"People cannot resist love."

Good Afternoon to you and to each of my esteemed listeners! Welcome to EWTN's Open Line Tuesday edition! Barbara McGuigan here, alive and grateful to be so. It is a gift to be with you each Tuesday on Open Line and Saturdays on The Good Fight. How good God is to mold us into Christians! Sometimes He even permits us to undergo the "refiner's fire" in order to see His reflection when He gazes upon us. God's airwaves are open. Here are the numbers to call:

In North America call 1-800-585-9396

Outside North America 1-205-271-2985

Our email address is always: Openline@ewtn.com

My brothers and sisters, you've heard me say, "Suffering is the heat that melts us into Christ." Many of you have shared that you are still praying for my husband Bob, for which he and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. He, and because he's my husband, *we*, have been through the fire. Only 17 days ago, did the surgeon's skilled hands make a 12-inch incision in my husband's chest, use an electric saw to open his sternum in order to pull back his rib cage, and put him on a heart and lung machine to pump blood throughout his body and to keep him breathing while the surgeon removed his beating heart from his chest in order to replace the aortic valve.

"Open heart surgery," said his cardiologist, "is no doubt the most difficult one. If, for some reason, the heart cannot be fixed, the patient dies." How grateful we are to our Great God that Bob's mission on this earth is not finished yet!

Bob is now patiently trying to recover. Each day, he looks a little better, not without pain yet, but starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel. Funny, how God constantly works with us, consoling us during suffering and sorrow, but not just suddenly lifting it. Although He can certainly do that, too! My family has been steeped in suffering, and maybe yours has, too. We praise God for calling us to "the perfect school of love" – His Cross. How many other souls are experiencing His "perfect school of love?" Countless ones, all over the world. It seems that when we suffer, we have a keen awareness of the suffering of others. I've never read so many words on suffering, in all the usual places, since ours began.

One such article was a Zenit interview from Sept. 2 that Karna Swanson did with Missionary of Charity Father Joseph Langford in Tijuana, Mexico. Fr. Langford is "co-founder with Mother Teresa of the priestly branch of the Missionaries of Charity," as well as the author of the book *Mother Teresa's Secret Fire*, from Our Sunday Visitor, 2008, "which reveals the inspiration behind Mother Teresa's work and the details of the call she received from God in 1946 to found the Missionaries of Charity."

Karna Swanson asked: "When most people think of Mother Teresa, they think of the nun that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her humanitarian work. What do you think of when you remember her?" Fr. Langford replied:

> A mystic with her sleeves rolled up. But she was first of all a mother, always there for you, always ready to support you, ready to see the good in you, to overlook your faults, to encourage you. She never seemed to tire of hearing from you, or speaking with you. She was always someone who always reserved a special place in her heart for all those who came near to her. That is how she changed my life, without even trying, and set me on a completely different course; and joyfully I never looked back. She radiated the presence of Our Lady….as well as the presence of her Son, who had sent her to "be His light."

In his book, *Mother Teresa's Secret Fire*, Fr. Langford describes a special grace that Mother experienced in a train on the way to Darjeeling in mountainous West Bengal, India, on Sept. 10, 1947, in, as Father relates, an:

> …overwhelming encounter with the unimagined depth of God's love. This fire in the heart of God, pointed to throughout Scripture (Our God is a consuming fire), but often forgotten. This was the source of her magnetism, and of all the initiative and the good she did around the world... It was the mystery of God's infinite thirst for us...God's infinite longing to love and to be loved.
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> Speaking of all of us, but especially of the very poor, Jesus had lamented to Mother Teresa, "They don't know me, so they don't want me."… As a thirsty man longs for water, so God longs for us. As a thirsty man seeks out the water, so does God seek for us. As a thirsty man thinks only of water, so God's entire being is focused on us. As a thirsty man in the desert will give anything in exchange for water, so God has gladly given all he has, and all he is, in exchange for us. This is the divine symbol entrusted to Mother Teresa on Sept. 10 – so that in an age grown cold she might both remind us of God's yearning, and reawaken our own.

