

(English translation)

Manila, 25 January 1982

## MESSAGE

*«Radio Veritas», Manila's Catholic station that broadcasts programmes in all the countries of the Far East, asked Chiara for a message to be broadcasted during her stay in the Philippines. Here it is:*

Dearest listeners,

as we all know, despite the tensions of today's world, the tensions between East and West, North and South; the tensions which are not exactly lacking in this part of the world, with the threats of war; the exploding of various phenomena of terrorism and other evils of our present era, the world tends towards unity.

This is a sign of the times.

The Holy Spirit says it in the Christian world, where the will for reunification has exploded after centuries of indifferentism or conflict; the Popes say it, like Paul VI, whose doctrine is filled with this idea, John Paul II, who, with his trips all over the world and his universal embrace of all peoples identifies himself with this concept. The Second Vatican Council has said it, whose documents repeatedly speak about unity; its openness to dialogue with the other religions and all people of good will say so, as well as the institution of proper secretariats for this goal. Looking to another field, even ideologies say so, which we believers cannot share, but that also aim at resolving the world's problems in a global way. International entities and organizations say so. The modern means of communication favour unity; means that make the world smaller and bring it all to every family and community....

Yes, the world tends towards unity.

I believe that it's in this context that we need to consider what, today, the attitude of us Christians, our families and young people should be. We also need to face today's evangelization in Asia from this point of view.

We Christians can emphasize this tendency of the world towards unity. We can bring out specific contributions through that divine unity which was Jesus' last wish: «Father, may they be one. May they all be one» (*Jn 17:22*).

All of us are already one because of the life of grace, which was conferred to us in baptism.

But, in a certain way we need to make this divine life within us externally visible.

How?

Through reciprocal love lived-out intensely.

That love which characterized the first Christians could also today be an overwhelming force in this immense continent where the vast majority does not yet know God.

The fact is that, if we earnestly love one another, in the spirit of mutual service like Jesus who, Lord and Master, washed his disciples feet; if we love one another, ready, as He was, to die one for the other and we put this love at the basis of our life, a fact will be fulfilled: Christ, Christ himself will be in our midst. He said it: «I am with you always until the end of this world» (*Mt 28:20*). And «where two or three are united in my name, there am I in the midst of them» (*Mt 18:20*).

Yes, Jesus is among those who love one another. Unity expresses Him, manifests Him, reveals Him and the world can see Him.

It's from this unity that the world recognizes Him.

Therefore, if He is here, we don't have anything to fear.

And if He is here, we can hope in everything.

Yes, also for the evangelization of Asia.

Because in Asia many people are good, religious and tend spontaneously towards eternal values. If they were to meet Him, they truly will recognize Him.

So what must we do?

First of all we must rely on the Christian youth. They are Asia's future.

They must be entrusted this task of making Jesus spiritually live in their meetings with their friends, in schools, sports fields, everywhere.

We need to tell them that nourished by the Eucharist, by the Word of God, united to their Bishops, they can begin this adventure of bringing Christ in the midst of the world, if the love that comes down from Above burns in them and makes them one.

The same holds for the families: «ecclesiole» as Pope John Paul II called them. Among the different members, they too can establish the presence of Christ with love, respect, reciprocal donation between father and mother, parents and children, grandchildren and grandparents, and vice versa. And every family will therefore truly be a little Church.

And as such, it will be apt at carrying out that missionary task, which today is not only the priests' duty, but of the whole people of God.

In this way we bring Christ present in schools, offices, workshops, businesses, everywhere.

Therefore, with Christ spiritually alive among Christians, we'll see the miracles of grace. He knows how to bring them about.

Because today, Paul VI affirmed, the world doesn't listen so much to teachers as much as to witnesses. And, if it listens to teachers, it's because they were first of all witnesses.

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