

(English translation)

Hong Kong, 10 January 1982

Message

Speaking to 1,000 members of the Focolare Movement in Hong Kong on January 10th, 1982, Chiara addressed them with a long message of which we have quoted some excerpts, as published in «Living City» in April 1982.

What impressed me the most, as I read the recent history of your city, was the 1970 speech of Pope Paul VI in the Kong Kong Stadium, and in particular, his famous message to the Chinese people — a message condensed in three words: "love, love, love." As I reread it this morning, I felt the desire to work at its fulfilment, together with all of you.

In today's liturgy, St. John says: "If we love one another God dwells in us and his love is perfected in us" (1 Jn 4:12). How can we have perfect love in us, so that we might be the living expression of this message? Jesus, in giving us the measure of this love, told us that we must be ready to die for one another. He himself gave us a concrete example of this love by washing the feet of his disciples. To love one another, therefore, means to serve one another.

If we do this, there will be fruits. Mutual love leads to unity. Nowadays we hear so much about unity, but what exactly is Christian unity?

Let me give you an example, so simple that even the youngest, those still in grammar school, may understand. We all know that two elements can be blended together into a combination. But how can this be done? By the heat of a flame, we see that two elements become a third, one which is entirely different from the first two. In this same way, if the flame of divine love is lived by us — by all of us together — we no longer are two, but we have a third one with us. And this third one is Jesus. He, who came on earth 2,000 years ago, and who is risen from the dead, gave us these marvellous words: "I will be with you to the end of the world" (Mt 28:20).

Jesus, therefore, even today, is here with us. He has remained in the Church, as he had promised. He has remained in the Eucharist, in the hierarchy, in his Word, and also in the poor, in all the poor. But the world passes by him, often without seeing him. And yet there is a way of making him "visible": where two or more are united in his name, where there is unity, there the world can experience his presence. Jesus said it himself: "That they may be one, so that the world may believe" (Jn 17:21). It believes, because it sees unity.

When there is unity, all gain courage, strength, love and fire. You may have experienced it in the Mariapolis, in some centre of the Movement, in some monastery where this spirituality is lived. Even the smallest children sense it, and they are the thermometer of unity in the families. This is the testimony, this is the Presence which will convert the world. Unity, in fact, expresses Jesus, it shows him like a flower that opens up to the sun. Unity "generates" the Risen Lord, the one who said that he would always remain with us. We must therefore live in such a way as to always "generate" him in our midst, to show him to the world, to be, in a way, like Mary, mother of Jesus.

He is the light that, like the stars, overcomes all darkness. He is the warmth that penetrates all barriers.

If we succeed in loving one another in this way, God, who is Love "par excellence," will be here in Kong Kong, and we shall have fulfilled Pope Paul's message. Those three words he spoke to you will have become a reality. The Risen Lord will be present here among us, and the Risen Lord is Love. We do not know what he will accomplish around us. We do not know the plans of God. We know only one thing: that God wants us to keep this unity, he wants us to have this love, so that we might give it to the world.

Chiara Lubich