

MA CONNEXION NO 13

May 27, 2025

Dear friends,

I ended my last Connection by telling you that I feel like going back to Khartoum or becoming a Palestinian! Well, I've made my choice. I became a Palestinian. It wasn't a good choice! Indeed, I'm dead.

From beyond the grave, with some 53,000 fellow citizens dead under Israeli bombardment of the Gaza strip, I condemn Israel for violating all humanitarian laws. I beg Netanyahu: Stop! I'm already dead. And know that I did not die an anti-Semite, for I am one myself as a Palestinian.



From beyond the grave too, I beg you, MM. Carney, Macron and Starmer, you have already taken a good step on behalf of Canada, France and England by denouncing Israel. Please sanction it now and recognize the Palestinian state. In doing so, you'll be in the good company of a certain Léon XIV who, on May 11, called for “an immediate cessation of hostilities, the provision of humanitarian aid to the exhausted civilian population and the release of all hostages.”



Now the good news: Habemos Papam! Yes, I couldn't have wished for a better pope. We have a missionary pope, and a pope committed to social justice. As with Francis, his name, Leo, takes on the allure of a program. Indeed, the last person to choose this name, Leo XIII, laid the foundations for the Church's social teaching in contemporary times, and made a major contribution to the anti-slavery struggle in Africa.

I dare to ask myself, “He, an American turned Peruvian, what does he think in his heart of the current occupant of the White House?” In the face of Trump's follies, I imagine him smiling, and thinking like Mary in her Magnificat: “The Almighty has a habit of overturning the established order: he will end up sending the rich away empty-handed, toppling the potentates from their thrones, scattering the superb.”

To smile in our turn, rather than cry, here's a quotation of the well-known psychiatrist Boris Cyrulnik, written before Trump's election:

“Would you like some recipes for good totalitarian discourse? Say:
- I will be your hero.

- I want to die for you.
 - Speak simply, use the word 'people' often.
 - Occasionally add a vulgar allusion, not too much, just enough to put a little salt on your words and avoid the “arrogant elite” label.
 - When naming the enemy, whether external (the foreigner) or internal (the traitor), use illustrative gestures, like an opera singer being murdered by a fellow performer.
 - Conclude with an emphatic slogan: “If you want freedom, obey. Vote for me.”
- You'll find that, thanks to this recipe, a great many dictators have been loved and democratically elected.”



Having alluded to the joys and anxieties of this season, I come to my personal news. I'm moving. Yes, recognizing our increasing difficulty in administering our central house – (they say it's normal at our age) - we're transferring it into the hands of a corporation set up by the Quebec bishops. They will set up accommodation and offices for church organizations, particularly Development and Peace. In other words, they will continue our mission.

For our part, we're moving into a residence for senior people in Lachine. Of course, we'll be more cramped, but without responsibility, and with all the care we need, depending on our state of health. I've already chosen my studio. You'll be very welcome.

Here's my new address:

Villa Opale
650, 32nd Avenue
Lachine (Montreal) QC
H8T 3K5

There, I'll discover a new mission, get involved in the community, while cultivating my friendships. I'll be happy there, and I'd like to say, like one of Émile Zola's characters: “I try to forget myself, lest I become sad, and I think of others, which keeps me busy and makes me take the pain patiently.”



In solidarity with you in your own moves, whatever they may be, I stay connected!

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