Fr. Langford has revealed that Mother Teresa told him privately in 1984 that one day he must reveal this secret of hers to the world. That is why he wrote his book, *Mother Teresa's Secret Fire.*

He also explains that after Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 was announced, he traveled with the famous Malcolm Muggeridge BBC film, "Something Beautiful for God," teaching people all over the world that:

> …there was no need to go to India, nor even across town. There were hidden "Calcuttas" all around them – in their own homes and families, in the blind man down the street, in the unforgiven aunt behind the walls of the retirement home. Nor was it necessary to send a check...God had not sent us a check in our need, but his Son. He gave of himself, without measure – as any of us can, anytime,

> anywhere. There we are all called to be. There we are sent, as surely as was Mother Teresa.

Then Karna Swanson, asked Father Langford this question: "If Mother Teresa could leave the world with one last message, what would that be?" Father replied:

> Be the light of God's love to the world in its present darkness. People cannot resist love. Bring Jesus and his message ("I thirst for you") to others. Be holy for the God who made you is holy. Don't be afraid of suffering. Don't turn away from the suffering of the poor because Jesus is there. He is always with them and within them ("Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it to me.")

Brothers and sisters, on my Saturday show The Good Fight a few weeks ago, Jill Anders quoted the great Fr. Shaughnessy as saying: "How much you love the person you love the least, is how much you love Jesus." This is a very profound and sobering thought, is it not? It shook me to the core.

Fr. Langford also said:

> Don't let your own pain and suffering isolate you, rather let it become a bridge into the pain of others, and even into the pain of the One whose heart was pierced for you on Calvary. Mother Teresa's message has never been more important, as we face our own personal Calcutta in the economic and political upheavals that face us. In the midst of global uncertainty, people are searching for something more -- more lasting, more valuable, more fulfilling, for a greater security, a deeper purpose -- for way to not only survive but to contribute, as did Mother Teresa in the slums of Calcutta; in a word, to leave a legacy, the legacy of Christ's love alive in my life.

My dear brothers and sisters, what will *your* legacy be? I pray every day to be able to leave a legacy of conscience, a legacy of God's truth, to my children and grandchildren. I pray that God will give me more love for those who've never experienced the "noble art" of spiritual formation, so that in speaking the hard truths that we often talk about on Open Line Tuesday, my love for each caller will be irresistible, so that they will desire to be filled with "the Soul of our soul" the Holy Spirit, Who thirsts for them.

I pray that God will give me the wisdom and grace to hold those in our government accountable but not in contempt. There is no love in contempt. And brothers and sisters, if I must embrace suffering as a companion in life in order to love more deeply and to speak the truth more convincingly, so be it.

Blessed Angela of Foligno, a wife and mother who died around 1309 and had had a conversion of heart at age 40 and became a Third Order Franciscan and an esteemed theologian, is quoted in our September *Magnificat*:

> How will the unhappy soul which only wishes to receive consolations in this world go to Him, Who is the way of suffering? In truth, the soul perfectly enamored of Christ, its beloved, would not wish to have any other bed or state in this world than the one he had. I believe that even Mary, watching her beloved Son lamenting and dying on the cross, did not ask of him then to experience sweetness but rather suffering. It is in a soul the sign of very weak love to want from Christ, the Beloved, anything in this world but suffering...

I'm looking forward to talking with you today. Are you suffering? We will share in your sorrow. Are you disillusioned with life and afraid of the future? Let's talk about it. These are difficult and dangerous days. Our Holy Father is preparing for a very challenging trip to England and Scotland, and the anti-Catholic hostility is becoming more intense. There is also very good news in the appointment of Canada's Cardinal Marc Ouellet as prefect of the Congregation for Bishops! Lots to talk about...Here are the numbers to call: 1-800-585-9396 and 1-205-271-2985.

Closing: Many, many thanks for your edifying calls and insightful emails. You know, every time I get the notion to start planning a big pity party, I read St. Francis de Sales' words, which I will share with you now. If you'd like me to email them to you, let me know at Openline@ewtn.com:

> The everlasting God has, in His wisdom, foreseen from eternity the cross that He now presents to you as a gift from His inmost Heart. This cross He now sends you, He has considered with His all-knowing eyes, understood with His divine Mind, tested with His wise justice, warmed with loving arms and weighed with His own hands to see that it be not one inch too large and not one ounce too heavy for you. He has blessed it with His holy Name, anointed it with His grace, perfumed it with His consolation, taken one last glance at you and your courage, and then sent it to you from Heaven, a special greeting from God to you, an alms of the all-merciful love of God.
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> Until next week on Open Line, Blessed be God and may He mightily bless you! Bye for now!