

LOVE IS.....

TO KNOW HOW TO SHARE WITH THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED

T E E N S ' B O O K M A R K

I Care becomes a bookmark it will accompany you this month and help you live this Word of Life

CHIARA LUBICH

TRENT



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«YOU DID IT TO ME»  
(Mt 25,40)

remember that at the beginning of the Focolare Movement this new way of life filled our hearts with a special love for the poor.

When we met them on the street, we would ask for their address, and write it down in a small notebook, so that we could visit them later and help them - they were Jesus to be loved.



After we visited them, we invited them for dinner at our house.

We used the most beautiful tablecloth, the best silverware, the best food. At our table in the first "focolare" house, each one of us would sit next to a poor person - one of us, then a poor person, then another one of us, then a poor person.

At one point it seemed that the Lord was asking us to be poor ourselves, so as to serve the poor people, and everyone else, too. So we all got together in one room of the house, and each one put in a pile all that she had that was extra and could be given away - like an extra coat, or a pair of gloves, or a hat, or a fur jacket... That was the beginning, and now today in the Focolare Movement, there are business men and women who are committed to providing jobs and sharing their profits with the poor!

But there is still so much that can be done to help those who are poor!



«WHOEVER HAS TWO CLOAKS SHOULD SHARE WITH THE PERSON WHO HAS NONE; AND WHOEVER HAS FOOD SHOULD DO LIKEWISE.»  
(Lk 3:11)

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From a commentary by Chiara Lubich - Adapted by the Gen 3 Center

Why should I give what is mine to another person? Since we were both created by God, the other person is my brother, or my sister. Therefore, he or she is a part of me. "I cannot hurt you without harming myself," Gandhi once said. We were created as a gift for one another, in the image of God who is Love. We have the divine law of love in our blood. The needs of our neighbor are the needs of all of us. Is someone's mother sick? I help her as if she were my mother.



WE HAVE  
MANY RICHES  
THAT WE  
CAN SHARE

Are there others who are hungry? It's as if I were hungry, and I try to find food for them as I would for myself. This is the experience of the first Christians of Jerusalem. We need to sharpen our sensitivity and learn more about how to help others concretely, to discover the way to live real brotherhood. We have love in our hearts to give, gestures of friendship to offer, joy to share.



KEEP ONLY  
WHAT  
YOU NEED

We often accumulate many things, thinking that one day they might be useful. In the meantime there are people nearby who have urgent need of these things. Just as a plant absorbs from the soil only the amount of water it needs, so we should try to keep only what we need. Actually it's good for us every now and then to experience needing something we don't have. It's better to be a little poor than to be a little rich.



THE WORDS  
OF THE GOSPEL  
ARE NOT  
A UTOPIA

"If we would all be content with what's necessary," St. Basil said, "and give our surplus to those in need, there would no longer be the rich and the poor." Let's try it! Let's start living like this. Jesus will send us a hundred times more, and then we will be able to help even more people! At the end of our life, he will tell us that what we gave to another person, no matter who it was, we gave it to him.