

**Let's live like this!**

*A special  
classmate*

*Andrea ( Italy )*

**One of my classmates, Riccardo, had a strange way of expressing himself.**

He would raise his hands and make gestures instead of talking. Very soon my classmates began to avoid him, and he became isolated. I decided to do the same, and to avoid fighting with him, I went and sat on the other side of the room.

**One day our literature teacher decided to change all our seats. Guess who was put right next to me? Riccardo!**  
That's when I remembered the Word of Life.

I knew that talking to him wouldn't do any good. At first it was hard to welcome him as if he were Jesus, but I tried. After a while, I realized that he was changing and getting a lot calmer.

Now the school year is coming to an end, and Riccardo will certainly not win the popularity prize, but he has stopped gesturing so much and the others in our class don't make fun of him anymore.

And the teachers don't have to call his parents as often as they did before.

#### WORD OF LIFE | 02

**"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."** (Rom 15:7)

The apostle Paul wanted to go to Rome, and before going, he sent a letter to the Christian community there.

**The Christians in Rome came from a variety of different social, cultural and religious backgrounds.**

There was some tension among them due to misunderstandings, and even some rivalry.

Paul knew that all of them were acting out of love for God, and even though they did things differently, he told them they shouldn't judge the others, but welcome one another and build up the community, accepting one another just as Jesus did with us.

**We, too, should accept one another, recognizing that everyone makes mistakes.**

This Word of Life is an invitation to listen and learn from others, to let go of your defense mechanisms, to be open to change, to welcome diversity with respect and love.

Paul does not suggest uniformity but rather a community rich in diversity and unity.

**"The thing that stops me when faced with someone very different from me is ....."**

**Let's recognize the positive that exists in the other person,** because Christ gave his life for that person whom you feel inclined to judge.

**I will think of the people who are the hardest for me to love: in my family, class, team, friends ...**

**I will try to find one positive thing about them, and then go out towards them and establish new relationships.**

**"How can we involve our communities in this commitment?"**

**I TAKE THE COMMITMENT TO:**

**RECOGNIZE**

**THE POSITIVE THAT EXISTS**

**IN THE OTHER**