

Let's live
like this
*The program:
Unity*

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We were living in Trent, Italy,
during World War II.

In the air raid shelters, with the
light of a candle, we read the
Gospel.

One day we found this sentence
in the Gospel of John: "Father,
that they may all be one."

I told my friends: "This is our
program: we will live in the world
so that all may be one."

We were born for that passage of the Gospel. We were born to
bring unity into the whole world, unity with God and unity among
all our brothers and sisters in the human family.

But how can we bring unity to everyone? We understood the
answer: we had to love one another in such a way that Christ would
always be in our midst.

And, because He was present among us, we felt a greater joy than
we had ever known before, a new peace, a new ardor. His light
guided us!

Since Jesus was among us, people around us found or re-found
their faith, the same faith we had, and people of all ages,
of every social category, of all vocations joined us.

In this way we began to fulfill the dream of Jesus, for which he
begged his Father before dying: "Father, that they may all be one."

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«That they may all be one.»
(Jn 17:21)

In chapter 17 of the Gospel of John, we
find Jesus's last prayer. He knew he was
asking what was closest to his Father's
heart. God had created us human beings
as his family, gave us every good thing,
and even shared his own divine life with
us.

All family members resemble their
parents. It's the same with the members
of God's family. When God created the
human race in his own image and
likeness, he gave us the same capacity to
form relationships with people, so that
everyone might live in mutual self-giving.

The model for our unity is nothing less
than the unity that exists between the
Father and Jesus.

How can we help to fulfill this prayer of
Jesus?

First, we have to make it our own. We
can offer our lips and heart to Jesus so
that he can continue speaking these
words to his Father. And we can
confidently say the same prayer every
day. If this is God's dream, we want it to
be ours as well!

Before every decision, before everything
we do, we can ask ourselves: does this
help to build unity, is it the best way to
bring about unity?

And finally we ought to run to wherever
disunity is most evident and take it upon
ourselves as Jesus did.

"I will try every day to make
my own Jesus's dream for
unity on earth."

There might be friction in our families
or among people we know, tension in
our neighborhood, disagreements at
work, in the parish or among churches.

We should never shy away from
conflicts and misunderstandings, never
be indifferent, but rather bring our love
to that situation, listening with close
attention to the other person, sharing
in the pain caused by their open
wounds.

And, above all, live in unity with
whoever is open to sharing Jesus's ideal
and prayer, and remember: «It's better
to do what is less perfect in unity than
what is more perfect in disunity.»

"How can I be
a bearer of unity
in my family, at school,
with my friends?"



I COMMIT TO

BRING UNITY

WHEREVER I AM