

**Let's live
like this!**

*An enthusiastic
and powerful*

JEAN - Switzerland

14 of us young people from Europe travelled to the Dominican Republic and for three weeks we worked at the "Caffè con Leche" school. This school is one of the projects that the Teens4Unity have been supporting for the past 10 years. Working with the children who live there, we painted five classrooms, fixed and cleaned up the sports field, did some tutoring and also had played games with the 200 children and teens who are in that neighborhood.

This experience was exceptionally strong for me. I felt great joy in finally being able to do something concrete to make the world a better place for everyone. Even though we were in a very poor country, I saw how much the Dominican people enjoy life!!

I have the impression that I received much more than I gave, especially at the school with all the children! We worked hard - using our muscles (to paint and build) and also being teachers!

I saw how happy the children were and we were very happy, too! We had a powerful experience of living mutual love among all of us.

For them, we were not teachers or just visitors, but friends and older brothers and sisters. And they will always be *our* little brothers and sisters!!

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«By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another» (Jn 13:35)

A fascinating letter from the early times of Christianity says this: «Christians cannot be distinguished from the rest of the human race by country or language or customs. They do not live in cities of their own; they do not use a peculiar form of speech; they do not follow an eccentric manner of life.»

They are ordinary people, just like everyone else.

“And yet they have a secret that allows them to influence society profoundly, becoming like its ‘soul’.”

Their secret is that they love one another.

This was the last thing Jesus requested from his disciples. It was his last will and testament. It is the life of heaven that he brought on earth and shared with us, so that it could become our lifestyle too. He wants his disciples to be recognized by their love for one another.

Jesus wants us to give witness to the fact that we are a community of believers who prove that the Gospel is true. We should show the world that the life he brought on earth can really generate a new society, a new world! In a united world people will live as true brothers and sisters, serving and helping one another, giving special attention to the weakest and most needy.

“How do I relate with the people of my Christian community?”

Isn't this how the Christians lived during the Roman Empire?

In our own day we are the ones who are the “first Christians!” We too are called to help one another, to forgive each other and see one another always new. In other words, we have to love others like Jesus loved us! We can be certain that his presence in our midst has the power to attract many others to live the divine adventure of love with us.

“I will take every opportunity to serve others so that mutual love will grow in my community.”

