

## FIFTH CATECHESIS

# THE CULTURE OF LIFE

*“AND JESUS ADVANCED IN WISDOM AND AGE AND GRACE  
BEFORE GOD AND MEN” (LK 2:52)*

### The Good News through Music Praise of Tenderness

The piece to listen to: **Franz Schubert, *Mille Cherubini in Coro***

**Keywords:** welcome, generation, gift

#### Introduction

Children, the fruits of the love of man and woman, point to the fruitfulness of married life. Between the mother and the child, a special intimacy is generated that indelibly marks all life.

#### Listening Guide

Questions to facilitate the discussion of the piece

*Did you like the piece you listened to?*

*Describe in three words the feelings that it aroused in you.*

*Have you already heard music like this before?*

*What instruments did you recognize?*

*Can you sing the melody?*

*With regard to the lyrics, what strong points appear in the song?*

*Mille Cherubini in Coro* it is a lullaby composed by Schubert (1797-1828), who re-elaborated some themes written for the famous overture of his *Rosamunde* (1824). The text evokes the familiar intimacy between mother and child in the evening, but it also becomes a powerful metaphor of the trust that the disciple places in God: “I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother’s breast” (Psalm 131:2).

#### The lyrics:

*Dormi, dormi,  
sogna, piccolo amor mio.  
Dormi, sogna,  
posa il capo sul mio cor.*

*Mille cherubini in coro  
ti sorridono dal ciel.  
Una dolce canzone  
t'accarezza il crin  
Una man ti guida lieve  
fra le nuvole d'or,  
sognando e vegliando  
su te, mio tesoro,  
proteggendo il tuo cammino.  
Su te, mio tesoro,  
proteggendo il tuo cammino.*

*Dormi, dormi,  
sogna, piccolo amor mio.  
Dormi, sogna,  
posa il capo sul mio cor.*

*Chiudi gli occhi,  
ascolta gli angioletti,  
dormi, dormi,  
sogna, piccolo amor.*

*Dormi, dormi,  
sogna, piccolo amor mio.  
Dormi, sogna,  
posa il capo sul mio cor.*

*Chiudi gli occhi,  
ascolta gli angioletti,  
dormi, dormi,  
sogna, piccolo amor.*

*Sogna, piccolo amor.*

### **The Good News**

We present here some of Pope Francis' reflections on the importance of tenderness:

“Against this backdrop of love, so central to the Christian experience of marriage and the family, another virtue stands out, one often overlooked in our world of frenetic and superficial relationships. It is tenderness. Let us consider the moving words of Psalm 131. As in other biblical texts (e.g., *Ex* 4:22; *Is* 49:15; *Ps* 27:10), the union between the Lord and his faithful ones is expressed in terms of parental love. Here we see a delicate and tender intimacy between mother and child: the image is that of a babe sleeping in his mother's arms after being nursed. As the Hebrew word *gamûl* suggests, the infant is now fed and clings to his mother, who takes him to her bosom. There is a closeness that is conscious and not simply biological. Drawing on this image, the Psalmist sings: ‘I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast’ (*Ps* 131:2). We can also think of the touching words that the prophet Hosea puts on God's lips: ‘When Israel was a child, I loved him... I took them up in my arms... I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them’ (*Hos* 11:1, 3-4)” (AL 28) (see also AL 165-166).