giussani s description of his meeting with the pope in rome 30 may 1998 an inspiration to all communion and liberation will be of interest to scholars of religious movements as well as to all those interested in reassessing their lives

father luigi giussani engaged tirelessly in educational initiatives throughout the course of his life much of his thought was communicated through the richness and rhythm of oral discourse preserved as audio and video recordings in the archive of the fraternity of communion and liberation in milan this volume presents the last three spiritual exercises of the fraternity of communion and liberation drawing from the transcripts of these recordings in these exercises giussani investigates the rise of ethics and the decline of ontology that have accompanied modernity and the spread of rationalism bearing up against old age and illness he resisted the urge to withdraw instead finding new avenues of communication and the technological means to reach all corners of the movement to give one s life for the work of another explores the nature of god the powerful human experience of self awareness and the fundamental components of christianity in the unmistakable voice of a consummate teacher at a time when young people are abandoning the church and questioning the value of faith father giussani s method of judging and verifying christianity as an experience is a timeless intervention

luigi giussani born in 1922 is one of the most influential thinkers and leaders in the catholic world today he is the founder of the catholic lay movement communion and liberation now present in more than 70 countries worldwide with a membership well in excess of 100 000 in addition hundreds of thousands of people have come into contact with him through the charitable cultural and social works of his movement and through his writings this volume presents giussani s works to the english speaking world through the multiple perspectives of thinkers with different backgrounds and intellectual motivations showing the lively dialogue evoked by their encounter with his generative thought and inviting deeper engagement by readers the north american and western cultural and religious context they point to an important element in all of giussani s work his proposal that the christian event is the answer to the deepest and most pressing questions in today s world with his clear and vigorous awareness of the cultural philosophical and theological issues central to the contemporary debate giussani succeeds in making the truth of the catholic tradition both reasonable and relevant

a detailed account of the life and legacy of the founder of the communion and liberation movement

as a young priest luigi giussani was troubled by catholicism s inability to effectively deal with secularism or laicism in 1954 he began to develop a vision of faith rooted in experience his ideas resonated with students and led to the birth of the gioventù studentesca student youth movement known today as communion and liberation the movement is flourishing in italy and around the world including canada the united states brazil uganda and britain the journey to truth is an experience is the first english translation of *il cammino al vero è un esperienza* giussani s early works on the christian experience written from 1959 64 it begins with a guide on how to live the christian life within the student youth community followed by a call to base one s relationship with christ on the example set by the apostles and other figures in the new testament giussani concludes by outlining the movement s mission and the possibility for community charity and communion in the christian life

laws mandating cooperation with the state s new sexual orthodoxy are among the leading contemporary threats to the religious freedom of catholic institutions in the united states these demand that catholic schools health care providers or social services cooperate with contraception cohabitation abortion same sex marriage or transgender identity and surgeries but catholic institutions responses seem thin and uninspiring to many they are criticized as legalistic authoritarian bureaucratic retrograde and hurtful to women and to persons who identify as lgbtq they are even called unchristian they invite disrespect both for catholic sexual responsibility norms and for religious freedom generally not only among lawmakers and judges but also in the court of public

opinion which includes skeptical catholics the u s constitution protects catholic institutions autonomy their authority over faith and doctrine internal operations and the personnel involved in personifying and transmitting the faith other constitutional and statutory provisions also safeguard religious freedom if not always perfectly catholic institutions could take far better advantage of all of these existing protections if they communicated first how they differ from secular institutions how their missions emerge from their faith in jesus christ and their efforts both to make his presence felt in the world today and to display the inbreaking of the kingdom of god second they need to draw out the link between their teachings on sexual responsibility and love of god and neighbor drawing upon scripture tradition history theology and empirical evidence helen alvaré frames a more complete inspiring and appealing response to current laws attempts to impose a new sexual orthodoxy upon catholic institutions it clarifies the ecclesial nature of catholic schools hospitals and social services it summarizes the empirical evidence supporting the link between personnel decisions and mission and between catholic sexual responsibility norms and human flourishing it grounds catholic sexual responsibility teachings in the same love of god and neighbor that animate the existence operations and services of catholic institutions

sexual revolution terrorism student riots civil rights stonewall riots feminism and the publication of humane vitae the year 1968 is a milestone in twentieth century history the papers presented in this volume mark an interdisciplinary and wide ranging approach to a year and indeed a decade whose movements and events are still very much alive in contemporary society the fruits of the conference are published in this volume to invite ongoing reflection and a critical discourse to a watershed moment in our history and culture

giussani challenges us to penetrate the deepest levels of experience to discover our essential selves breaking through the layers of opinions and judgments that have obscured our true needs asserting that all the tools necessary for self discovery are inherent within us he focuses primarily on reason not as narrowly defined by modern philosophers but as an openness to existence a capacity to comprehend and affirm reality in all of its dimensions part of the so called new religious revival the religious sense avoids any sentimental or irrational reduction of the religious experience it is a forthright and refreshing call to reassess our lives

