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**Create in me a pure heart, O
God, and renew a steadfast
spirit within me.** (Psalm51:10)

Start Again

„Freunde des Wortes“

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Dear friends of the word,

What joy it is to look into the bright, unadulterated eyes of a child. Because they rise from a pure, innocent heart, we can look through them to God. These are moments of deep happiness! Such a pure heart is given to everyone of us when we are born. To keep a pure heart and avoid falling for temptations such as power and possession and the desire for pleasure is not easy.

At the World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013 Pope Francis said: “Youth is a time of life when your desire for a love which is genuine, beautiful and expansive begins to blossom in your hearts. How powerful is this ability to love and to be loved!...In encouraging you to rediscover the beauty of the human vocation to love, I also urge you to rebel against the widespread tendency to reduce love to something banal, reducing it to its sexual aspect alone, deprived of its essential characteristics of beauty, communion, fidelity and responsibility. Dear young friends, in a culture of relativism and the ephemeral, many preach the importance of ‘enjoying’ the moment. They say that it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision, ‘for ever’, because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. **I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries**, I ask you to swim against the tide!”

Dear friends of the word, **a pure heart gives freedom** and space to live. An impure heart clings to objects and people and wants to possess them. Let us ask God for a pure heart, one that gives freedom and wants the best for other people. That way we will swim against the tide, capable of real and lasting love. If we start viewing things with impure eyes, wanting to possess them, then: **Start again!**

For the OnWordTeam

Meinolf Wacker