

## «The natives treated us with unusual kindness»

After two weeks adrift, 267 shipwrecked people finally reached the shores of Malta, an island in the Mediterranean. They were soaking wet, exhausted and terrified. Among them was Saint Paul, who was a prisoner on the ship, being taken to Rome for his trial.

The people of the island welcomed them and lit a huge bonfire so that they could gather around it and warm themselves. And then they took care of them for three months until they could leave again.

The capacity to accept others is part of every person's DNA, because we all bear within us the image of the merciful Father

It is a law written in the human heart, which the Word of God has brought to light, giving it great value, right up to the amazing revelation of Jesus who tells us: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Mt 25:35).".



(Acts 28:2)

How do we show other people that God loves them?

Here is what Chiara Lubich suggests:

"Jesus showed us that loving others means to welcome them as they are. That's how he welcomes each one of us. Accept others as they are, with their ideas, defects, likes and dislikes, and even their diversity.

[...] Make room for them in our hearts, getting rid of any judgements or prejudice, and especially any thought of rejecting them. [...]

In this way we are laying the basis to make humanity one family. Nothing makes God happier than to see true unity among people.

When we are united, we attract the presence of Jesus among us and he transforms everything."

(Chiara Lubich, Word of Life, December 1986)

