

Rocca di Papa, 21 January 2004
(Rome 31/01 – Sermig – Paul VI Hall)

Video-taped message

Peace shall win if we dialogue

Dearest “Youth of Peace”,
Dearest friends of Sermig,

You are gathered today in Paul VI Hall to meet the Holy Father and to reflect together on the theme of peace.

As you know, there are several ways in which men and women of good will follow today in the pursuit of peace. The work of Sermig itself is an admirable example.

However, the motto of your meeting: “Peace shall win if we dialogue” decisively affirms that a most effective way to attain peace is the way of dialogue.

Dialogue. What does it mean to dialogue?

It means to meet with people who have different ideas, and talk with serenity and sincere love towards one’s partner, to see if an agreement can be reached which could clarify misunderstandings, extinguish conflicts and clashes, and, in some cases, annul hatred.

Today, however, special ways of dialogue are being followed, according to the diverse situations one is confronted with. In fact, the Church, in line with the indications of the Second Vatican Council (cf. GS 92), teaches 4 types of dialogue.

There is the dialogue among Catholics within the Church itself, the dialogue among Christians of different Churches, the dialogue among faithful of different religions, and, lastly, the dialogue among believers and those who do not have any religious belief.

These 4 dialogues which, cover every aspect of dialogue, have a magnificent effect if they are conducted well: they generate brotherhood among people, wherein they all love one another, a brotherhood which is the best guarantee of peace.

And how can we dialogue with people so different from us, who are present everywhere, even in Europe due to migration which characterizes the modern age?

With people of our own faith, we try to love those we come in contact with, with that love which the Gospel teaches.

With Christians of other Churches, we act in a similar way (they, too, know about that evangelical love), and here too, brotherhood and peace ensue, which contribute towards bringing peace and reuniting the Churches.

With faithful of other religions, such as the Jews, the Muslims, but also the Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, etc., we try to put into practice together the so-called “Golden Rule,” which is present in the main Sacred Books of the various religions. It states: “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (cf *Lk* 6:31), which means love the others.

Thus, if we love and they love – because also their religion teaches this –here, too, is brotherhood in action, here then is peace.

Also with those who have a different culture, who do not have any religious belief, we can always love one another, because the word “love“ is written in the DNA of every human being since he or she was created by God who is Love.

Dear young people,

even if many people in the world today trample on the sacred reality of peace, let us start to live out these 4 dialogues which embrace every man or woman on our planet.

Let this great passion for peace burn in our hearts and let us share it with many others.

Thus Jesus, when our hour comes, will tell us: “Blessed are you, builders of peace, ... you shall be called children of God.”

What better reward could there be for us, what better name could be given to us?

Chiara Lubich