

Rome, Basilica di St Mary Major, 30 November 1987

### **With Mary, the first layperson in the Church<sup>1</sup>**

So these are some of the things that Mary has shown us through an ecclesial Movement in the Church.

If we were to put into practice with all our energy just one of her requests, we would experience something truly new in our lives as Christians.

Millions all over the world already, with great spiritual joy, follow these things suggested by Mary, which are actually very universal, and find the solution to many personal, family and social problems.

They are transformed into authentic apostles of a new civilization of love.

May Mary, who made God the ideal of her life, help us make him our ideal as well.

May Mary, who embraced the will of God in the incarnation and in her whole life, help us to fulfill his will to perfection.

May she, who loved her neighbor as demonstrated in her visit to Elizabeth and at the wedding at Cana, fill our hearts with this same love.

May Mary, who lived mutual love fully in the family at Nazareth, help us to practice it as well.

May Mary, who was able to offer all her suffering at the foot of the cross, strengthen our hearts when we are besieged by suffering.

May Mary, who is the universal mother, open our hearts to all humankind.

With her, the first lay person in the Church, and through her spirituality, also we, lay people, can be capable undertaking the task to which the Church calls us today: working for our sanctification, which is the vocation of all Christians; contributing to the renewal of the Church and spreading its message; transforming in a Christian way the world in which we are immersed.

And may all this be to the glory of God and his mother.

---

<sup>1</sup> Chiara Lubich. *Mary, the Transparency of God*. New City Press 2003, pp. 81-82.