

London, June 13, 1981

“Who is Mary for those who live the spirituality of unity?”

(Chiara Lubich answers a question put by the community in the United Kingdom)

(...) Could you tell us something about your relationship with Mary and who should Mary be for all those who follow your charism?

Chiara (...) So, something about my relationship with Mary, but it is not only mine but also that of many focolarini. You know that we love Mary very much. So when you love a person you would like to give them presents, lots of presents, wouldn't you? For some years now, we thought of giving her a really big present. We said, if by chance and with the help of God we become saints, we would like to place this gift into your hands so that you can take it to Jesus. It's a personal gift to Mary, to be given to Jesus. We thought about it but we did not tell her about it, because we said, what if we don't become saints? Then we said: it could really be that we don't become saints. So it's better to give her small things rather than big ones that perhaps we won't have. So we decided to give her all our daily effort to become saints, all our striving towards holiness. Every evening, we give Mary this small gift. It is like giving a few cents, but more guaranteed.

So who should Mary be for all of us in the Focolare Movement? One thing that I already understood many years ago, when half of you were not yet born, was this: that the members of the Movement have chosen Mary as their model. I remember the Lord gave me this example: At that time I had a niece who was very little, about four years old. She was my niece, but she seemed like my daughter; because she looked just like me. One day while I was praying, I understood, because you understand many things; that it was like an example. In the same way as my little niece was like me, so I had to be a little Mary, but like her as much as possible. Mary was what I should be, and I could be like her. Then over time I understood how I could live like that. I realized that Our Lady is truly the one who did the will of God. She did not do odd or extraordinary things. She did a great deal but it was all in God's will. So if we do the will of God well, moment by moment, we are little Marys.

But she did do one big, truly great thing, she brought Jesus into the world. So, we too must do the same, in a spiritual way: to always bring the spiritual presence of Jesus among us into the world. With these two things: doing the will of God well and always bringing the presence of Jesus into the world, we too become a little Mary.