

EASTER 2015

Everything in our life, today as in the time of Jesus, begins with an encounter. An encounter with this Man, the carpenter from Nazareth, a man like all men and at the same time different. Let us consider the Gospel of John, there where it tells of the disciples' first encounter with Jesus (cf. 1:35-42). Andrew, John, Simon: they feel themselves being looked at to their very core, intimately known, and this generates surprise in them, an astonishment which immediately makes them feel bonded to Him...

Speaking about the encounter brings to mind "The calling of St. Matthew," the Caravaggio in the Church of St. Louis of the French, which I used to spend much time in front of every time I came to Rome. None of them who were there, including Matthew, greedy for money, could believe the message in that finger pointing at him, the message in those eyes that looked at him with mercy and chose him for the *sequela*. He felt this astonishment of the encounter.

The privileged place of encounter is the caress of Jesus' mercy.

Pope Francis

Audience with Communion and Liberation for the 10th anniversary of the death of Fr. Giussani and the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Movement, Rome, Saint Peter's Square, March 7, 2015



Caravaggio, *The Calling of St. Matthew* (detail), 1599/1602, Church of St. Louis of the French, Rome.
© Photo © Mondadori.

COMMUNION AND LIBERATION