

Dear Ronda,

You will have to take this the way God will give you the grace to do so. About two A.M. last night, the thought of you came to my mind, and simultaneously with that thought, I felt as if our Lord was with me in this room. It seemed that He said—though not in clear and distinct words—that I should tell you that He was here with me, and that it was He Himself who appeared to me. Not merely a feeling, but Christ Himself that I saw and felt in a way I would not want to describe.

What was most striking and wonderful about this experience is that He came to tell me to tell you how dear and precious you are to Him, and that the love you have for Him is of a very consoling nature. I was startled to hear Him say this—seeing it was about love alone that He spoke to me in this vision. It was your love for Him, and His love for you, that He came to talk to me about.

I seemed to get the impression that He wanted me to tell you that it is He Himself who came to me, to tell you of the great love He has for you, and that He has great joy and delight laid up for you in heaven. So you should in no way grow saddened or discouraged by anything you may be allowed to go through. Though I know these truths in a spiritual and theological way, it seemed as if Christ came to me personally to confirm them by His presence—a presence too sublime and ineffable for me to even want to describe. What stands out in this experience is the emphasis and assurance He gave me that it was He Himself who spoke to me about you, saying how dear and precious you are to Him—because of your loving heart for the Love that He is.

Yes, Ronda, Christ loves you—and He does so for only one reason: because you give Him the only thing He truly desires—the love of your loving heart.

And though I may try to discount this experience and place it among the many others I have been graced to have of Christ, I cannot. Because I felt the Person of Christ, I felt it was He, Christ Himself, and that He wanted me to tell you how real and vivid this experience of Him was—that He had you in mind when He appeared to me, that He had your love for Him in view, and that He appeared for this purpose alone: to assure you that it was He Himself, and that He has infinite joy and delight waiting for you after this life is over.

I don't know why He came to me and not to you. Perhaps it is because He considers the two of us to be one in Himself, so that in speaking to me, He also speaks to you—in a way we cannot fully understand in this present life.

And I was thinking of all the appearances our Lord has made to His saints—so why should it be such a startling surprise to see Him do so in our own age, and to persons as undeserving as myself?

It's very humbling to have such personal experiences of Christ. But how is the creature to tell the Creator what He should do?

And so, Ronda, I send you this very imperfect summary of the experience I had of Christ—so that you may see the extent to which you are loved by Love Itself:

Jesus.

He loves you, Ronda.

And to make this certain, He appeared to me—in a way I would not even try to describe. The nature and essence of that experience are beyond words. But this I know: He certainly did appear to me, and He wanted me to tell you of the divine reality of it.

Your Charlie (Rich)