



## ALL THE STRENGTH

**L**uke was trying to move his heavy schoolbag. His father was watching him. The small boy punted, muttered, but the schoolbag didn't move.

«Have you really used all your strength?», his father asked him.

«Of course I have!», answered the boy.

«No, you haven't», his father said then, «because you haven't asked me to help you, yet ».

### ► ASKING FOR ◀

Asking for means using “all” our strength.

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**M**ark and his family have just arrived in her house in the mountains, and his mother is already chasing spiders. They have made their webs everywhere.

Then Mark says: «Mum, please, don't kill the baby spiders!».

And Mum: «But look, aren't they ugly?».

And Mark: «Maybe they are, but for their Mum they are ever so nice! ».

### ► THE MOST WONDERFUL CREATURE ◀

«God is a father who loves like a mother», said Giorgia, a little girl, during one of her catechism lessons.

Perhaps sometimes you think you are not so beautiful. But for God you are the most wonderful creature in the universe.



## THE CIRCLE OF JOY

Once upon a time, a countryman knocked at the door of a convent. When the guardian friar opened the heavy door, the countryman smiled, and showed him a wonderful bunch of grapes.

«Dear Guardian Friar», the countryman said, «do you know whom I want to present this bunch of grapes, the most wonderful in my vine?».

«Maybe the Father Superior or some other monk in the convent?».

«No. I want to give it to you!».

«To me?». The guardian friar blushed with joy. «Do you really mean to me?».

«Sure, because you've always been my friend and have helped me when I needed it. I want this bunch of grapes to give you a little bit of joy». A simple joy enlightened the face of the guardian friar, and the countryman's heart as well.

The guardian friar put the bunch of grapes in sight, and he admired it for all the morning. Then he had an idea: «If I take these grapes to the Father Superior, he will have a little bit of joy too».

And he did it. The Father Superior was very happy. But he remembered that one of the friars was old and



ill, so he thought: «Let me take this bunch of grapes to him, it will cheer him up a little».

So the grapes left for a new destination. But even in the cell of the ill friar the grapes didn't stay long. Because the ill friar thought that the cook friar would be quite happy with those grapes.

Poor man, he spent his days sweating on the pans!

So he sent him the grapes.

But the cook friar gave it to the sacristan friar (just to give him a little bit of joy), and the sacristan friar took it to the youngest friar in the convent, who gave it to another friar, who gave it to another one...

Lastly, from friar to friar, the bunch of grapes came back to the guardian friar (just to give him a little bit of joy).

So the circle was closed. And it was a circle of joy.

## ► LOVE ◀

Don't wait for somebody else to start. You are the one who must start a circle of joy, exactly today.

A tiny spark is often enough for lighting up an enormous fire. A spark of goodness will be enough to make the world start changing.

Love is the only richness that can be multiplied by dividing it, and the more of it you take off, the greater it becomes.

Love is the only business where the more one spends the more one earns. Give it away, throw it to the wind, empty your pockets, shake the basket, put the glass upside down: tomorrow you will surely have more.

