



by Bro MARIANO DI VITO

It is true, we live in an era of the most advanced technology, digital technology, and whose sophisticated processes are based on two small numbers, 0 and 1: Nothing could seem simpler!

And yet, if we look around and within us, everything seems more complicated, at times even absurd and with no apparent way out. We have the impression, on the one hand, that we have attained incredible ends, but on the other hand it appears to us equally apparent that along the way we have lost something significant and that we feel missing, even if its precise nature eludes us.

So, this coming Jubilee Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis is providential for us. It gives us an excellent opportunity to re-find, without decelerating the advance to progress, what we have imprudently forsaken along the way or perhaps even, conceitedly thrown out because thought by us useless, and even a dangerous hindrance.

We have become richer in our possessions and our experiences and also prouder because of our many achievements but we continue to feel lost, almost strangers to one another, in a world torn by hatred and ongoing wars.

This special Holy Year beginning this 8 December; then, must be for us a time of reflection amidst all the mad hurry, a time in which we pause and ask ourselves where we are going.

It will enable us to see the dangers of becoming entrapped in the illusion of this frenzied pursuit for the superfluous, and in which what is essential is left behind.

It will give us the opportunity to discover again that true happiness does not consist in possessions but in love. A simple truth this and which is the Good News (this is what the word Gospel, signifies) and which is proposed to everyone, even to us believers. A truth that, alone, can overcome hatred and put an end to wars and give new meaning to the advance of progress.

To be open to this, it is necessary that we be guided not just by our reason but that we also return to

listening to the voice of our heart.

This is a hard and demanding voice that costs sacrifice. Padre Pio knew this well when he wrote: "What a nasty thing, it is to live by the heart! It means living at every moment a death that never kills, or experiencing a living death and a dying life" (Letters I). But this is the price that must be paid to win peace and which Padre Pio describes as: "simplicity of heart, serenity of mind, tranquillity of soul, the bond of love...; the holy joy of a heart in which God reigns" (Letters I).

And so? We must not waste any more time. We must begin again, all of us, and from the heart!

"May the Child Jesus, only heart of our hearts, bless you with His holy love; may He comfort you and give you the strength to sustain the trial. I will continue to say this and other prayers for you before the stable of Bethlehem." This blessing of Padre Pio on the eve of Christmas 1917, to his spiritual daughter Margherita Tresca, I extend to you all!

Fr. Mariano Di Vito

THE RETURN TO THE HEART!