in at the origin of the christian claim luigi giussani examines christ s claim to identify himself with the mystery that is the ultimate answer to our search for the meaning of existence giussani argues that if we accept the hypothesis that the mystery entered the realm of human existence and spoke in human terms the relationship between the individual and god is no longer based on a moral imaginative or aesthetic human effort but instead on coming upon an event in one s life thus the religious method is overturned by christ in christianity it is no longer the person who seeks to know the mystery but the mystery that makes himself known by entering history at the origin of the christian claim presents an intriguing argument supported with ample documentation from the gospels and other theological writing

in 2005 father julián carrón became the leader of the global ecclesial movement communion and liberation following the death of the movement s founder father luigi giussani disarming beauty is the english translation of an engaging and thought provoking collection of essays by one of the principal catholic leaders and intellectuals in the world today adapted from talks given by fr carrón these essays have been thoroughly reworked by the author to offer an organic presentation of a decade long journey they present the content of his elaboration of the gospel message in light of the tradition of fr giussani the teachings of the popes and the urgent needs of contemporary people carrón offers a broad diagnosis of challenges in society and then introduces their implications in contexts such as families schools workplaces and political communities in a dialogue with his listeners he inspires and encourages them to lay out a new path for the catholic church and the world throughout his essays carrón addresses the most pressing questions facing theologians today and provides insights that will interest everyone from the most devout to the firm nonbeliever grappling with the interaction of christian faith and modern culture carrón treats in very real and concrete ways what is essential to maintaining and developing christian faith and he invites an ongoing conversation about the meaning of faith truth and freedom

in this expanded and thoroughly updated english edition of the italian edition 2008 massimo faggioli offers us a history and broader context of the so called ecclesial movements of which focolare community of sant egidio neocatechumenal way legionaries of christ communion and liberation and opus dei are only some of the most recognizable names their history goes back to the period following the first vatican council crosses vatican ii and develops throughout the twentieth century it is a history that prepares the movements rise in the last three decades from john paul ii to francis these movements are a complex phenomenon that shapes the church now more than before and they play a key role for the future of catholicism as a global community in transition from a eurocentric tradition to a world church

why did pope francis canonize a priest responsible for the genocide of the indians why does he wish to beatify the anti semitic french priest leon dehon what are the unmentionable reasons for his papal election pope francis is presented as progressive and sensitive to the interests of the people but underneath his smiles and his good words hides an authoritarian and dogmatic pope this pope relies on very conservative movements such as communion and liberation or the order of the knights of columbus which are close to opus dei the good pope francis is beginning to drop his mask when he declares that europe is undergoing a new arab invasion sic when he calls on catholics with a sense of identity to take to the streets when he fights against republican secularism and demonizes atheists after an overview of the financial political and sexual scandals paul ariès proceeds to a very detailed and documented analysis of the church of francis particularly in the areas of ecology and sexuality this clear book offers a surprising insight into the best communicator the church has known in a long time paul ariès is a political scientist and editor of the monthly magazine les zindigné es although he is an atheist he has been a contributor to several international catholic magazines for the past thirty years and is the author of some forty books on ecology religion and sects

there is an ancient christian saying from the patristic era which is known in its most concise form as *lex orandi lex credendi* as the catechism of the catholic church translates it the law of prayer is the law of faith the church believes as she prays while the elegant simplicity of the phrase contains an abundance of wisdom the liturgy has always been subject to forces that threaten to reduce this understanding to partial interpretations as several observers have noted these reductions include the archeological approach explicating the liturgy s historical origins but in the process treating it as a dead letter and the sociological approach focusing on liturgy as little more than an expression of contemporary concerns in *living the liturgy* a witness father luigi giussani 1922 2005 restores a more balanced view reminding us that according to roberto braschi s introduction in the liturgy god is its pres ent subject and that the essence of every celebratory action is the possibility of a gaze toward him because it is always from him that the dialogue with humanity moves the memorable bracing insights in *living the liturgy* were taken from conversations that father giussani had with members of the international lay movement he founded communion and liberation

should we battle a plural and relativistic society by raising barriers and walls or should we accept the opportunity to announce the gospel in a new way this is the challenge christians are facing today in an extended interview with vatican expert andrea tornielli julián carrón examines the historical moment we are living through in order to revive the essential core of christian faith starting from the realization that the world is experiencing an evolution in which the difficulty of finding shared values and natural morality makes sincere dialogue between believers and non believers challenging carrón reflects on the possibility of communicating the essence of the christian faith in a form that can inspire interest in modern times addressing the central questions concerning the announcement of christian faith in today s less regimented society where is god discovers and rediscovers the contents of christianity and asks how they can be witnessed again in a society that is not yet post christian but potentially headed in that direction

the religious sense is an exploration of the search for meaning in life avoiding sentimental or irrational reduction of the religious experience luigi giussani shows that our ultimate needs for truth goodness and beauty constitute the fabric of the religious sense which is evident in everyone everywhere and in all times

what motivates american young adult native nones or those who have grown up without a religious background to investigate the catholic faith what turns them off how do we reach them tamra hull fromm re examines the role of pre evangelization in the contemporary context and presents a micro study of twenty four native nones who chose to investigate the catholic church through the rite of christian initiation of adults rcia in the archdiocese of detroit usa

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