

**When in the last weeks  
have you felt at home?  
Why?**

## A concrete form

Fr. Luigi Giussani

On the occasion of Christmas, we celebrated the initiative of God that, just like an "event", takes place not where man has already decided, but right where He chooses, "on a concrete historical form" and in "humanly understandable terms". This initiative gives rise to new bonds between men and to new places looking like "homes", where one can come back to and experience his familiarity with the present Lord.

Christ, as the meaning of all time and all history, enters into communication with man, He reveals Himself, in a point of time and space.

In the bible, this place is called "dwelling place," "home," "temple." The temple is the place where man meets the companionship of the Lord, where he hears His voice and His message. It is the place where the Lord points the way, the stretch of the road that He wants to show, where everything (the companionship amongst men and with things) recalls the nearness of Destiny.

This is the answer to the ultimate need of man's reason, expressed by Moses: "Show me your face; if You do not come with us we will not move from here".

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This companionship established for us by Christ's Spirit has a structure, a framework, precise parameters that define it. This basic parameter for building the structure of this companionship is the "home" or "dwelling place."

It is from this home that everything starts off, that everything can start off in a new way; everything is made to grow, put in order, reinforced, made more affecting. Everything becomes love. The person you meet along the road, the person you meet in your apartment-block become possible objects of love, the person you knock against in the train, as well as the people with whom you

share that place and that activity that for too many is senseless-daily work. Everything can become the object of love starting off from this dwelling place.

The great dwelling place that is the Church becomes flesh, is realized in capillary terminals (just as your veins end in tiny capillaries), in which it becomes present in every place, chosen beforehand by God's plan. The great dwelling place that is the Church is realized inside homes, the dwelling places that are the concentration, the coalescence of her life in a day-to-day dimension of space and time.